



Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia – FNPR

42, Leninsky Prospect
Moscow 119119
Russian Federation

Tel.: +7 (495) 938-7638
+7 (495) 938-7613
E-mail: international@fnpr.ru

Sharan Burrow
General Secretary, ITUC

Ayuba Wabba
President, ITUC

Luca Vicentini
General Secretary, ITUC-PERC

Irakli Petriashvili
President, ITUC-PERC

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On the suspension of FNPR membership in ITUC

Dear colleagues,

During the entire history of its membership in the ITUC, the FNPR has never shown disrespect for the ITUC Constitution, always upheld the purposes and fundamental principles set out in its preamble, and fully discharged all its responsibilities. We reject recourse to war to resolve conflicts and condemn terrorism, colonialism and militarism as stated in the ITUC Declaration of Principles. In recent time, however, the FNPR has encountered actions on the part of certain affiliates and the ITUC staff members which make us carefully review the essential aspects of our relationship.

First of all, we note the one-sidedness and bias in the presentation and consideration of issues related to the military operation in Ukraine, which are incompatible with the nature of the organisation that condemns discrimination and proclaims adherence to the principles of equality and internal democracy. We do not find acceptable the accusatory manner and unwillingness to listen to the arguments and evidence that we present.

Let me once again draw your attention to the fact that the civil war in Ukraine began in 2014 having led to the blockade and numerous civilian casualties in the south-east of the country. The FNPR, just like the leadership of Russia, relied on the Minsk Agreements signed by the European guarantor countries and recognizing Ukraine as a unified state, which ruled out the possibility of Russian trade unions' participation in solving acute socio-economic problems of workers living there.

Regrettably, in all those years the Ukrainian trade unions never raised the issues of peaceful settlement of the conflict, protection of labour and humanitarian rights of their own membership in the south-eastern territories, but only supported the actions of their authorities. In this regard, it would be perfectly appropriate to bring up the matter of violation of the fundamental principles and statutory provisions of the ITUC Constitution by the Ukrainian trade unions themselves.

At present, due to the all-out sanctions imposed against Russia, we are faced with new challenges forcing us to concentrate on the issues of import substitution, of establishing new supply chains and ensuring social protection, of preserving the jobs and wages of trade union members.

However, the biggest problem right now is that the war continues largely due to external material support and continued supply of weapons and military equipment to the Ukrainian nationalist armed units. In these conditions, the war can engulf the whole of Europe, and it is in our collective interest to prevent further escalation of the conflict.

Guided by our national interests, we have decided to suspend our membership in the ITUC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mikhail Shmakov', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Mikhail Shmakov

President, FNPR