



Stockholm 20 December
2021

To the General Secretary and the Deputy General Secretary in charge of the minimum wage dossier

On the 26th of October the board of LO Sweden (LO-S) sent a letter to the ETUC President, General Secretary, and the Deputy General Secretary in charge of the minimum wage dossier. In the letter we, the board of LO, questioned if we can finance an organisation that for the moment undermines us. Given the vast resources, both financial and human, that we allocate to contribute to a well-functioning ETUC, we questioned if it was possible for us to engage in the work of the ETUC in the way we have done until now. We underlined that the only way we can see a future normal cooperation with the ETUC is that it also takes our interests into account, especially when it comes to our core values. The board of LO concluded that this meant that, when it comes to the minimum wage proposal, the ETUC would need to lobby for the possibility of a full exemption, such as a social partner clause, from the directive in the European Parliament and safeguard the interests of Swedish workers in the coming social initiatives on EU level.

Despite our letter in October, you have not just failed to take a stand for such a full exemption, but you have also actively lobbied against such a proposal in the final votings in the European Parliament. We have also understood via our contacts in the European Parliament that the lobbying of the ETUC was decisive for the outcome and for the fact that a social partner option was not included in the final decision of the European Parliament.

In the light of the paramount importance of the minimum wage issue for the Swedish trade union movement, the letter the board of LO sent the 26th of October (referred to above), the actions of the ETUC leadership in the European Parliament in connection to the vote regarding the minimum wage directive, the clear statement from the Congress of LO on the 1th of December (see attachment) and the other ongoing and coming sensitive EU initiatives, the board of LO has taken the following decision:

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The Swedish Trade Union Confederation

- LO-S will withhold the payment of the next membership fee
- LO-S will, until further notice, not participate in the ETUC ExCo meetings
- LO-S will, until further notice, not participate in any of the ETUC committees or activities that is led by Esther Lynch or that concern wage- or collective bargaining issues
- LO-S will limit the participation in other activities led by the ETUC in the way the leadership of LO judge feasible
- LO-S would like to express our profound lack of confidence for the General Secretary and the Deputy General Secretary in charge of the minimum wage dossier

Respectfully,



Susanna Gideonsson, president of LO Sweden

With copy to

ETUC President Laurent Berger
Deputy General Secretary Claes-Mikael Ståhl