



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale



ETUCE – European Trade Union Committee for Education
Education International - European Region

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Brussels, 5 April 2022

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TO: Jakim Nedelkov, President of SONK

Solidarity with the ETUCE member organisation SONK in the Republic of North Macedonia

Dear President of SONK,

The European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) represents 127 education trade unions i.e. 11 million teachers in all countries of Europe. ETUCE is the Social Partner in education of the European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE) at EU level and a European Trade Union Federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation. ETUCE is the European Region of Education International (EI), the global federation of education trade unions.

With this letter, ETUCE reaffirms its strong solidarity with its member organisation, the Autonomous Trade Union for Education, Science and Culture (SONK) of the Republic of North Macedonia for the strike organised on 11 April 2022.

According to SONK, following the non-fulfilment of the requirements by SONK for the salary adjustment with the increase of the minimum salary at the national level as well as the unproductive negotiations with the Government and the insufficient level of cooperation with the relevant ministries, the protest action is inevitable.

ETUCE, representing 127 education trade unions in Europe, stands with SONK and its affiliates in the Republic of North Macedonia. We insist on the importance of resuming the negotiations between the Government and SONK to avoid the general strike of next Monday. Teachers in North Macedonian schools have been tirelessly ensuring a continuous service during the tough times of the pandemic and have experienced a deterioration of their working conditions due to these circumstances.

ETUCE believes that these negotiations are the best opportunity for the Ministry of Education to appropriately recognise and value the role and the efforts of schoolteachers. We continue closely monitoring the situation and support SONK and

its members in their fight for effective and immediate implementation of the social dialogue outcomes in the Republic of North Macedonia.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Flocken". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Flocken

ETUCE European Director