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ETUC Press release

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ETUC Condemns hungary's veer towards totalitarianism

13 March 2013

Controlled by Viktor Orban's Conservative party, the Hungarian Parliament adopted a new amendment to its Constitution on 11 March which has implications for democracy and threatens the balance of power. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) strongly condemns this amendment which shows that there are no longer any limits to the government's power.

With this reform, the Hungarian government intends to restrict the prerogatives of the Constitutional Court to strengthen its own position. The Constitutional Court has been muzzled. It is an attack on democracy.

Further amendments raise other problems, such as undermining the freedom of the media, the possibility of expelling homeless people from public places, restrictions affecting electoral campaigns, a limitation on religious freedoms, as well as on the free movement of students, etc.

ETUC General Secretary Bernadette Ségol stated: *"The purpose is to concentrate powers in the same hands and to silence all criticism. It is anti-democratic and unacceptable. We support the protests of the European Commission and of the Council of Europe. The rule of law, the law of the European Union and the standards of the Council of Europe must be respected."*

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 85 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 10 industry-based federations. The ETUC is

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