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Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions, CMKOS

November 16, 2023

27 November – Czech Trade Union Day of Protests

Dear brothers and sisters,

Czechia has witnessed unprecedented inflation (15% in 2022 and 11% in 2023) resulting in unprecedented income decrease in real terms. Cumulative change for years 2022-2023 is -11% in wages and -19% in salaries. Czech right-wing government put ideology first and having slashed public budget income prescribed austerity policies throughout all the sectors (excluding military budget which has been increased).

Czech trade unions have been largely ignored when they argued for increased salaries and minimum wage and capping retail prices of essential goods to ease the burden on workers and their families. Instead, the government pushed through increased retirement age and an austerity package which is going to hurt workers even further and shift tax burden even more towards low-income families.

Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions has depleted all options but one – to go on strike.

CMKOS announced that 27 November (marking exactly 34 years since a general strike the old regime down) will be the Day of protests. Four trade unions (among them Metalworkers' and Public servants' unions) announced one-hour warning strikes and School workers union announced a one-day strike.

On 27 November at 1 p.m., CMKOS will organize a demonstration "For Better Future of the Czech Republic". The demonstration is co-organised by independent unions.

The protests are directed against the government's austerity policies including retirement age adjustments, energy price hikes, real decrease of salaries and wages, cutting worker benefits and austerity policy package of adjustments which will worsen working and living standards of Czech workers and weaken Czech economy in result.

Czech workers are mobilising within European framework of trade union action "On the road to Fair deal for workers" and call on a solidary support from their European brothers and sisters which can be delivered to cap.bohumil@cmkos.cz and for which they are sincerely thankful.

Fraternally yours,

Josef Středula
ČMKOS President