



Latvian Trade Union of Education and Science Employees

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To: European Commission

Based on the information disseminated by the Latvian Ministry of Finances, the state budget of the Republic of Latvia for 2019 has been planned and agreed with the European Commission. At the same time, the Latvian Trade Union of Education and Science Employees (LIZDA) informs that several laws concerning education and science in Latvia aren't implemented by the government and the Saeima.

LIZDA demands that the following laws have to be implemented:

1. **The Education Law** which states that teacher's salary per work load shouldn't be lower than defined by the Schedule of Teacher's Salary Raise for the appropriate time period approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia on January 11, 2018.
2. **The Higher Education Law** which states that a gradual state funding, not less than 0.25% from GDP, has to be increased for public higher education institutions, till the state funding for higher education reaches at least 2% from GDP.
3. **The Law on Scientific Activities** which states that a gradual state funding for science, not less than 0,15% from GDP, has to be increased, till the state funding for science reaches at least 1% from GDP.

On March 5, 2019, the government (the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia) didn't find any financial sources for education personnel's salary increase in the 2019 state budget. Thus, the draft law "On State Budget for 2019" doesn't foresee any increase of education personnel's salary from September 1, 2019 and the next period.

At the same time, the state budget 2019 was agreed between the government of Latvia and the European Commission. LIZDA draws the attention of the European Commission that relevant articles of education and science laws mentioned above, aren't followed. LIZDA would appreciate if the European Commission initiates discussions with the government of Latvia when annual and medium-term budgets are planned and agreed. Financing for education and science activities, as defined by laws, has to be foreseen when planning and approving the state budget.

LIZDA informs the European Commission that the Education and Science Employees' Picket at the Republic of Latvia Saeima building will be organized on March 20, 2019. Education

employees are asking to the legislative and decision making power to implement the Education Law and the Teachers' Salary Increase Schedule which determines that an increase in education personnel's salary of 710 euros has to be raised to 750 euro from September 1, 2019.

LIZDA appeals that the Saeima and the government of Latvia follows the adopted laws and regulations and ensure decent and competitive public funding for education and science.

President



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