

n°04, April 2011

UNI P&L

Bulletin

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April 1

Today's work was to carry out damaged dirty furniture with mud, and clean in some houses, which was physically tougher work than imagination. Helmets, caps, cotton work gloves, towels, masks protecting from dust and asbestos are provided. I think we need safety shoes and waterproof clothes.

Bro. Kato, President of ICTJ came to the volunteers' base camp to cheer us up.

Volunteers sleep in a hall together.

After hard work, we could take a bath in a sports club nearby.

April 2

Muscle pain!

We cleaned a house with other local volunteers. Wet straw mats were very heavy, maybe weighs more than 100kg? On the bus, it was announced that we will move to another area tomorrow. The only little pleasure for us is taking a bath.

April 3

We were going to Ishinomaki Area but it was taking time due to the traffic jam.

We were at a loss for words to see that heavily damaged placed and extraordinary views there. It also smelled very badly partly because of chemical materials, papers and logs outflowed from a

paper mill!

Today we were asked by the owner of a house to rip up floorboards and scoop up mud.

Disappointed that the sports club's bathroom was already closed when we came back to the base camp and we had to go to a distant public bathhouse.

April 4

Today is a off day to wash our own clothes and rest up for tomorrow. We were taken to a hot spring "Onsen" to relax.

April 5

We were surprised to see the amount of very badly smelling sludge and rubbish. But working together with a high school's baseball team members cheered us up and we could meet the owner's request.

However, one of the students in another group was injured with a sharp farm tool. We have to be very careful in ensuring safety.

A dead cow was washed ashore. As we saw too many shocking views, I am afraid my senses might go numb.



Victory for POSTKOM: No postal liberalisation in Norway

The Norwegian Labour Party's National Convention made a decision not to implement the EU 3rd Postal Directive in to Norwegian Law. The decision follows a long and successful political campaign by the UNI Post & Logistics affiliate in Norway, POSTKOM.

The two other coalition Parties in the Norwegian Government made the same decision two years ago. "Our hard work is successful, it's a great victory over the strong winds of liberalisation of the postal market", said POSTKOM's President, Odd Christian Øverland. This despite the fact says POSTKOM, of the efforts of Norway Post management. Postal workers are angry with the management of Norway Post who tried to play down the consequences of the EU's third Postal Directive. The union says; "We fear that the Post's management were saying they want liberalisation and to accept the EU Directive as an excuse to then push for less favourable terms and conditions for postal workers and to downsize the number of employees. The Norway Post management appear as the "Cheerleaders" for an extreme market liberalism," said POSTKOM President Odd Christian Øverland, Post's management knows very well that the Postal Directive would have changed the postal market in Norway significantly. Their own estimates show that Norway Post would lose 40% of business if a full liberalisation of letter post market went ahead.



Members of European Parliament have major concerns with postal liberalisation

165 Members of the European Parliament from right across Europe signed the Written Declaration 94/2010 on "preventing adverse effects of the implementation of the 3rd Postal Directive". The Written Declaration had been initiated by MEPs belonging to the 5 biggest groups in the European Parliament: Georges Bach (EPP), Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL), Isabelle Durant (Greens), Said El Kahdouri (S&D) and Maria Harkin (ALDE).

The Declaration demanded that a clear impact assessment of the negative consequences of postal liberalisation be undertaken by the Commission. It also called on the Commission to refrain from any infringement procedures against Member States who do not immediately implement the Directive to give more time to investigate and prepare for the consequences of liberalisation. Member States should take all necessary measures to create an equal level playing field without social dumping and to guarantee sustainable and reliable postal services also in the future.

"Of course our aim was to achieve 50% plus one signatures of all MEPs", said Cornelia Berger, Policy Officer from UNI Europa Post & Logistics, "but nevertheless we could prove that a large number of MEPs see the implementation of postal liberalisation in Europe as having been handled in a problematic way. They have expressed the need for a review on some major points. It is up to us to now follow up and address our concerns once more to the European Com-

mission."

UNI Europa Post & Logistics will continue the fight against the negative consequences of postal liberalisation in Europe in conjunction with Members of the European Parliament.

You can find more information and the complete list of MEPs who signed WD 94/2010 on our blog:

<http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Blogs/ProtectOurPost.nsf/>



Victory for TNT workers in Australia

The Australian union that has been embroiled in a long-standing dispute with TNT has won a significant victory after it secured a groundbreaking settlement.

The agreement between TNT and the Transport Workers' Union of Australia (TWU), which union members are due to vote on, provides casual and contracted labour with the same pay rates as permanent employees. The union was involved in a bitter dispute with the company over a new deal as it embarked on a series of strikes over the past few months. To read the full story please visit the ITF Global Delivery Website here:

<http://www.itfglobal.org/global-delivery/index.cfm/newsdetail/5842/region/1/order/1>

A new wage deal for the “Bring” postal companies in Norway

A new wage deal was agreed for the “Bring” postal companies in Norway; Bring Warehousing AS, AS and Bring Express Parcels Bring Norway AS. UNI Post & Logistics Norwegian affiliate, POSTKOM, completed negotiations caps which have provided a general wage increase in the individual companies. There are local additions which give due consideration to the individual enterprise economy, future prospects and competitiveness.

“We have established a good wage with an alignment that gives a good result for members of POSTKOM in the Bring companies, ”said POSTKOM negotiator Gerd Øiahals.

Argentina: FOECYT celebrates its 54th Anniversary

The Federation of Post and Telecommunication Workers, FOECYT, on 1 April 2011 was 54 years old. They celebrated their primary role; defending the basic rights of Argentinian post & telecom workers. The celebrations also included events on April 7, Postal Worker’s Day in Argentina. The workers used this opportunity to remind people that technology has done wonders in communications, but of the nearly 7,000 million inhabitants in the world there are only 1,200 million who can access these digital tools. This means that several billion people use traditional communications services such as mail.

Overwhelming vote for Andrea Kocsis

Andrea Kocsis was re-elected with more than 95% of the vote as the President of verdi Post & Logistics sector at the sector’s conference held in Wurzburg, Germany. The delegates with the vote sent a message of total confidence in her leadership and the work the union is doing to organise post & logistics workers in Germany and to advance their claims. Earlier in the day Sabine Schielmann had been elected President of the post part of the sector. The “all woman” theme for the elections commenced the day before when the delegates had elected an all women conference committee. Speaking at the conference, Neil Anderson, Head of UNI Post & Logistics told the delegates that UNI and the ITF recognised that Ver.di was leading the way forward for unions in the industry with their efforts to organise all workers in the global delivery industry. He applauded their success in organising workers in UPS, FedEx and GeoPost / DPD as well of course the support of their huge membership in DeutschePost DHL. He said UNI and ITF would not stop in their campaign to get Deutsche Post DHL to respect workers’ rights and he thanked verdi for their support which was vital in that campaign. The delegates responded in an extremely positive way for the call to demand that DeutschePost DHL sign a global agreement with UNI and the ITF, an agreement that would ensure unions could be satisfied that there was a process to be certain that DeutschePost DHL truly respects workers’ rights.



Panama postal workers protest agreement breaches

The Association of Post Office Employees, ASECOTEL, had made an agreement with the Deputy Minister of Government and Justice, and the Director of COTEL(Panama Post), on how to deal with proposed lay offs. However COTEL Panama has not done its part in this agreement so the union made a large protest demonstration in front of the Head Office of COTEL in Panama City. The protest was to bring to the attention of the authorities that the workers are waiting for COTEL to meet their commitments to pay compensation and to relocate or reinstate their laid off workers.



Canadian letter carriers have had enough, so take strike action

The Canadian letter carriers started a wildcat strike in Edmonton. Fifteen letter carriers working out of the St Albert office, walked out when they learned their pay was being cut due to route evaluations. In many cases this reduced their income by thousands of dollars. On a very cold morning Edmonton CUPW Local President, Bev Ray, joined 15 carriers on the picket line. She said there have been similar problems at this particular distribution centre before and a further pay cut is unacceptable. "They were all handed individual letters, advising them that they were going to be reducing their parcel count," she said. "It is going to impact their yearly income ... there was no notice given." However the workers returned to work following a return to work order by the Canadian Industrial Relations Board. The struggle continues !

POSTKOM settles Collective Agreement negotiations with Norway Post

There is agreement in the wage negotiations in Norway Post. "We have put in place a settlement with an alignment that gives a good result for POSTKOM members," said POSTKOM's chief negotiator Ingeborg Sætre. All workers will receive no less than a 2.9% wage rise and in addition, all Customer Service workers will get an additional rise. Some grades will reach the top of the frame after 24 years, compared

to 30 now. This means that all the postmen with between 24 and 30 years of seniority go up a pay grade. "The settlement has taken account of equal pay equality and higher education, the negotiation team was satisfied with the results," said Ingeborg Sætre.

Report from Tahrir Square: UNI meets Egyptian trade unionists in Cairo

As part of these efforts, UNI sent a solidarity mission to Egypt aiming to identify the challenges and way forward as to how unions and their members will face the future and GROW in the new democratic Egypt.

The mission members met with UNI affiliates and the new independent unions, rank and file union members, unorganised workers, as well as a wide range of representatives from the Egyptian civil society, including employers and the new Minister of Labour in the interim government who confirmed the need to reform the labour law, ensure freedom of association and collective bargaining, a minimum wage and social dialogue and agreed to work together to make it happen.

The UNI Mission also came across a strike at one of the offices of Orascom the national mobile services provider. Even though the Army Council had banned strikes the previous Friday, this group of employees stood in the street to protest against poor working conditions, low salaries and long working hours.

They were not members of a union, had no common spokesperson but were yet united in their struggle to achieve better working conditions. Mission members supported the strikers and gave

them contact information to the unions so that in the future the employees might be even better organised.

CWU, UK welcomes amendments to Postal Services Bill

The Communication Workers Union welcomed the amendments to the Postal Services Bill published by UK government department BIS.

The union has been campaigning to protect the Universal Service Obligation (USO) and the future of post offices and the amendments to the Bill go some way to reflecting those aims.

The union has been in dialogue with BIS Ministers and has briefed MPs and Lords on these issues consistently over recent months.

In acknowledging that the amendments go some way to support both the USO and the future of post offices, the Union is clear that more needs to be done. Billy Hayes, CWU General Secretary, said: "We warmly welcome these amendments from the Minister to the Postal Services Bill.

We have been campaigning hard to safeguard the UK's universal postal service and to secure both mail services and the post office network.

We are pleased that the Government has taken on board some of our concerns and we will continue to campaign and have dialogue with government to strengthen the Bill in other areas including more necessary work on regulations.

"The amendments on the universal service and the commercial

relationship between Royal Mail and the Post Office have been key campaign aims for the Union and we are delighted the Government has listened.

We are looking for a clearer commitment to an inter-business agreement between Royal Mail and the Post Office, but this is a good step towards that aim."

The CWU has campaigned against the sale of Royal Mail but has specifically campaigned around the need for fairer regulations, an inter-business agreement between Royal Mail and Post Office Limited and a long-term sustainable protection of the USO.

For more information see the CWU web page at:

<http://www.cwu.org/news/archive/cwu-welcomes-amendments-to-postal-services-bill.html>

Sky High strike vote from Canadian postal workers

Members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) have voted 94.5% in favour of striking if necessary to obtain a collective agreement that addresses real problems and meets their needs.

"We hope the sky-high strike vote and the record turnout of our members will put pressure on Canada Post to negotiate," said CUPW's National President, Denis Lemelin.

"Canada Post has been very focused on its demands, not ours. The corporation wants to pay new employees 30 percent less. It wants to reduce their benefits, weaken their job security and provide an inferior pension. It also wants to attack retiree benefits, sick leave and turn back

the clock on many other contract provisions.

The results of the strike vote show that postal workers will not accept these rollbacks."

CUPW gains the right to strike on May 24 at midnight.

Affiliates are urged to send a solidarity message to the union.

For more information see the CUPW web page:

<http://www.cupw.ca>



Spanish Post Office makes a new deal with the unions

The Spanish Post Office, Grupo Correos, has finalised a four year deal with several unions and also announced that it has doubled net profits to €6.3 million despite a decline of 3.4% in revenues and reduced mail volumes of 4.7%.

The improved profits last year were largely the result of cost saving measures from implementing an austerity plan which was introduced two years ago.

Staff costs were reduced by 3.2% in 2010.

The new agreement made with the unions CC.OO, UGT, CSIF and Sindicato Libre covers 62,000 postal workers for the years 2009 - 2013.

The four unions represent 92% of the group's staff.

The agreements improve working conditions, give a 2.3% pay rise to rural staff and will reduce temporary jobs.

The company will seek 200 voluntary redundancies over the period. In making the announcement about the new Agreement, Grupo Correos said that as part of its 2011-14 strategy it aims to improve financial results through a proactive policy of increasing revenues by diversification, gaining higher market shares in parcels and direct marketing, and gaining a position in emerging sectors such as e-commerce.

However the policy of austerity and cost reduction will continue.



French Postal Regulator produces newsletter on postal issues

The French Postal Regulator has published a news letter on postal market regulation issues, "les cahiers de l'ARCEP", in which UNI Post & Logistics has made a contribution which can be seen on Page 23.

The full news can be seen (in French only) at:

http://www.arcep.fr/uploads/tx_gspublication/Cahiers_ARCEP_05_medium_01.pdf

UNI P&L World Conference Washington DC

Registrations are now open for the UNI Post & Logistics World Conference to be held 7-9 September in Washington DC.

Full details of how to register for the conference and book hotel rooms are available on the UNI P&L web page by clicking on the World Congress Logo which you see here :



Next Events:

26 April –13 May
UPU Meetings, Bern

12 – 13 May
Post unions MENA region workshop, Nyon

23 – 24 May
UNI-ITF Global Delivery Meeting, Frankfurt

29 June **Special Meeting on the Dutch postal market**, Amsterdam

3 July
UNI APRO P&L Committee Meeting, Manila

6 Sept.
Innovations Forum, Washington DC

7 – 9 Sept
3rd UNI P&L World Conference, Washington DC

13-14 Sept.
UNI Europa P&L Committee Meeting, Luxembourg

26-28 Sept **UNI ILO UPU sustainable development seminar**, Cameroon

3-5 October **UNI Europa Conference**, Toulouse

UNI Global Union

8-10 Av. Reverdil
1260 Nyon
Switzerland

Tel: + 41 22 365 21 32/47
Fax: + 41 22 365 21 21
postal@uniglobalunion.org
www.uniglobalunion.org