



LVLVoet

Brussels, 14 July 2021

Letter sent by e-mail:

To: LPSS Lithuanian Trade Union "Solidarumas"

Cc: LPSK Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation  
LDF Lithuanian Labour Federation

Dear Ms Krupaviciene,

Dear Kristina,

We thank you for the letter and the request of support in this urgent and extremely delicate situation at the Lithuanian-Belarusian border. Due to the critical situation and the recent contacts the ETUC has with its affiliates, we have included all Lithuanian trade union affiliates in this response.

The ETUC and the Workers' Group of the EESC strive for an EU policy based on human rights, solidarity, equality and inclusiveness. We have put the integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees in the labour market and in society high on our agenda for a long time. Our members are committed to fight and prevent labour exploitation, social dumping, and unfair competition.

The European Union and its Member States need to respect the fundamental rights of all migrants entering the European Union. The situation in Lithuania seems in this regard really complicated. We would be happy to have your views on the most recent developments. We are drafting a letter addressed to the EU institutions to remind them of their obligations in this regard and to highlight our proposals that can help Lithuania to deal with this new situation, while respecting migrants' fundamental rights. In this sense, while we understand the exceptional pressure Lithuania is being exposed to by Lukashenko's regime and the need for EU support, the EU has the duty to make sure that EU and international provisions and human rights are respected, which is not the case with the recent decision of the Lithuanian Parliament in allowing the mass detention of asylum-seekers (please see [Euractiv](#)).

As your letter asks us how we can support you, let us tell you that trade unions all over Europe have experiences in dealing with inclusion of migrants. For the past five years, the ETUC in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders have implemented the LABOUR-INT project, bringing a positive and concrete support to asylum-seekers and refugees for their better labour market integration in Europe. Hundreds of them and their representatives have been trained so facilitating their integration and inclusion at work and in society - in Austria, Greece, Italy, Belgium, Germany. The LABOUR-INT project has become a trademark and has shown the need of a multi-stakeholder and multi-layered approach to integration from arrival up to the workplace, passing through education, vocational training, and job placement.

We believe that trade unions in Lithuania could be supported and learn from the experiences of our UnionMigrantNet members working on the ground advising and supporting the migrant population. The ETUC is committed, and it will be ready to support you in welcoming and assisting the newly arrived migrants in cooperation with local and regional authorities and civil society organisations too. The ongoing UnionMigrantNet project is undertaking activities in partnership with the municipalities of Athens, Liege, Ljubljana, Milan, Trieste and Sofia.

Please be reassured that the ETUC and the Workers' Group are ready to support you. A virtual meeting could be organised in the coming weeks to discuss more concretely how we could practically support you within the framework of the UnionMigrantNet project and beyond.

Kind regards,



Luca Visentini  
ETUC General Secretary



Oliver Röpke  
President of the EESC Workers' Group