



**V D S z S z S z o l i d a r i t á s**

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### Letter of Solidarity

8 August, 2016

*Dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters,*

I wish to express our deepest solidarity and respect with your brave members who concluded to go on strike after talks ran aground with the stubborn, profit-oriented management and the government.

Security is a real big issue when it comes to rail transport in general. And this is especially true for passenger rail transport: it requires responsible decisions since lives are at stake. Surely, the lack of onboard personnel can under no condition be considered a wise step. Quite the contrary. I wish Govia Thameslink Railway would finally accept the ScotRail agreement you offered, so the workers will not face the threat of future layoff.

Contrary to the UK there is only one major passenger rail company in Hungary – and this is where the list of advantages suddenly ends. The very low income of railway workers has generated a crucial shortage of staff on all walks of life, and this also hit the conductors. The management overwrites the rules – and even fired two conductors simply because they wanted to follow the regulations and denied exposing passengers to security risks. Of course, the negotiations between the employer and our union are on the way and hopefully this unlawful step will shortly be undone.

Still, there is great fear in the hearts of many railway workers. I can not emphasize enough how important your brave action is. As the Hungarian government curbed the right to strike for railway people there is basically no other option left for us than going to court with every single issue. However, this is far from the most effective way since it takes a lot of time.

I wish you to reach your goals! I also hope that Hungarian railway people will follow your example and realise: there is no gain unless they act collectively! You will succeed on the long run that is for sure. And that is because you can stand united!

Even with our limited right to strike, there is a lot we could do with the railway people to improve their conditions. However, a trade union can only provide the framework, the legal background and the support for those who wish taking action. The outcome merely depends on whether the employees can collectively act to reach their common goal. This is the only way it works.

And this is what you do! Thank you!

In solidarity,

Zoltán Halasi  
president  
VDSzSz Solidarity

