

Tóth Bertalan
Chair MSZP group
toth.bertalan@parlament.hu

Ref: JWG/se

Brussels, 20 April 2020

Dear Mr Tóth

I am writing to you on behalf of the European Federation of Public Service Unions representing over seven million workers in trade unions across 50 countries, to protest strongly over the proposed change to the Law on the Legal Status of Public Servants (KjT - 92/ XXXIII.) to remove public service status from workers in the culture sector.

I am aware that you will be discussing this issue tomorrow (21 April) and I want to express our strong support for the trade unions and trade union confederations in Hungary that are opposing this measure.

Over 20000 public servants working in libraries, museums, archives, cultural centres, theatres and orchestras will be affected.

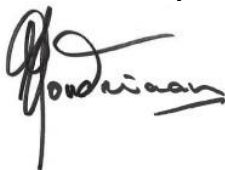
Not only is the change unwelcome and unnecessary but it is of major concern that the legislation is being pushed through following an unacceptably short and inadequate process of consultation, both in relation to the confederations and the sector trade unions.

Workers across the sector are facing not just the risks to health from COVID-19 but also threats to their incomes, all the more worrying for a group of such low-paid workers. Public service status has been a core part of the benefits for these workers who have otherwise been ignored when it comes to pay increases.

It is particularly disturbing that the government is attempting to carry out this permanent change during this emergency period, setting aside social dialogue with trade unions to be properly consulted and to negotiate over their pay, conditions and employment rights.

We strongly support our colleagues in the KKDSz trade union that are trying to defend the position of culture workers across Hungary. We join with them and the trade union confederations in calling on you to vote against this proposal and guarantee the right to social dialogue and collective bargaining across the public sector.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary