

Brussels, 28 November 2024

Letter of solidarity from the EESC Workers' Group

On behalf of the Workers' Group in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), I am writing to express our deepest solidarity and unwavering support with trade unions in Türkiye, in the face of recent arrests and detention of trade unionists from Genel-İş and KESK, as well as journalists who are members of the Turkish Union of Journalists. These actions by the Türkiye authorities appear to be totally arbitrary and unjustified, and we also understand that lawyers have been denied access to case files, in violation of fundamental human rights.

We urge the Turkish authorities to immediately release all detained trade unionists, halt the harassment and intimidation of workers' organizations, and ensure that fundamental rights to free association and collective action are fully respected. We also call on the international community, including the European Union, to hold the Turkish government accountable, and to demand the restoration of the rule of law and the protection of fundamental rights for all workers in Türkiye.

The Workers' Group is also deeply concerned by the growing number of cases where peaceful protests, strikes, and other trade union activities are met with arbitrary arrests, detention, and intimidation in Türkiye. These actions not only violate the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining, but also threaten the core of workers' rights. We condemn these violations in the strongest terms and stand united with Turkish trade unions and workers in the fight for the protection of labor rights, human rights, and democratic freedoms in Türkiye.

In solidarity,



Lucie Studnicná
President of the EESC Workers' Group