

n°3 . APRIL . 2009

UNI P&L

Bulletin

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## Turkish Postal workers on a two-days demonstration march

UNI Post & Logistics' affiliate in Turkey, Haber Sen, organized a two-day march starting on 25<sup>th</sup> February in the cities of Diyarbakir (Southeast Region) and Istanbul and ending in the capital city of Ankara. The aim of the march was to sensitize the public to the working conditions of postal workers. All postal workers who took part in the march were welcomed by the public in each city the march went through. The demonstration not only drew the attention of the general public but of the mass media too.



The other issue, postal workers raised during their march included: the financial crisis and how it will affect workers. The General Directorate of the Turkish Post or PTT tried to prevent the march by sending e-mails to work places before and during the march. Despite such attempts, postal workers reached Ankara on 27 February.

Postal workers ended their march with some of the following demands: adequate PTT staffing in

order to reduce pressure on current workers, wage increases to allow for a decent life, withdrawal of the law on subcontracting, withdrawal of draft legislation on privatisation.

## Postkom unhappy with Norwegian Post liberalization

The Norwegian Transport Ministry has released a report on the effects of the liberalisation of the Norwegian mail market. The report will now be sent for consultation with a 22 April deadline . The report was prepared by the Economics and Business Administration AS (SNF) in Bergen and examines the consequences of liberalization for all mail companies, customers, employees and postal services . The UNI Post & Logistics Norwegian affiliate, Postkom, at its national congress in May last year claimed that it knew that the Ministry would conduct such an assessment. Although the mandate has been broad and comprehensive, the Postkom President says it is his impression that the report brings little new in relation to the issues related to liberalization of the postal market. "I am disappointed that the consequences for the employees is handled superficially. This question has not been dealt with in the report's coverage of liberalization effects in other countries", says the Postkom Federation President Christian

Øverland. "We will use the time until the political decision to engage Postkoms representatives and to get as much support as possible from businesses, organizations, consumers and political environments, familiar with the negative consequences of liberalization", he added.

## **Dutch Unions reach an in-principle agreement with TNT**

The collective agreement that still needs to be accepted by union members is mediocre. Indeed, in order to avoid massive lay-offs, the unions have agreed to a decrease in income for their employees. Thus, postmen and mail handlers in scales 1 to 4 will see their gross income fall by close to 15%. Other measures covered by the agreement include an offset of the loss of income as well as an available budget for employees searching for work outside of the company.

Abvakabo said that the aim of the union in these negotiations was to avoid massive forced redundancies.

## **"Crunch time": The recession and a postal union's response**

UNI Post & Logistics' New Zealand affiliate, the EPMU, says that there has never been a more important time for working people to stick together and try to protect our terms and conditions and to en-

sure that things are fair. They are telling the workers in NZ Post that If they are not a member of the EPMU, it is a good time to think about joining. If they are, then it is a good time to talk to their work-mates, friends and family about joining EPMU.

The EPMU has produced a video called *Crunch Time* to explain the recession and the union's response. You can find the video at [www.epmu.org.nz/crunch-time/](http://www.epmu.org.nz/crunch-time/) or by searching for "Crunch Time EPMU" at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

## **Workers want engagement on the economic crisis UNI tells APPU**

Postal workers want to be involved in finding ways to deal with the serious affects of the economic crisis and to ensure postal companies limit the affects of the downturns in mail volumes on workers. Speaking to the Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU) conference being held in Auckland New Zealand, the UNI delegation said workers must be involved in rearranging work structures and in finding ways to cut costs without job losses to meet the sharp decline in revenues. The presentation was made by UNI Global, UNI Apro, UNI's New Zealand affiliate, the EPMU and the Australian affiliate CEPU. The presentation covered UNI-Apro's work in the Asia Pacific region, how the CEPU is facing new technology challenges in Australia,

the EPMU's work to secure postal delivery workers in decent jobs and what UNI is doing to ensure the postal industry deals with the looming public concerns of sustainable development.

## **CWU: The Privatisation is in conflict with the British constitution**

The Communication Workers Union exposes that Lord Mandelson's attempts to privatise Royal Mail are in direct conflict with the British constitution.

Billy Hayes, CWU General Secretary, said: "The Labour Party came to power with a manifesto commitment to keep Royal Mail wholly publicly owned. "According to the Salisbury-Addison convention, the Lords will not vote down manifesto commitments. Therefore, if the British constitution is to remain intact, the move to privatise Royal Mail will stop tomorrow. "The CWU supports modernisation of Royal Mail and supports Lord Mandelson's Bill, with the exception of the privatisation element. "The solution here is to remove the element of the Bill that calls for privatisation and endorse the rest. We want a successful modern Royal Mail in full public ownership and we want the British constitution to remain intact."

More information about the actual campaign and the petition that Peter Mandelson scraps his plan to privatise Royal Mail: <http://post.cwu.org/page/s/notforsale>

## Belgian unions oppose DHL airport changes

EAT/DHL, the Belgian airline branch of the worldwide group Deutsche Post/DHL has immediately laid off 24 flight crew members after grounding 4 of its Airbus A300B4 freighters last week without any negotiation with the workers or their unions. The Belgian global delivery unions are supporting the DHL workers in their strive for social justice, fair and respectful treatment in good times as well as in bad economical times and demands that Deutsche Post DHL immediately enter into proper negotiations to resolve this situation.

## Postal workers strike in Morocco

The strike by FNPT-UMT Morocco on Friday 20 March was a great success with 97% of postal workers nationally taking part. In the big cities the strike was 100% supported (Casablanca, Rabat, Marrakech, Fez, Oujda, Layoune, Agadir, Dakhla ...). Postal workers in Morocco went on strike to protest against the Moroccan government's failure to comply with the jointly signed Memorandum of Un-



derstanding with FNPT and further to propose to make Morocco Post into a limited company. Furthermore the union was protesting against the changes the government is proposing which they believe will put the universal postal service at risk.

To see a video news article on the fnpt\_omt action click on the link below:

<http://www.2m.tv/video/?id=2552>

FNPT say that their legitimate battle will not stop if the government and the management of Post Morocco doesn't start proper negotiations with the union.

## Swiss union say SwissPost profit means offices should stay open

The Swiss Post announced its results for fiscal 2008. With 825 million francs in net profit and operating income increasing, Swiss Post has an excellent financial health and economic development. It clearly has the means to maintain an extensive postal network. Considering that the year's results include a year already marked by the financial crisis, with a net profit of 825 million francs and an increase in operating income, it seems incomprehensible that Swiss Post is planning to dismantle its network of offices. It is still planning to close 500 post offices in addition to 1500 offices already closed in recent years.

At the end of March, the Syndicat

de la Communication launched its grassroots campaign against the closure of post offices. A petition has been launched, including on the Internet.

<http://www.reseaupostal.ch/>



## Workers in France win agreement at DHL Express

Some 200 workers, represented by the ITF-affiliated transport union CGT, walked out on strike on 29 January at DHL Express's sorting facility in Gonesse, in the north-eastern suburbs of Paris. The dispute focused on pay discrepancies between employees.

However, following a meeting between management and the unions, an agreement was reached, providing workers with substantial gains. These include: an increase in the company pay scale with a minimum wage of 1400 euros at the time of recruitment over 13 months from 1 January 2009; a wage increase for 61 per cent of the lowest paid workers at the Gonesse site ranging from six per cent for workers such as forklift truck drivers and warehouse wor-

kers and five per cent for supervisors and foremen to 9.2 per cent for administrative staff.

Similar agreements will be rolled out at sites where the biggest pay discrepancies have been identified from April 2009, and across all DHL sites in France in 2010 and 2011.

## Newspapers à la carte

In Zurich, Swiss Post is testing "Personal News", a daily newspaper whose contents can be chosen by the reader from some twenty Swiss and foreign publications. With traditional mail volumes falling, Swiss Post has found a new gap in the market: an à la carte newspaper produced in conjunction with newspaper editors keen to increase their readership. On a special website, readers can select particular sections from around twenty foreign and Swiss German publications, and receive the newspaper the next day, either as A3 format hard copy in black and white, or by e-mail in colour. Swiss Post has designed software for automating the entire production chain, from the placing of the order to the production of the newspaper by a Zurich printer. The project is undergoing a three-month trial.

Source: *Le Temps and UPU Journal*

## Financial Crisis: UPU Director says unions must be involved

The Director General of the Uni-

versal Postal Union (UPU) Edouard Dayan, in the recently released UPU Bulletin, makes the case for how postal services can be a key driver in the recovery from the financial crisis. In particular he points out that unions must be involved in the recovery process.

He goes on to say: "The postal sector is one of the world's biggest employers, with more than five million workers around the globe. The crisis is bound to have a social impact on the sector. Training and social dialogue will be more important than ever. We will look at ways of strengthening the UPU's TRAIN-POST distance-learning programmes, and the UPU and UNI (a global trade union to which postal labour unions are affiliated) will work on projects promoting sustainable development, social dialogue in developing countries, health, and so forth."

To see the full text of the article go to:

[http://www.upu.int/union\\_postale/2009/en/1.pdf](http://www.upu.int/union_postale/2009/en/1.pdf)

## New postal technology web page

We have been made aware of access to a new web page for postal services that could be of interest to you. It is called Postal Technology International magazine and their newly launched website - is:

[www.postaltechnologyinternational.com](http://www.postaltechnologyinternational.com)

Please send your union news articles to:  
[postal@uniglobalunion.org](mailto:postal@uniglobalunion.org)

## Next meetings:

29-30 April 2009  
UNI europa Post & Logistics Committee Meeting, Luxembourg

8-9 May 2009  
UNI africa Post & Logistics Liberalisation Workshop, Hammamet, Tunisia

14-15 May 2009  
UNI africa Post & Logistics Conference, Hammamet, Tunisia

18 May 2009  
UNI americas Post & Logistics Committee Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico

19-20 May 2009  
UNI americas Post & Logistics Conference, Mexico City, Mexico

21 May 2009  
UNI Post & Logistics World Committee Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico

21-22 May 2009  
UNI Post & Logistics World Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico

27-29 May 2009  
Rutgers Post Conference, Bordeaux, France

12 June 2009  
European Postal Social Dialogue Plenary, Brussels, Belgium

UNI post & logistics global union

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