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国际
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International Transport Workers' Federation
Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte
Fédération internationale des ouvriers du transport
Internationella Transportarbetarefederationen
Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation
Международная федерация транспортников
التنظيم عالميا، النضال من أجل حقوقنا

Mr. D.A. Medvedev
President of the Russian Federation
RUSSIA

Fax: +7 495 2060766

DC/chc

19 August 2008

Dear President Medvedev

Fuel prices crushing transport industry

I am writing to you on behalf of 4.5 million transport workers represented by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) worldwide in support of the recent appeal made by the Association of Trade Unions of Transport and Communication of Russia to raise with you the serious financial situation being created by the continual increase in the price of transport fuel.

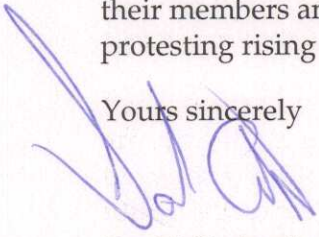
I am advised by our affiliates in Russia that the increasing burden of fuel costs is adversely affecting the wages and employment status of transport workers as some transport operators are forced into bankruptcy leading to the deterioration of workers' wages and conditions and ultimately to job losses.

I also understand that over the last three years, the Russian trade unions have been lobbying the authorities for fuel prices to be fixed at an acceptable rate, however no solution has been adopted and episodic 'freezing' measures have been of a temporary nature.

The ITF therefore supports the demand of the Association of Trade Unions of Transport and Communication of Russia for you and your government to enforce practical measures to stabilise fuel prices at an acceptable level, which would be in the public interest of the country.

It is clear the transport workers' and communication workers' unions have the interests of both their members and the economy in balance, and their action planned for 10 September 2008 protesting rising fuel costs should be seen from that perspective.

Yours sincerely


David Cockroft
ITF General Secretary

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