

25th UNI Europa Executive Committee

Brussels 12+13 June 2019

UNI Europa statement Turkish Public Broadcaster TRT

UNI Europa joins their colleagues at KESK HABER-SEN to condemn the recent attacks on workers at Turkish public broadcaster TRT.

More than 160 workers of TRT have been labelled as “surplus employees” and are in the process of being transferred to other public institutions outside of the broadcasting sector. At the same time, 280 workers from Anatolian Agency have been transferred to TRT and are employed as “*Personnel Subject to the Provisions of Private Law*”. We are concerned that these transfers are removing experienced workers who are committed to the values of public service broadcasting and replacing them with workers who are then offered contracts with less job security and fewer employee rights. After earlier restructuring processes, dismissals and transfers that have taken place since summer 2016, this decision is another attack targeting committed and experienced colleagues at TRT.

The Members of the UNI Europa Executive Committee, meeting in Brussels on 12 and 13 June 2019 express their solidarity with colleagues at TRT and at KESK HABER-SEN.

We are concerned with the recent developments at TRT. Its independence in all aspects has been eroded and the campaign against experienced professionals, who are committed to sustaining a public service mission, is extremely worrying.

UNI Europa underlines that quality and independent information of citizens is the basis of democratic societies. Strong public service media is a pillar for guaranteeing the quality and independence of information. Public service media is ownership by citizens, not governments or political parties.

UNI Europa fears that the future of public service broadcasting in Turkey will be compromised if the current oppression is not halted.

We call on the Turkish government to respect the values of public service media and to guarantee the working conditions at TRT to which the workers are lawfully entitled.