Dear General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli,

The PSI affiliates in South Korea were shocked today to learn of the early passing of former PSI General Secretary Hans Engelberts. We wish to send our condolences to his family and share our members of him with them and the whole PSI community.

General Secretary Engelberts’ was a great friend of Korean public sector workers and the entire Korean labour movement. He first visited South Korea in the early 1980s, shortly after he took over the leadership of PSI. From that time on he acted as a steadfast supporter of Korean workers’ struggle for quality public services and fundamental labour rights in the public sector. During countless trips to Korea over the course of his term, General Secretary Engelberts’ visited imprisoned Korean labour leaders and spoke in public forums and rallies, continuously standing up to the Korean government and call out its repressive actions.

Through General Secretary Engelberts’ efforts, Korean public sector unions became connected to the global trade union movement, received widespread international solidarity in times of need, and eventually developing the capacity to show the same solidarity to other public sector unions around the world.

In Korea, when labor leaders pass we hold memorial ceremonies during which we pay tribute to their legacies and renew our commitment to fight for workers’ liberation as the best way to honor their memories. While we cannot do this for General Secretary Engelberts, please know that we...
honour him by reaffirming our commitment to work with PSI to build a global struggle for quality public services, social equality and respect for fundamental labour rights.

We hope that you will share our message with General Secretary Engelberts’ family and the wider PSI community as you see fit.

In solidarity,

PSI Korea Council Joint Leadership

Sangsu Jo
President
Korean Public Service and Transport Workers’ Union (KPTU)

Chung-jee Lee
President
Korean Government Employees’ Union (KGEU)

Ji-hyun Yoo
President of
Korean Health & Medical Workers’ Union (KHMU)

Ju-young Kim
President
Federation of Korean Public Industry Trade Unions (FKPIU)

Jin-young Go
Chairmen
Fire Fighting Development Conference