



Anti-Corruption

Purpose of brief:

- To inform EB-148 of recent activities on anti-corruption; and
- To inform EB-148 of proposed action on the protection of whistleblowers for 2016.

Relates to:

- ✓ Anti-Corruption Brief to EB-147.

Background: For PSI, combatting corruption has been a priority issue since its last Congress in November 2012, building on the work done by affiliates around the world in the last decade. PSI firmly opposes all forms of corruption. Billions of taxes are not being paid into state budgets because of tax havens, tax holidays and incentives that governments provide to multinationals in the form of secret deals. PSI believes that this is the worst and most devious form of corruption. One of the best alternatives to austerity and cuts to public spending is to seriously fight corruption. PSI's anti-corruption campaign is also closely linked to the fight for global tax justice and the need to protect whistleblowers who stand up for the public interest without fear for their lives, current and future income and employment. PSI has been calling for the creation of an international labour standard to protect workers of public control bodies and has engaged the ILO on this issue.

Discussion: During the ILC 2015, PSI organised a side event in cooperation with ULATOC/UITOC on 8 June on Fighting Corruption. On 28 June, a letter to the ILO Director-General, signed jointly by PSI/ULATOC and CSA¹, was sent to request that the issue of the protection of whistleblowers be included on the agenda of a future ILC, to discuss standard-setting and develop guidelines and research on this topic. PSI contributed to the discussion on all the aspects of the anti-corruption campaign in the Conference "Funding Democracy", organised by PSI affiliate ACFO in Ottawa in June 2015. On 16 September 2015, PSI and UNI Global Union held a strategy meeting at the ILO to build cooperation on whistleblower protection and fighting corruption. ACTRAV, ITUC, Industriall and the ILO Staff Union joined UNI Global Union and PSI affiliate members from Africa, Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Interamerican region and staff. Participants shared their experiences and concluded that there is a need for an international labour standard to protect whistleblowers, both in the private and public sector. While in many countries some legislation is in place, it often does not address both the public and private sector, nor does it always concern issues of labour protection. An international standard could have a harmonizing effect, promote policy coherence and also outline the importance of collective bargaining in this context. Labour protection for whistleblowers is needed to protect their employment status and current and future income. In November 2015, the ILO Governing Body included whistleblower protection as an item for possible discussion at a future International Labour Conference.

Budget implications: As per 2016 budget.

Next steps: PSI intends to expand its anti-corruption campaign to all PSI sectors and regions, further develop materials and plan events for 9 December 2016, International Anti-Corruption Day. In order to build cooperation and joint campaigning actions for whistleblower protection, PSI and UNI Global Union have set up a working group to engage the ILO, other trade union organisations, employers and civil society partners. Fighting corruption has also become strongly embedded in the 2030

¹ Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores/as de las Américas

Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in New York at the end of September 2015. This work will also be linked to the development of SDG indicators, public procurement, violence at the workplace and global supply chains within PSI, ILO and other platforms. In cooperation with its affiliates ULATOC and ACFO, PSI took part in the OECD consultation on draft Recommendation on Public Integrity in March 2016 and will take part in the OECD “Integrity Week” (18-22 April 2016). Furthermore, participation is planned at the Corruption and the Role of Tax Havens meeting (28-29 April 2016) in London, organised by the Tax Justice Network. More events are to be confirmed.

It is recommended that EB-148:
1. NOTE and ENDORSE this brief.

YES / NO