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Letter of Solidarity

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Dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters,

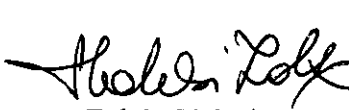
Our trade union wishes to express solidarity with our Belgian and French colleagues who decided to go on strike against legal measures that threatens to soften up labour protections among others and make it easier to hire and fire personnel.

Belgium and France now faces very severe restrictions to their labour law. Hungarian employees – and railway workers in particular – has seen similar arrogant government proposals and actions in the past couple of years. In 2010 one of the first tasks of the newly elected government was to curb the right to strike and this severely hit railway workers as the modified law blurred the border between lawful and unlawful strike. Due to the rather vague terminology, it is almost impossible to predict which strike will be considered unlawful. Should a strike be stamped unlawful, the workers and the unions involved face very harsh consequences and can even be fired.

With the edge of our once powerful weapon, the strike made blunt and risky to use, came the next major change as the government went on to modify the Hungarian labour law in 2012. One of the biggest losses experienced by the railway people was the increase of daily work time without any compensation.

In those times and ever since we have cited your example many times. You have always been a watchtower for us where nation-wide resistance is way less common than in your countries. Now that you are on strike and spend most of your time on the streets to protest against these harmful measures we support you as we are sure you will be able show that unions can beat labour reforms and you will once more demonstrate what it really means when workers join forces and stay united.

In solidarity,


Zoltán Halasi
president



VDSzSz Solidarity