



TRADE UNION OF SELF-EMPLOYED AND INFORMAL WORKERS

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TO

MRS. URSULA VON DER LEYEN

THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TO

MR. NICOLAS SCHMIT

JOBS AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

TO

MR. JANEZ LENARČIČ

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY MINIMUM INCOME FOR UNOFFICIALLY REGISTERED EMPLOYEES - NOW! AFTER THE EPIDEMY IT WILL BE LATE!

TEXT OF THE PETITION

We call on the European Union to create a financial instrument to support all informal workers with the introduction of the Solidarity Fund between official and informal workers, an urgent measure to provide quick and bureaucratic relief to all citizens in Europe whose economic security and existence are threatened by the coronavirus crisis.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY TODAY?

Millions of home-based workers world-wide demand support from their governments and the employers, contractors and brands that they work for, to ensure that their health, safety and economic survival be urgently addressed.

All over the world, in developing and industrialized countries, women and men work from home or in collective spaces near their home. They make up the home-based workforce, producing goods and providing services in many industries. They sew garments, weave carpets, stitch shoes, make baskets, prepare and sell food and assemble electronics amongst others. Some are self-employed home-based workers and others are sub-contracted waged-workers. The latter are employed by firms and brands and work for domestic and global supply chains.

They are highly vulnerable to the health effects of COVID-19 and the short and long term economic consequences. Their homes, in which they live and work, are often crowded and lack basic services such as running water and sanitation, which means that keeping to necessary hygiene routines and staying in isolation that is recommended or imposed by governments is impossible. And vitally, as most live in poverty and work just to survive, if they are unable to work there is no food on the table. Already, homeworkers, who work for domestic and global supply chains, report that there are no longer any orders as brands and

retailers are cancelling their orders; orders already completed are not being paid for; and markets and shops where they sell their goods are closed. The inability to continue working literally means starvation for their families.

Every day, the list of people who have lost their source of income and do not know where to turn is growing dramatically.

Some governments and employers are putting in place measures to mitigate the catastrophic effects of loss of income during this crisis, with most measures being applicable to workers in the formal economy. But even where plans are being made to provide relief for workers in the informal economy, home-based workers are left out, or find it impossible to claim such relief due to unrealistic requirements imposed by governments.

We know that the European institutions are working on a large-scale rescue plan. This is the moment when we can admit that there are workers outside the official statistics who are also citizens of Europe and they are paying taxes for us to exist.

In the longer term governments must recognise home-based workers through laws and policies which protect them and provide opportunities for improved livelihoods. Employers, including big brands, must recognise homeworkers as part of their supply chains and provide minimum wages and social protection.

Signed by the management,

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