

Solidarity statement from the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee Extractive Industries, 31 March 2026

The European social partners in the extractive industries express their strong solidarity with the workers of Ukraine's extractive industries in these exceptionally difficult times.

We recognise that the extractive industries in Ukraine are operating under unprecedented wartime conditions, with significant disruptions across major mining regions, serious risks to infrastructure, and profound challenges to workers' safety and wellbeing and life.

We wish to emphasize the courage and resilience of our Ukrainian colleagues and their families who continue to face evacuation from some regions, destruction of housing, unreliable heating systems, and frequent electricity outages. We stress that without energy, no other fundamental right can be guaranteed: neither health, nor education, nor economic development, and even less security. In this regard, we recall that affordable and sustainable energy remains essential, in line with the objectives of the United Nations on universal energy access.

We condemn any attack on civilian mine workers. We are deeply concerned about the impact of the war on working conditions, including health and safety risks, job security, and the respect of fundamental workers' and human rights. We reaffirm that, even in times of crisis and under martial law, the protection of workers, safe working environments, and respect for labour rights must remain a priority.

We sincerely thank the Ukrainian social partners for sharing their valuable insights on the current situation, including developments in key mining basins and the realities faced by workers on the ground. Their contribution underlines the crucial role of social dialogue in addressing challenges and shaping responses to this crisis.

The European social partners remain committed to supporting their Ukrainian counterparts and strengthening cooperation.