



Mr. Borut Pahor, President of Slovenia
Mr. Janez Janša, Prime Minister of Slovenia
Mr. Jernej Vrtovec, Minister of Infrastructure

Brussels, 28 April 2021

Ref: Proposed changes to the Slovenian »Public road transport law«

Dear President,

Dear Prime Minister,

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF), representing 5 million workers in transport sector across Europe. ETF is formally recognised by EU institutions as social dialogue partner representing trade union rights in eight sectors including road transport and urban public transport.

ETF has been informed by our affiliate SDPZ about the proposed amendment to the »Public road transport law«, aimed at abolishing compulsory taximeters in on-demand passenger transport. We understand that this change is intended to allow ride-hailing platforms such as Uber operate in Slovenia.

I would like to point out that the business model of the ride-hailing platforms is well known for being based on precarious working conditions. Due to the platforms' insistence that they work only with independent contractors, the drivers are denied basic rights such as sick leave, while not being able to organise their work autonomously. This model was tested in multiple court cases around the world, with courts finding that ride-hailing platforms forced workers into bogus self-employment.

If ride-hailing platforms access the Slovenian market, we can expect earnings of on-demand drivers to fall even more, which means that they will have to work even longer to make ends meet. The fact that the Slovenian government did not analyse such social impacts of the proposal nor properly consulted the social partners is concerning.

Ride-hailing platforms abuse not only labour laws, but also fiscal ones. Due to the bogus self-employment model they avoid paying the value added tax on their services or social contributions. For example, California's Department of Industrial Relation estimated that worker misclassification costs the state \$7 billion in revenue annually.

ETF is therefore firmly supporting SDPZ and other Slovenian trade unions in opposing the proposed changes. We are calling on the Slovenian government to withdraw the proposal and engage in a discussion with the social partners on challenges of platform work. With Slovenia taking over the EU Council Presidency later this year we are expecting you to work on implementing the EU priorities, with social fairness being one of them.

Your sincerely,



Livia Spera
ETF Acting General Secretary