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# ETUCE

## European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

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### Joanna Kluzik-Rostkowska

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Brussels, 16 April 2015

Ref: MR/AKR/9789

### Subject: Solidarity with ZNP and its members for the upcoming demonstration in Warsaw

Dear Prime Minister,  
Dear Minister,

The ETUCE, the European Trade Union Committee for Education, is the European Region of Education International, the global umbrella organisation of teacher unions. It represents 132 teacher unions in Europe, i.e. more than 11 million teachers from all levels of the education sector (pre-primary, primary, secondary & higher education, vocational education & training) in 45 countries. The ETUCE is a social partner in education at EU level and a trade union federation of the ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation.

With this letter, the ETUCE expresses full solidarity with its Polish member organisation, ZNP and its members for their upcoming demonstration on 18 April 2015 in Warsaw.

On Saturday, ZNP intends to send you a powerful signal about the continuous pressure on education in Poland. It is not for the first time that our colleagues address to you with their serious concerns. A recently suggested meeting on teachers' wages with you, Minister Kluzik-Rostkowska, failed when apparently you decided not to attend it and a fair chance for a social dialogue on this important topic was regrettably lost.

It seems that the teachers in Poland have obviously arrived at a point where they do not find the patience anymore to wait for a token of goodwill aiming on the recognition of their professional performance. According to ZNP, you have disparaged the teachers and presented the teaching profession in the wrong light.

Now, for the protesting teachers this situation has become clearly unacceptable and they have decided to follow ZNP's within the OPZZ's call and show you the red card. About 20 000 education workers from all over Poland are expected to strongly support the demands which their union will forward to the government. ZNP has asked you to raise and to guarantee decent and fair wages for teachers to bring them closer to the national average pay. ZNP wants you to protect public education instead of closing down schools and kindergartens and their management. ZNP expects more investment into education rather than shorter funds for this key sector.

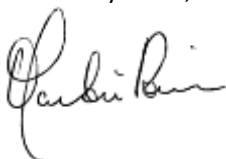
After all, much more is at stake: ZNP reminds you of the need to show respect for the work of the people in education and their daily efforts with the pupils and students. As a first step towards these demands you should ensure the immediate start to a real and effective social dialogue.

We hope very much that this time you will respond to the concerns raised. You have to shoulder your responsibility as a social partner and involve ZNP in elaborating better solutions in the education sector with the long-term objective to guarantee best quality education for everybody. Strengthening the sector rather than turning a deaf ear and ignoring alternative proposals are preconditions with regard to secure quality in education in Poland also to its educational and economic future.

Therefore, ETUCE urges the education social partners in Poland to gather as soon as possible around the negotiation table and to engage in a constructive social dialogue about all pending issues.

We will keep monitoring the situation and support ZNP in their efforts to achieve decent wages and better working conditions for the teachers in Poland.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Rømer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Martin Rømer  
European Director