Svidník Declaration

Visegrad Fund

Declaration by trade union leaders from the V4 countries and Ukraine

We, the participants of the trade union meeting in Svidník, reaffirm our commitment to peace, democracy and workers' dignity. The legacy of Dukla calls on us to reject war, hatred and extremism.

Job insecurity, high living costs and industrial transformation demand fair wages, quality jobs and stronger collective bargaining. Simplifying rules must not weaken workers' rights, occupational safety or trade unions.

Public subsidies and procurement must be conditional on respect for workers' rights and collective agreements. The transitions must guarantee access to retraining and early trade union involvement in restructuring decisions.

The V4 countries are particularly hard hit by the pressures associated with implementing decarbonisation policies. An increasing number of companies, especially in energy-intensive industries, are struggling to compete with businesses operating outside the EU due to high energy costs. Workers and trade unions are paying the price. A fundamental revision of EU policy is necessary to ensure the effective protection of jobs. Industry must remain the backbone of the EU economy.

The introduction of artificial intelligence and algorithmic management must ensure transparency, human oversight, personal data protection and consultation with workers' representatives. We call for the right to disconnect and a fair distribution of productivity gains.

We stand in solidarity with workers and independent trade unions in Ukraine. We support a just and lasting peace and reconstruction founded on social rights, decent work and social dialogue. For this reason, we want to strengthen our ties with our partners in Ukraine.

The voice of Central and Eastern Europe within European institutions must be heard more clearly, and the decisions taken must better reflect the perspective of this region. Therefore, we commit to strengthening cooperation between trade unions in the V4 countries. Our region's future must rest on solidarity, social justice and workers' participation in decision-making.

Signatures

Visegrad Fund

SVIDNÍK DECLARATION / 2-4 NOVEMBER 2026

KOZ SR

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OPZZ

NSZZ „Solidarność”

MASZSZ

SZEF

MOSz

LIGA

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KVPU

FPU