

BUILDING WORKERS' POWER

4TH ITUC WORLD CONGRESS - COPENHAGEN, 2-7 DECEMBER 2018

UNIONS AT WORK

WHAT IS YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT WIN 2014 – 2018?

You and your affiliated unions have been on the frontlines of many struggles since we met in Berlin in 2014.

We want to document and share with all Congress delegations to the ITUC World Congress 2018 the most significant victories of trade unions during the period 2014 to 2018.

Can you describe the struggle and the outcome using the template we have prepared and provide a photo and quote from a union leader and trade union member? Send your most significant win to congress@ituc-csi.org

Name of national trade union centre or union:

Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions

Country:

Czech Republic

Most significant union victory [Headline in 6 words]:

Ending Cheap Labour in the Czech Republic

Description of the issue or dispute [200 words]:

Since the beginning of economic transformation in the 90's, Czech Republic has been relying on low wages and depreciated currency as its main competitive advantage. This resulted in sliding down the supply chain and focusing on low value added production which in turn entrenched low labour costs and dependent character of Czech economy. 30 years after the end of Cold War, the living standard did not get closer to the Western standard – as it was promised by the designers of economic transformation.



**CHANGE
THE
RULES**

In 2015 CMKOS decisively broke away from the vicious circle, formulated a new strategy of economic change based and launched the End of Cheap Labour Campaign. Since then wages and salaries have been growing by 4 - 8 % each year.

Detail of the campaign or strategy [100 words]:

The End of Cheap Labour Campaign is based on a relatable narrative of unfulfilled hopes and promises of catching up with the West, solid economic arguments of wage/productivity gap and mobilising empowerment of shop stewards responsible for collective negotiation. Thanks to vocal leadership and modern and appealing presentation, the Campaign and the issue of cheap labour has been omnipresent and all the political parties had to address it in one way or another. Annual manifestation meetings draw attention of the press and employers because it has been at these meetings of shop stewards that demands for wage growth have been announced.

Photo and quote from union leader [20 words]:

„The wage Iron Curtain must fall“

„For us, CMKOS, the wage Iron Curtain between the old and new EU countries is unacceptable. Abusing of cheap labour for profit-making speaks volumes about some multinational corporations.“

Josef Středula, president of CMKOS



Photo and quote from member [20 words]:

“We are taken much more seriously now when negotiating with the employer. And we make good use of it.”

