



# Government intends to cut security and incomes for service sector workers

The government programme contains substantial cuts specifically directed at those in the weakest position. If implemented, the proposed objectives will undermine workers' security and ability to influence matters. The staggering of earnings-related unemployment allowances, cuts to housing allowance and many other planned actions will radically weaken peoples' incomes and livelihoods.

## Increased insecurity for workers

- Dismissals made easier and redundancy protection weakened
- Workers' potential for influence eroded
- Adult education allowance ended
- Job alternation leave system ended
- Lay-off notice period shortened
- Fixed-term workers' protections weakened
- Persons working on a residence permit penalised for unemployment
- Take-back obligation weakened

## Workers to become poorer

- Unpaid waiting period day added to sick leave
- Housing allowance cut substantially
- Social assistance weakened, waiting period and new conditions added
- Value-added tax increased on e.g. accommodation, books, cinemas and amusement parks
- New restrictions made on rental housing and rental housing production decreased

## Life made harder for the unemployed

- Earnings-related unemployment security weakened and level cut
- Protected amounts removed from unemployment security
- Child increases removed
- Work requirement extended to one year
- Indexed increases to benefits tied to national pension and consumer price indexes frozen

## Potential for influence eroded

- Right to strike limited and 200 euro personal fine for workers participating in an illegal strike
- Social partners' contract right limited
- Local agreement extended to companies where there is no shop steward system
- Trade union law weakened
- Intervention in pay negotiations such that the "general line" of pay rises could not be exceeded with a mediation proposal by National Conciliator or conciliation committee.

# #SERIOUSGROUNDS

Now more than ever strong trade union representation is needed.

Let's build a better future together!



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