



The Turkish Union of Road Construction and Building Workers

YOL-İŞ Statement on İstanbul New Airport

18 September 2018
Ankara

“Unionization of subcontract workers is of great importance”

As is known, YOL-İŞ is organized in the workplaces of İstanbul Grand Airport, Airport Construction Ordinary Partnership Joint Stock Company (İGA) which is the prime contractor of İstanbul New Airport.

In accordance with the collective bargaining agreement signed by YOL-İŞ on behalf of its members, trainings are organized in various fields, particularly on Occupational Health and Safety for employees, and the demands directed to the employer regarding working and housing conditions are resolved by our union using the established social dialogue mechanism.

It should be noted that trade union participation and labor peace have been protected in the prime contractor’s workplaces where YOL-İŞ is organized and no action has been recorded so far.

According to the figures of Ministry of Labour, Social Services and Family dated September 2018, the number of workers employed at the construction site of İstanbul New Airport is 26 thousand 590. The number of employed workers out of the prime contractor İGA is 21 thousand 919 and these workers are subcontracted by 281 different sub-employers.

The actions which had repercussion in our country and international public opinion were seen as those are being realized by a part of the subcontracted workers working in these 281 different companies.

Although there may be some news which based on speculation regarding the workers' actions carried out at the construction site of İstanbul New Airport, which is planned to be put into service on October 29, 2018, it is a fact that there are various issues in terms of both Occupational Health and Safety and trade union organizing in a gigantic construction site where 281 subcontracting companies are operating.

On the occasion of recent actions at the construction site of İstanbul New Airport, it should be emphasized once again that the unionization of subcontracted workers in the private construction sector workplaces and the conditions to be created by way of a trade union collective agreement is of great importance in terms of preventing possible provocations, solving problems and establishing labor peace.

In this respect, YOL-İŞ will resolutely maintain its organizing efforts which have been consistently implementing for years to ensure the rights of subcontract workers in the construction sector, including the right to join the union and negotiate collective bargaining agreements. YOL-İŞ is currently exploring all opportunities and discussing with various stakeholders to find a substantive solution to resolving the situation at the İstanbul New Airport.

YOL-İŞ
Executive Board