



## ETUC Statement in Solidarity with Slovenian Trade Unions and Workers

Adopted at the Executive Committee meeting of 19-20 May 2026

The ETUC strongly condemns the first measures adopted by the incoming Slovenian government, which threaten workers' rights, social protection, public services and social dialogue. Laws affecting working people have been pushed through without proper consultation, public debate or respect for social dialogue and social partners, undermining democratic standards and the European social model.

The proposed reforms would make it easier to dismiss older workers, expand precarious employment, weaken social protection and open the door to healthcare privatisation, while tax changes favour the wealthy over workers, pensioners and low- and middle-income households. These measures risk deepening inequality and reviving austerity policies.

In a country located at the heart of important European cross-border regions, any weakening of labour rights and social protection risks also affecting cross-border and mobile workers, undermining the principle of free movement based on equal treatment, effective rights, fair social security protection and full respect for social dialogue.

The ETUC fully supports Slovenian trade unions in their democratic campaign for a referendum against these harmful reforms. We are also deeply alarmed by retaliatory proposals targeting trade unions, including attempts to abolish the check-off system for union membership fees, clearly aimed at weakening organised labour.

The check-off system is a practical instrument that enables workers to effectively exercise their freedom of association and allows trade unions to remain financially independent and capable of representing workers. The ETUC joins with Slovenian trade unions and stresses that undermining this system would seriously weaken trade union rights and the Slovenian industrial relation system, create unnecessary obstacles to union membership, and undermine social dialogue and collective bargaining.

The ETUC stands in full solidarity with Slovenian workers and trade unions in defending labour rights, democracy and social justice. We call on the Slovenian authorities to withdraw these harmful measures, stop attacks on trade unions and engage immediately in genuine social dialogue.