Blatant Blackmailing Tactics By Electrolux!

Wednesday 5 February, 2014

"IndustriAll Europe is extremely concerned about the latest strategy of Electrolux, the white goods multinational company. It is a further attack on trade union autonomy and a blatant attempt to blackmail its workforce", said industriAll Deputy General Secretary Luc Triangle.

Earlier this week, Electrolux management put forward a drastic plan for its Italian plants and workforce which includes: closure of its Porcia site and the shedding of 1,200 jobs, wage cuts, a freeze on seniority bonuses, suspension of extra pay for Saturday or Sunday working, shorter breaks for assembly line workers, a general increase in daily and weekly performance rates and longer working time. The combined result would mean a 40% drop in wages (slashing the basic wage from 1,400 to 7-800 euros per month)! The company informed the Italian trade unions that they should accept this cost-cutting exercise or see Electrolux take its production elsewhere.

This new attack is to be seen against a backdrop of the downsizing of the whole Italian white goods sector, which has seen production slashed by 58% over the last 12 years. However, the Italian Electrolux employees have already made concessions and accepted a series of reductions in their workforce over the past 5 years and are now outraged at this attempt to make them the "Polish" workers of Italy.

IndustriAll Europe joins the Italian unions' condemnation of this totally unacceptable behaviour on the part of Electrolux management and fully supports the Electrolux European Works Council's call for an extraordinary EWC meeting to discuss the company's plans to reduce wage costs and its threats to relocate.

"To see collective bargaining autonomy, which is normally a national issue, circumvented by a multinational company ready to play the workers of one country off against another in this way is an extremely worrying and dangerous trend" added Luc Triangle.

IndustriAll Europe will follow developments very closely and envisage further steps to provide support to the Electrolux workforce.
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