



European Commission
Dominique Ristori
Director General
DG Energy and Transport
B – 1049 Brussels

Dear Mr. Ristori,

We have been informed of the problems that have arisen in the Ignalina nuclear power plant where management is seeking to outsource workers involved in the decontamination of the nuclear site, a vulnerable group of workers. Please find attached the letter of the trade union sent to us. I appreciate if the services of the Commission can look into the situation as potentially the Commission policies and Commission funding is used to lower wages and reduce protection and at the same time increase funds that stay with management.

In the letter attached the union informs about the way management is treating the workers concerned and how it seeks to reduce pay and conditions for a vulnerable group of workers, often at risk of being exposed to radiation from contaminated materials and soil. The outsourcing of these workers and offering them lower pay and less protection will cause more problems including regarding motivation. It is not because a nuclear power plant is closed that the risks to workers and public health are over, rather the contrary as negligence and carelessness could set in. The potential side effects could be grave. The union points out that we have been here before with a management that seeks to be pennywise but is pound foolish.

As it concerns European funds and European rules - the union points out to the agreement reached - I would like to make sure that it is not the European Commission that is encouraging the practices and it is not the European Commission that is demanding of the company to save money and if necessary over the back of the workers concerned. That would be problematic and cause for grave concern.

Dear Dominique,

I appreciate if you can encourage the services of the Commission involved to look at the situation and if needed encourage management to respect the collective agreement, ensure the appropriate pay and conditions as well as protection regarding health and safety. If needed maybe your colleagues involved can also meet with the local union to ensure you receive the views of those directly concerned.

Thank you for your kind assistance,

Yours sincerely,

Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary

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