



HAK-İŞ

HAK İŞÇİ SENDİKALARI KONFEDERASYONU
HAK-İŞ TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

23.03.2020

HAK-IS Trade Union Confederation Statement On Measures Taken In Turkey Regarding Covid-19 Outbreak For ETUC Occupational Health And Safety Committee

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), which is spreading rapidly all over the world, has also affected our country. Successful, effective and quick efforts of our country regarding the COVID-19 are highly appreciated by every one of us. As one of the most important party of the labour movement; our sensitivity has been still on-going concerning on applying measures taken on a national level and taking essential precautions at workplaces.

As HAK-IS Confederation, we have pioneered the precautions against coronavirus disease and acted early with our belief that human health is above all values. Our Occupational Health and Safety Committee within our Confederation convened urgently and conducted a study on the measures to be taken in the workplaces.

The comprehensive action plan prepared by our Occupational Health and Safety Committee has been approved by the Executive Board of our Confederation and sent to our entire affiliated trade unions.

In our action plan prepared considering the concept of social distance it has been decided;

- Re-arranging of the working hours of staff working in trade unions,
- Increasing sanitation exercise within the occupation health and safety framework,
- Encouraging staff to use their paid annual leave and offer them extra administrative leaves,
- Re-arranging the shared areas according to the latest situation (cafeteria, meeting rooms, kitchen and restrooms).

These decisions were implemented urgently and effectively by all our organization, primarily our Confederation.





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In addition to these measures we have taken as HAK-IS, consultation meetings have been held with social partners. Mahmut Arslan, the President of our Confederation has participated in the consultation meeting held on 18 March 2020 leaded by The Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services, Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk within the scope of the fight against the new type of coronavirus. The meeting was held with the representatives of confederations and trade unions of workers, employers, and civil servants in our country.

At the meeting, views were exchanged on the measures to be taken in the work life and the current activities in the fight against coronavirus. With the participation of all social partners of the working life, a common sensitivity has been created to manage this process effectively and to survive it with the least damage.

Moreover, our President also attended the "Coordination Against Coronavirus Meeting" which was held under the chairmanship of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan within the scope of the fight against coronavirus (COVID-19). Vice President, members of the Presidential Cabinet, members of the Presidential Economic and Health Policy boards, managers of public institutions and organizations, and representatives of non-governmental organizations have attended the meeting as well.

Our President Mahmut Arslan said, "We believe that the crisis will be overcome with solidarity. We support the recommendation of our Minister of Health on recruiting new healthcare workers." During the coronavirus crisis, Arslan suggested banning the dismissal of workers under the excuse of the crisis and these prohibitions should continue until the threat of the coronavirus ends, while employers who do not fire workers are supported with incentives. Arslan said "We consider it significant to prepare an action plan based on the needs by evaluating each branch of industry/ sector. We demand that workers are supported without layoffs with administrative leaves, annual leaves and short-time working allowances."

At the end of the Coordination Against Coronavirus Meeting, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan shared the Coronavirus "Economic Stability Shield Package" with the public. Within the scope of this important measure package;

- Postponing debt payments and reduce tax burdens in various sectors that are the most affected by the crisis





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- With the help of short-time work allowance, providing temporary income support for the workers that work in a workplaces which interrupted their activities,
- Ensuring flexible and remote working legislation to become more effective
- Giving 2 billion TL financial aid for the families in need that are determined by the Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services.
- To provide sustainability of the employment, compensated working times will be increased from 2 months to 4 months.

As HAK-IS; we approve these arrangements for working life and we believe that it is vital for all social partners to fulfil their responsibilities in the light of these regulations.

Measures to be taken in the international dimension regarding working life should also be evaluated on a sectorial basis. Each business line/ sector should be evaluated on its own axis and an action plan should be prepared according to these needs. We think that it is important to establish a monitoring mechanism based on sectorial measures in order to monitor its positive effects, to observe whether they are implemented effectively and to revise it according to current needs.

As HAK-IS we believe that, taking the current situation seriously, realising appropriate precautions by all parties of the labour movement as worker-employer-government and every segment of society will save our today and future, while helping us to survive with a minimum harm, if possible, even with no damage.

