



International Organisation of Employers
Organisation Internationale des Employeurs
Organización Internacional de Empleadores
The Global Voice of Business

31 July 2017

Ms Sharan Burrow
General Secretary
International Trade Union Confederation

Dear Sharan,

I refer to our conversation about the upcoming ILO European Regional Meeting to be held in Istanbul from 2 to 5 October 2017.

The ILO Governing Body in June upheld its previous decision regarding the dates and the venue of the 10th ILO European Regional Meeting. I also want to reiterate that Turkey is a full member of the ILO and that the UN has clearly communicated to the ILO that it would be safe for all to attend the meeting in Istanbul.

The IOE very much regrets the position taken by both ITUC and ETUC to advise its members against attending the 10th ILO European Regional Meeting as this is endangering the tripartite representation and unique nature of the ILO and social partner dialogue.

The ILO does not operate in a perfect world and many previous conferences and meetings took place in countries where one could have argued issues and concerns exist. However, this has never been a reason for one of the parties to withdraw; on the contrary, it has always been a reason to attend in order to highlight the issues and seek collaborative solutions through engagement and hence have full tripartite engagement and true social partner collaboration.

I understand that the position taken by ITUC could be re-assessed pending developments in Turkey. I sincerely hope that ITUC and ETUC will take the decision to advise its members to attend the meeting to ensure we can have a productive and meaningful outcome discussed with all three constituents.

Kind regards,



Linda Kromjong
Secretary-General