Sample letter

Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov

President of Kyrgyzstan

By e-mail: [prisme@mail.gov.kg](mailto:prisme@mail.gov.kg), [oip@adm.gov.kg](mailto:oip@adm.gov.kg)

**RE: BWI affiliates call on the President of Kyrgyzstan to veto draft law on trade unions**

Dear President Sadyr Zhaparov,

I am writing this letter to you as the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(position in the union, name of the union), which represents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ workers in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(sectors and the name of the country), to express our opposition and concern regarding the draft law on trade unions which was approved in the third reading by the Parliament.

As an affiliate of Building and Wood Workers International we were informed that despite negative opinion given on trade union law by the Government of Kyrgyzstan and many international organizations, including ILO, the UN, the ITUC, the draft law on trade unions has passed third reading in the Parliament.

We are extremely concerned about the potential impact of this draft law on trade unions and workers, as its positions significantly restricts the scope of trade union activities, dictates the internal structure of trade unions and places trade unions under the control of state bodies

Moreover, the draft law explicitly mentions Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan as the only social partner and does not allow full membership in the international trade union associations permitting only cooperation and conclusion of appropriate agreements.

The proposed law violates international obligations of Kyrgyzstan, including fundamental ILO Conventions 87 on freedom of association and protection of the rights to organize and 98 on the right to organize and collective bargaining and Constitution of Kyrgyzstan.

The adoption of the law that violates international labour standards would undermine the country’s reputation as a reliable international and trading partner. Moreover, if this law on trade unions were adopted, the European Commission may revise the current economic relationships with Kyrgyzstan, as currently Kyrgyz economy is benefiting from the preferences unilaterally offered by the EU to the country through the Generalized System of Preferences Plus (GSP+), in return for the implementation by the Kyrgyz Republic of 27 international conventions related to, inter alia, human and labour rights.

Therefore, we call on the President of Kyrgyzstan to reject this draft law without delay. The substance of the draft law on trade unions should be revised in line with international labour standards, especially those which have been ratified by Kyrgyzstan. Any changes in the trade union laws should expand union rights, not limit them. The new law on trade unions should be discussed in open and transparent manner with all the social partners.

We expect your prompt action and reply.

Date

Signature