



*International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions  
Internationale Föderation der Chemie-, Energie-, Bergbau- und Fabrikarbeitengewerkschaften  
Fédération Internationale des Syndicats de Travailleurs de la Chimie, de l'Energie, des Mines et des Industries Diverses  
Internationella kemi-, energi-, gruv- och fabriksarbetarefederationen  
Federación Internacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores de la Química, Energía, Minas e Industrias Diversas  
国際化学エネルギー鉱山一般労連  
Международная федерация профсоюзов химиков, энергетиков, горняков и работников других отраслей*

**President:** Senzeni Zokwana • **General Secretary:** Manfred Warda

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January 6 2009

Ivan Mohnachuk  
President  
Russian Independent Coal Employees Union  
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Dear Ivan,

It was with great shock and deep sadness that I learned of the death of Vitaly Butko.

Indeed many in the ICEM and especially in our mining group will sorely miss him, but rest assured we will not forget him.

We honour his important role in the establishment of democracy after the fall of the Soviet Union. We also remember him as a brilliant leader who made sure that the interests of the mineworkers were not neglected in the difficult years and many struggles of economic transition.

It is certain that his efforts were crucial in making Rosugleprof the strong force that it became. We know that his role was no less important as Vice-President of the Federation.

No less was he committed to the development of the ICEM, and the international solidarity of mineworkers.

For me it was a real pleasure when I last met him during the ICEM World Mining Conference in St. Petersburg last July. Indeed, I valued the advice that I personally got from him over many years. With Vitaly I not only lost an important trade union colleague, I lost a friend.

Please convey our condolences on the passing of Vitaly to his family and friends and to everyone within your union, and the Federation.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Manfred Warda', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Manfred Warda  
General Secretary

CC: Senzeni Zokwana, ICEM President  
Rayford Mbulu, ICEM Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Vice President