



# V D S z S z S z o l i d a r i t á s

Ajtósi Dürer sor 27/A.  
Budapest  
Hungary - 1146

Phone: +36 (1) 351-11-11  
Fax: +36 (1) 344-67-70  
Email: [info@vdszsz.hu](mailto:info@vdszsz.hu)

**Eduardo Chagas**  
**ETF General Secretary**

04/07/2016

*Dear Eduardo,*

I am glad to inform you that our extraordinary congress took place on 27th June 2016 and the delegates approved our membership in both ETF and ITF. In line with the decision, we already transferred the affiliation fees for the remainder of 2016.

We now consider VDSzSz Solidarity as a full member of ETF and look forward to taking part in joint efforts to defend workers' rights. And we have a lot to do.

As our Belgian and French colleagues struggle against measures that threaten to soften up their labour code, 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.


Following the legislation that turned strike into a risky business came the next major change as the government went on to modify the Hungarian labour code in 2012. One of the biggest losses experienced by the railway people was the increase of daily work time without any compensation.

When it comes to railway people, the wages are very low, therefore the numerous job opportunities offered by the railway companies are not charming on the Hungarian labour market, to say the least. This leads to severe workforce shortage and takes its toll on the railway people. Lately the employers run amok desperately trying to overcome the difficulties posed by the lack of workforce: in some cases they do not even refrain from breaching the corresponding laws and rules.

VDSzSz Solidarity has no other option left then to go on court over unlawful steps and force employers to discontinue their bad practice. By doing so, we also want to gain as much additional income for our members as possible.

Of course, problems will always arise. I do believe our cooperation with ETF will benefit our members, especially when liberalisation of the passenger railway sector poses a great threat.

In solidarity,

  
Zoltán Halasi  
president  
VDSzSz Solidarity

