

RESOLUTION

We, participants in the All-Ukrainian action, representing trade union organisations and labour collectives, on behalf of 8 million workers, labour veterans, students strongly protest the shock increase in gas and electricity prices that has led to the double increase in communal tariffs for the population and will take most families to the brink of survival.

For the last two years prices for goods and services increased in several times, the inflation exceeded 180%, while the minimum wage guaranteed by state increased only by 19%, and the purchasing power of workers' wages and pensions on the contrary reduced by more than one third.

Owners of enterprises pretend that it was not they who put half of the economy in the shadow, hide one third of wages from taxes and social contributions, reduce workers' wages to the level of alms and make the Pension Fund in fact bankrupt. Having received savings on social contribution of UAH 80 billion due to the reduction of the level of social; contribution to 22%, they have done nothing to formalise shadow wages of millions of illegal and deprived workers.

To protect people from the price shock the Government proposes to apply for subsidies that are funded from taxes, i.e. from our wages. Surely, such a type of state support is appropriate for pensioners, disabled, unemployed, large families, but by no means for working people.

Without adequate increase in wages, the vast majority of workers will apply for the subsidies. This is a big step backwards for the country that took a path of reforms and European integration.

Hardworking Ukrainians have the right to live on decent wage for their labour, not on donations.

We confirm that the policy of subsidies does not find support among workers, creates dependency mood in the society, lead to concealment of income, informal labour relations. This choice requires further increase in public spending on subsidies and thereby increases the tax burden on legal economy and workers.

Therefore, the trade unions, whose main task and responsibility is the social protection, could not silently watch the violation of workers right to earn enough to live decently guaranteed by the Constitution.

We strongly protest shock increases in prices and tariffs not backed by relevant increases in wages. People cannot and do not want to work for gratis. We demand from the Parliament and Government of Ukraine to prevent social levelling in the country.

We join our forces to express our common position, bring it to the attention of the Ukrainian society and call authorities to immediately react to the situation.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE ALL-UKRAINIAN PROTEST MARCH DEMAND

from the Government and Parliament of Ukraine:

- to immediately implement fair reform of wage system;
- to set from 1 October minimum wage at the level of economically justified based on actual prices living wage of UAH 3000 (~109 euro), respectively increase pensions and students' scholarships;

from owners and employers:

- to increase from 1 August wages at least by 15%, for the account of multi-billion savings from two-fold reduction in the level of single social contribution; to compensate for the depreciation of wages due to high prices;
- to hold consultation with trade unions and start to increase the share of wages in cost of goods and services to the European level of at least 25-30%.

from Parliament members:

- by the end of the current session of the Parliament to hear the report of the Government and National Commission on the State Regulation of Energy and Utilities concerning the grounds for the increases in gas price and communal tariffs, adequacy of proposed social protection measures;
- to pass relevant decisions to prevent reduction of living standards of the population.

WE STATE that if our demands are ignored the trade unions will resort to more hard actions including strikes as provided by Article 44 of the Constitution of Ukraine.