

BS/UE/LR

2nd February 2015

Mr. Uwe Combüchen
Secretary-General
CEEMET

Re: Intervention in the Strike in the Turkish metalworking sector

Dear Mr. Combüchen,

As you are aware, there is an ongoing struggle in Turkey in the current round of group collective bargaining for companies in the metalworking sector. The negotiations in respect of a "group agreement" cover some 42 companies and 15,000 workers and the strike action is led by our affiliate Birleşik Metal-İş.

The Turkish Government has just decreed a ban on this strike. We have been informed, however, that the Government's decision was also taken as a result of intensive lobbying by the Turkish metal employers' federation MESS, which is a member of CEEMET and was effectively calling for the strike to be banned.

IndustriAll Europe is formally protesting against this strike ban, which is in direct contravention of ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association. We would also like to remind you of the fact that industriAll Europe and CEEMET signed a joint statement in which they rejected any government or European Commission intervention in collective bargaining systems and negotiations.

CEEMET has always stated very clearly that it is completely opposed to any kind of government interference in matters that are the prerogative of the social partners. We would therefore ask you how it is possible for a member of CEEMET to not respect this ILO Convention and s not respect the joint statement made by CEEMET and industriAll Europe.

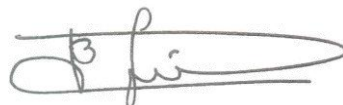
For us, this is an intolerable violation of our joint position. We should therefore be grateful if you would take this matter up with MESS and indeed bring it to the attention of all your members.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. We look forward to hearing your views shortly.

Yours sincerely,



Ulrich Eckelmann
General Secretary



Bart Samyn
Deputy General Secretary