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Campaign industriAll Together at Work – Invitation of OS KOVO President to representatives of Employers' Associations operating also in Metal Industry

Dear Sirs,

The OS KOVO is member of the IndustriAll European Trade Union, which launched a new campaign in Brussels on 26 September to demonstrate the positive effects of collective bargaining on ensuring a better life for workers in Europe. The campaign, which is an important step of this European Trade Union Federation, will run under the slogan "Together at Work". It will run from September 2019 to March 2020 and is generally aimed at employees, and in particular at vulnerable groups of employees such as women or young people. The campaign will also try to influence employers and politicians. The campaign was supported by several members of the European Parliament, as well as representatives of the European Commission, the Finnish Presidency and the European employers' associations. The campaign involves all 181 IndustriAll Europe member organizations, operating in 38 European countries and representing 7 million working men and women across supply chains in manufacturing, mining and energy sectors in Europe.

The main aim of the campaign is to highlight the benefits and positive impacts of collective bargaining for employees. And not only for them - it should also be emphasized that collective agreements are also benefit to employers, as they guarantee social peace in the company and, as we know, a satisfied employee is more efficient and productive than a dissatisfied employee without motivation. Social peace is also important for the overall atmosphere in the country, and thus has positive effects in the social sphere. It is also beneficial for politicians and political actors.

One of the objectives of the campaign is to strengthen collective bargaining at sector level. This level seems to be an ideal platform for adopting consensus in introducing new technologies and ensuring lifelong learning for employees.

From the beginning, OS KOVO was involved in the preparation of the campaign and subsequently in its implementation. We strive to show employers and their associations that collective bargaining and social dialogue are ideal tools for developing positive relationships between employers and employees at both the corporate and sectoral levels.

Please find attached the background material that IndustriAll Europe has prepared to address employers. The paper contains eight reasons why collective bargaining (and strong trade unions) is good for employers and society. Among other things, it is documented that sectoral collective bargaining reduces wage inequalities compared to decentralized bargaining and that labour productivity performs better where trade unions are involved in the economy and that collective bargaining coverage is higher.

In this respect, I ask you, given to our many years of contacts, to look at and reflect on the level of social dialogue and collective bargaining that we have together. The world around us and Europe itself are undergoing major changes during this period, in connection with the intentions of changing industry in Europe towards a knowledge-based economy and turning industry into a more environment-friendly industry and the ability to maintain a quality life for every member of human society on our planet.

I would like to use this opportunity to invite you to a face-to-face meeting during Advent time, which is usually also a period for balancing past events, where we would exchange our current views on the possibilities of future collective bargaining between our subjects and try to outline directions to contribute to the further cultivation of social dialogue by strengthening sectoral collective bargaining.

I am looking forward to your answer and I am ready to find common date for our discussion about this matter.

Best regards,

ODBOROVÝ SVAZ KOVO

130 00 Praha 3, nám. W. Churchilla 2

Jaroslav Souček předseda Odborového svazu KOVO

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