

To the attention of

Mrs Ursula Von der Leyen, President of the European Commission  
Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President,  
Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President,  
Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner

*Sent by email*

2 April 2020

Dear President,  
Dear Executive Vice-Presidents  
Dear Commissioner,

We were warned by our Polish members of the adoption by the Polish Parliament of a new legal act allowing the Prime Minister to dismiss at will members of the Social Dialogue Council during the Covid-19 epidemic.

We understand that provisions on this matter were included in the bill on specific solutions related to the prevention and eradication of the Covid-19 virus.

Social partners, representing the largest trade union and employers' organizations in the Social Dialogue Council, already protested on Saturday against grave "interference in the independence of this major social dialogue institution in Poland." They issued a joint letter on this matter which was signed by: Solidarność, OPZZ, Trade Unions Forum, Confederation of Lewiatan, Employers of Poland, Business Center Club, Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers and the Polish Craft Association (enclosed).

The autonomy of Social Partners is a founding element of social dialogue, guaranteed by international and European law. Furthermore, social dialogue is a key instrument to fight against the economic and social consequences of Covid-19 and Governments, all over Europe, should be supporting social partners for them to succeed in this endeavor.

As European Social Partners we are extremely concerned with this situation and we hereby call upon you to open a discussion with the Polish Government aiming at the immediate withdrawal

of these new dispositions. This would help addressing what we consider an unacceptable endangerment of the social partners' autonomy,

Yours Sincerely



ETUC  
Luca Visentini  
General Secretary



BUSINESSEUROPE  
Markus J. Beyrer  
Director General



CEEP  
Valeria Ronzitti  
General Secretary



SMEunited  
Véronique Willems  
General Secretary