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Dear President,

"A POWER ENGINEER MUST NOT BE POOR"

PSI represents 20 million working women and men in 150 countries.

As you know, electricity forms the backbone of society. It must be reliable 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. There is no room for mismanagement in this crucial sector, it is a question of life and death in northern countries.

Our affiliate union "All-Russian Electric Trade Union" is mobilizing its members to send an urgent message to the leaders and the people of Russia: the electricity sector in Russia is being mismanaged by a small group, who are siphoning off the resources of our companies for their personal gain. The experiment with unbundling and privatisation, promoted by the World Bank, makes it easier for corrupt financiers and others to take resources out of the companies, rather than investing for the long term welfare of the country.

Our members insist that this trend of corruption and mismanagement, which they have seen in other sectors of Russia's economy, not be allowed to infect the electricity sector. Our members insist that they be given the tools and the wages and working conditions to deliver reliable electricity, without fail.

In PSI, we have seen too many instances where the electricity sector is opened up to market forces, with the result that a criminal few profit massively while the system is worn down, investments are not made, wages and working conditions are allowed to deteriorate. These criminal elements know that this sector is too important to fail, so that the government will inevitably be forced to come in and repair.

We welcome the opportunity to demonstrate these trends, to discuss our research and findings and to collaborate with you and the All-Russian Electric Trade Union to find a way out of the dangerous path which your policies have taken you.

Best regards,

Rosa PAVANELLI
General Secretary