

Geneva, 15 June 2021

Mr. Yusuf Turan
Owner
Turan Plastik Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş.
Muratbey Merkez Mahallesi, Kuzey Girişi Caddesi, No: 6
34540 Büyükçekmece Istanbul
Turkey

Sent by e-mail info@turambalaj.com and by telefax +90-212-7781818

IndustriALL Global Union calls on Turan Plastik to respect fundamental workers' rights, re-instate the dismissed union members and enter into good-faith negotiations with Lastik-İş

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industrial-union.org), representing more than fifty million workers in the manufacturing supply chain, including the packaging sector, to urge Turan Plastik Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş. to respect fundamental workers' rights, re-instate the dismissed union members and enter good-faith negotiations with Lastik-İş. Please note that Lastik-İş (Petroleum, Chemical and Rubber Industry Workers' Union of Turkey) is one of the affiliates of IndustriALL Global Union in Turkey.

IndustriALL Global Union is aware of the ongoing unionisation activity conducted by our affiliate Lastik-İş at the production facility of Turan Plastik in the European side of Istanbul. The majority of workers at the plant exercised their fundamental right to join a union, which is guaranteed by national labour law and international core labour standards, and thus became members of Lastik-İş.

The Turkish Ministry of Labour and Social Security issued an official certificate dated 01 February 2021 confirming that Lastik-İş has a sufficient majority to be able to become a bargaining partner. On 10 March 2021, the final collective bargaining certificate was sent to the parties.

We are outraged to hear that after having received a charter of demands from Lastik-İş, your management has acted aggressively against the workers, punishing them—including systematic intimidation and threats—for joining Lastik-İş. Union members are forced to resign from our affiliate Lastik-İş. We are further outraged to learn that your management has dismissed six union members, including officially appointed chief trade union representative.

In the meantime, your management insists on not attending the bargaining sessions, thus demonstrating your clear will to keep wages and working conditions as low as possible, nor answers any calls coming from Lastik-İş. This is why the union has decided to go on strike in the coming days.

The overall situation at Turan Plastik is unacceptable.

The behaviour of Turan Plastik constitutes a blatant violation of Turkish labour law as well as fundamental international labour standards, including Convention 87 on Freedom of Association

and Protection of the Right to Organize, and Convention 98 on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Article 51 of the Turkish Constitution states that “employees have the right to form labour unions, without obtaining permission, and they also possess the right to become a member of a union and to freely withdraw from membership, in order to safeguard and develop their economic and social rights and the interests of their members in their labour relations. No one shall be forced to become a member of a union or to withdraw from membership.”

Likewise, Article 17 of Law 6356 reads, “any person who completes 15 years of age and who is considered as a worker in accordance with the provisions of this Law may join a workers’ trade union.”

International labour standards enshrine the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively through the trade union of their choice. It is important to note that your major customers adhere to these basic principles.

Therefore, we urge Turan Plastik to respect fundamental workers’ rights, in line with national and international labour laws, reinstate the unfairly dismissed six union members, and engage in good faith negotiations with Lastik-İş.

We truly hope that Turan Plastik will take immediate corrective measures, and that, as a result, it will not be necessary for IndustriALL Global Union to take any further action, particularly vis-à-vis your main customers.

I anticipate your swift response and action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valter Sanches". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Valter Sanches
General Secretary

CC:
Mr. Alaaddin Sarı, General President, Lastik-İş