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Union video demands Deutsche Post DHL respect its workers

The DHL Workers Network, a global network of over 200,000 workers in more than 50 unions, has put together a video message for the company, demanding that it show respect to its workers and sign a global agreement that will make its commitments to workers rights clear and its responsibilities explicit.

Watch the video here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnOyql_iXlg



Belgian unions demonstrate against continued job cuts including DHL

On Friday, the 29th of January, the three biggest Belgian Trade Union confederations organised a demonstration in Brussels to send a strong signal to the Ministers of employment in Europe. It

was a manifestation to ensure employment and social justice in Belgium even in times of the financial crisis. Inymedia, an independent news platform in the Internet, reports about 36.000 participants.

http://www.indymedia-letzebuerg.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=42599&Itemid=27

More than 250 DHL employees also joined the "march for jobs and respect". For them it was important to send their message of keeping the DHL EUHQ in Belgium and saving the 880 jobs that are affected by DHL's proposed changes. Even managers showed their solidarity with the employees and encouraged them to join the manifestation or participated themselves. Even though the Belgian unions, presented an alternative plan to rescue the DHL EUHQ, DHL management have rejected the plan and 880 jobs are to be lost. The company said the decision was made simply for convenience and will not produce any cost savings. Fewer than 5 percent of workers said they could relocate to the new facilities. DHL is also refusing to negotiate the severance packages with the union and says it will only engage individually with workers, a move which will likely mean that many workers will receive much less than they would if the union represented them.

"The company has shown no regard for 880 working families in

Belgium who will see one of their earners out of a job in the coming year,” said Neil Anderson, head of UNI Post and Logistics. “This is a devastating blow for hundreds of workers who may not be able to find work in this difficult environment.” UNI P&L says the management should question itself about what are its real priorities. If this is not a cost cutting move, then why would they take such a step that will destroy more than 800 jobs and the lives of several hundred people.

The endless rage of Deutsche Post DHL – now France

In November 2009, the DHL management announced the selling of the domestic express network in France for some 200m Euros to an investment fund. The question is, what about the future of the 3.500 employees? Although the French Trade Unions had prepared an alternative business plan based on saving the domestic business plan, the company rejected all Union proposals. The French Trade Unions say the normal procedure of such investment funds is the same; buying, restructuring and getting the most profit out of it, regardless of the consequences for workers. UNI P&L is against the selling of the domestic express network in France and is disappointed that the DHL management wasn't prepared to listen about alternatives and solutions. UNI P&L demands fair and open negotiations between the French Trade Unions and both managements, DHL and Caravelle Investment Funds, to find solutions to protect the workers.

The UK also affected by the Deutsche Post DHL restructuring plan

4.700 employees based mainly in Heathrow are seeing their company sold to HDN a private equity fund owned by the infamous Barclay Brothers. It is not clear yet whether or not this transfer will lead to job-losses. For the new owner it is also a strategic step to generate more pressure on Royal Mail and become a stronger competitor in the UK parcel market.

The EWC in Deutsche Post DHL has already reacted and called on the management to open an information and consultation process for the cases in Belgium, France and the UK. It is obvious that the restructuring measures taken within this short period are following a major plan decided in the Deutsche Post DHL headquarter in Bonn. The members of the EWC have demanded to be informed and consulted about this plan and the next steps in Europe.



TNT and Netherlands unions agree CLA and social plan

TNT and the unions (ABVAKABO and FNV) have reached an in-principle agreement on the

collective labour agreement (CLA) and the social plan. The TNT CLA will run from 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2011. All TNT employees in the Netherlands will receive a 0.7% pay rise as of 1 January 2010. A differentiation will be made from 1 April 2010 in the form of separate CLAs to be agreed for the entities TNT Post, TNT Express and TNT Post Parcel Service. A 1% rise has been agreed as of 1 January 2011 and 0.2% as of 1 October 2011 for the TNT Post entities (excluding TNT Post Parcel Service).

New negotiations will shortly commence on separate CLAs for TNT Express and TNT Post Parcel Service to take effect on 1 April 2010. TNT Post and the trade unions will also set up a joint working group to explore a future-proof pension scheme for TNT Post.

The unions have yet to present the CLA and the social plan to their members, and will be advising them to accept the agreement. The result of the member consultation will be known in mid-March.

More information here:

<http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/portal.nsf/pages/homeEn?Opendocument&exURL=http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/UNINews.nsf/0/554018BEAE7347C5C12576BD00368D46>

Norwegian Post unions join forces

The 17 unions in the company Norway Post have joined forces to establish an executive committee and select a Group representative. The newly formed Executive Committee elected unanimously Postkom General Secretary, Odd Christian Øverland as "Group

Representative". The Executive Committee consists of 47 elected representatives from all unions in the various businesses in the Norway Post. Postkom has with its 27 members a majority on the committee. One of the questions executive committee will decide is whether to establish a working committee. Several associations expressed the view that there is a need for a smaller committee to tackle the ongoing issues and they signaled willingness to be represented by other unions in such committees.

More information:

<http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/portal.nsf/pages/homeEn?Opendocument&exURL=http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/UNINews.nsf/0/5B957C10058038F7C12576C40056D4EF>

Support for Murat Sahin UPS worker

The ITF has been calling for support for a Ver.di member working at UPS who has been discriminated against for his union activity. UNI Post & logistics has of course been working closely with ITF in the Global Delivery Network to support efforts to organise UPS. ITF are asking that protest messages be sent to UPS, see below for more information and how to send a protest.

More information about sending a protest letter:

<http://www.itfglobal.org/solidarity/upsgermany.cfm>

Launch of the joint HIV prevention campaign in Brazil

The ceremony took place in

Brasilia, in the presence of FENTEC (UNI Post&Logistics affiliate in Brazil) representatives, the Minister of Health, Mr. José Gomes Temporão, UNAIDS country coordinator for Brazil Mr Pedro Chequer, as well as the President of the National Post Offices in Brazil, Mr. Carlos Henrique Custódio. As part of the first phase of the campaign, which focuses on sensitizing the general public, the committee in charge of the campaign in Brazil, which FENTEC is part of, will also be distributing 800 000 letters with HIV prevention messages to households in pilot regions. A specific website has been set up for the campaign as well a special stamp.

More information on the launch:

<http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2010/Brazil+post+offices+join+Global+HIV+Awareness+Campaign.asp>

The website for the campaign in Brazil:

<http://www.correioscontraaids.org.br/>



Postal privatisation is a "bad idea", says Obama

During a recent Q&A session at the white house, President Obama mentioned that privatisation "is a bad idea most of the time".

He explained that private postal operators would only focus on the most beneficial segments of the market and that "those companies would not want to provide universal service".

More information and a video here:

<http://www.nalc.org/>

Direct Mail Trumps Digital Media

Marketers report printing mailers beats electronic communication when it comes to winning sales response. Companies like New York-based Per Annum are returning to printed direct-mail pieces to help their bottom line. When firms look to cut costs, printed pieces like direct mail began getting the axe during the downturn. According to research firm Mintel Comparemedia, U.S. consumers received 7.1 billion direct-mail pieces in the third quarter of 2008, but only 5.2 billion pieces a year later, a 27% decline. However, entrepreneurs who switched to e-mail only efforts are finding printed direct-mail pieces offer a greater return on investment than they had believed and are returning to printed pieces to reach customers. As a result, direct-mail printing firms are seeing a return to demand for their services. "I'm proud to say our business is up," says Ralph Dellatto, vice president of sales and marketing for Wilmington, MA-based Kirkwood Direct. "People use printed pieces, because direct mail works."

More information:

<http://www.graphicartsonline.com/article/444034-Direct-Mail-Trumps-Digital-Media.php?nid=3470&source=title&rid=18576371>

Norway Post: 30% reduction in emissions by 2015

Postkom thinks it must be made the priority of priorities and concrete measures and action plans to achieve the goal should be taken. Postkom looks positively at the fact that corporate management has selected a high level of ambition for emission reductions. « I am glad about this strong commitment and that this is congruent with Postkoms principles 2008 - 2011 and 2010 work program," said union secretary Bjørg Vatnedalen. « It is important that Postkoms representatives now take hold of the challenges at the local level, eg Eco certification, waste management and energy conservation, "said Vatnedalen.

No privatisation for Pakistan post, jobs more important

Pakistan Post will not be privatised but could become a corporation as the government looks to improve efficiency, minister for postal services Israrullah Zehri said. "We cannot put the future of 47,000 employees of the postal service at stake by privatising it," he said in a panel interview with APP. He said the Ministry would go for opting ways and means to improve the existing services besides adding new utilities. He said around 700 new post offices have been built to provide rural customers with modern postal services.

Costa Rica: Trade union activism in private sector

25 participants from 4 countries and 6 unions and 5 facilitators from UNI global union, ITF and the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center intensively practiced approaching workers in private transport, post & logistics and telecom companies. Equipped with theory and examples of typical anti-union campaign and activities rolled out by companies to avoid organizing, participants trained in socio-dramas how to argue in favor of workers and trade union rights. Activists were also prepared for their tasks with knowledge about tools like mapping, networking and collective bargaining. Work plans specify the next steps to organise companies and call centers in the region like DHL, UPS, HP and ICE. SITET and UNI coordinators will follow up the plans.

Switzerland : 2009 records for PostFinance

In 2009, PostFinance attracted 126 000 new customers which also meant a grow in customer accounts of about 235 000. The Post bank nearly doubled its profits compared to 2008. This success is also shown in the creation of new jobs. 153 new full time jobs were created in 2009 and PostFinance plans to create another 215 for 2010.

More information:

<http://www.swisspost.ch/post-startseite/post-konzern/post-medien/post-medienmitteilungen.htm?viewid=3828&year=2010&checksum=13DAAE479A4766118AC4AB8465D67DA2&newslid=61560>

Next Events:

UNI europa P&L Committee:
25-26 March Luxembourg
26-27 May Luxembourg

UNI P&L Liberalisation Lobby Campaign and Action Day
13-14 April, Brussels

UPU POC
12-30 April, Bern

DP DHL AGM
28 April, Frankfurt

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