

BS/LR Jan. 18

26th January 2010

To all EMF affiliates
To the Collective Bargaining Policy Committee

Re: Message of support for German workers' strike for a Transfer- and Social Collective Agreement for Automotive Lightening (AL), Reutlingen (D) and call for solidarity to avoid relocation of work affected by the strike

Dear Colleagues,

Our colleagues in IG Metall have informed us about a strike for the Transfer- and Social Collective Agreement at the company Automotive Lightening (AL) in Reutlingen (see enclosed note).

This company was formerly a joint venture between Bosch and Magneti Marelli before being bought out by Magneti Marelli in 2003. AL has plants in Reutlingen and Brotterode (D) as well as Jihlava (CZ), Tolmezzo and Venaria, near Turin (IT), Angouleme, Paris and Saint Julien (F), Sosnowiec (PL), Barcelona (ES), Ryazan (RU), and Bursa (TK). It produces automotive components (reflectors and headlamp range adjustors) for automotive OEMs, its main customers being: Daimler (S-Class, B-Class), Audi (A4, C7) and VW (Touran).

In coordination with IG Metall's National Executive Committee, the workers at Reutlingen decided overwhelmingly to strike on 26th /27th January and 3rd /4th February 2010. A direct impact on the production of the OEMs of the automobile industry is expected.

IG Metall fears that attempts will be made to break the strike. In fact, management has just announced it is preparing to relocate tasks affected by the strike to the plant in Venaria, Italy, and although it might not be easy given the available capacity in Brotterode and Jihlava, there is no guarantee that it will not try to transfer work to those plants also.

IG Metall has requested solidarity from EMF affiliates to prevent any strike-breaking work in any of the Automotive Lightening plants. Any information you may have or messages of support for the striking workers can be sent to Uwe Fink, IG Metall Collective Bargaining Dept. (Email: uwe.fink@igmetall.de) and the EMF for circulation through the Eucoban network.

Yours fraternally,

Bart Samyn
Deputy General Secretary