



# TOGETHER FOR A FAIR DEAL FOR WORKERS

EL/LR/PI

Brussels, 28 July 2025

**To: Prof. Dr. Vedat Işıkhan**

Minister of Labour and Social  
Security

[Letter sent by e-mail]

## **ETUC Letter to Prof. Dr. Vedat Işıkhan – Minister of Labour and Social Security**

Dear Minister Vedat Isikhan,

We are shocked to hear that the Labour Ministry unilaterally decided to change the beginning date of the 8th term CBA negotiations, which will be applied to 6 million public active and retired employees, in the period 2026-2027. The Ministry's arbitrary decision violates the Law N° 4688 on Public Servants' Trade Unions and Collective Bargaining.

According to the information received from KESK, which is the only ETUC affiliate in the public sector in Türkiye, the Labour Ministry announced the change of the date with no consultation. There are already ETUC statements and ILO reports raising concerns about the effectiveness of the existing CBA structure that needs to be reinforced to be inclusive.

While these concerns have yet to be dealt with, changing the beginning date unilaterally undermines the CBA negotiations.

The ETUC and its affiliates – including KESK – have been campaigning for fair wages, the reduction of inequalities and the fight against poverty. We demand adequate minimum wages for workers, public employees and their families. Those wages, ensured by collective bargaining, should allow workers, public employees and their families to live in decent conditions, both economically and socially. And their increases must at a minimum compensate for inflation, which reached, in Türkiye, 60,90% in 2024.

On behalf of the European Trade Union Confederation and its 45 million members, from 93 trade union organisations in 41 European countries, we therefore once again urge you, Minister, to guarantee the full application of the ILO Core Conventions on Labour Standards and more in particular the “Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention” (No. 87) and the “Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention” (No. 98) respectively ratified by Türkiye in 1993 and 1952.

Thanking you in advance,

Esther Lynch,  
General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation

