



Letter of Support

Dear friends and colleagues from PSS,

Once again, the European Police Union (EPU) is gravely disturbed by the information received about failed agreements regarding the socio-economic situation of police officers and their working conditions under the responsibility of the Serbian Government.

We want you to know that we are fully aware of what is going on in Serbian security sector in regards to its Social Dialogue. We were shocked, but at the same time pleased to learn that Serbian Military Union has started protesting and in a peaceful way expressing their dissatisfaction together with you, due to Government's neglecting the problems that Serbian soldiers and army officials face on daily bases.

Last time we checked, working conditions, equipment, clothing (uniform) and weapons provided to police officers did not comply with the requirements of EU, and as addition to that Serbian police officers are well underpaid in comparison to their colleagues in other European countries. We are guessing that the situation with your military is the same. EPU is seeing this as a very serious and dangerous situation for the safety, not only of Serbian police officers and members of military, but its citizens also, and the whole Europe. It must be avoided at all costs.

It is incomprehensible, given the constant threat of development and outbreak of a refugee crisis in Europe that the Serbian Government is not taking seriously representative unions of police and military. That constitutes an even greater threat to democracy, national and European security and safety.

Your Government and especially Ministry of Interior has to stop with their unethical and embarrassing practice of making false promises to resolve problems in regards' to socio-economic status of security sector employees and their working conditions which they never fulfill.

These are all signs of poor leadership and a failure to honor the duty of social care of and personal protection of members of military and police forces.

All the time they use excuses that when it comes to budgetary spending they are pressured by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and that their hands are tied so they cannot do anything. Our question to them is: **Until when will they keep hiding behind IMF?**



We clearly remember your Prime Minister Vučić's promise to give every police officer in Serbia onetime bonus check of 20.000 dinars sometimes in 2016th. It is obvious that he has done it to stop you from organizing the first hunger strike in the history of European police. It was a great shame that for the first time in history a police union had to go on a hunger strike to bring the emergency situation of police officers in Serbia (and in Europe) in this manner under the attention of the general (European) public.

It has been a year since he made that promise and the 2016th is coming to an end while there is no sign of promised money. You have been patient more than enough, and it is time to act. We want you to know that that you are not alone in this fight, because our common goal as police trade unions is to have safer and secure Europe.

Clearly, your Government is placing the safety and security under serious pressure and risk. Not only security and safety of your country but whole Europe! Unfortunately, they are not or don't want to be aware of important role that Serbian employees in Security Sector play in European safety and security and the fact that they deserve a fair salary, which reflects the severity of the profession and the accompanying responsibilities and expectation from the European citizens.

We have already taken necessary steps towards referring the matter to the European institutions and informing the European media about the situation of police and military in Serbia concealing a grave risk to the European safety and it will further use all possible means in your support.

Dear colleagues and dear friends, we assure you, that as always you have the unreserved support of the European Police Union support in your struggle for fair working conditions and terms of employment.

Sincerely,

Leusden, 9th December 2016

Gerrit van de Kamp
President of EPU

