



WORKERS UNITED

for secure jobs, better wages and equal rights for all



Saint-Nazaire, October 27, 2015

For higher wages!

The wages of the workers employed by sub-contractors on the basis of a permanent contract have been frozen for years. And it is for the temporary workers that the decrease in purchasing power has been the worst: the hourly rate that is customary today has gone down several euros, meaning a fall of approximately 15%.

Who is to blame? The sub-contracting firms and the bosses of STX keep accusing each other! The former argue that they cannot secure the market without paying low wages, due to the pressure put on them by STX; the latter argue that orders depend on the ups and downs of European competition.

Nonetheless, those people make very real profits that would be much more useful if they went into the workers' pockets. That is our point of view, the CGT's point of view.

STX have secured orders for the coming five years.

We should demand and impose fair wages to our bosses, wages corresponding to our hard work.

Comrades, if we want that, struggles and fights will be indispensable.

Let us put a stop to the deterioration of our working conditions!

In the canteens, there is such lack of space, we have to wait so long before we can use the micro-wave or just find a seat, that many of us end up eating outside, in the cars or even at the workplace.

With winter on the doorstep, the situation is going to become even worse.

There is a lack of proper, clean and heated rooms where to take a break. The STX management shows such contempt that it even goes chasing the workers employed on board away from the rare coffee machines that can be found in the workshops.

The toilets are not cleaned often enough, given the total amount of workers on the premises.

In fact the state in which we find them is most of the time disgraceful.

On board we are compelled to almost walk on each other's feet to catch up and meet the deadlines. The list of the nuisances we have to put up with is never-ending: smoke, dust, noise, congestion and confinement, paint fumes, humidity, uncomfortable working positions, pressure from the hierarchy...

Those working conditions are exhausting and produce tensions, sometimes even between workers. In the meanwhile, those responsible for the situation (the bosses of STX, the bosses of the sub-contracting firms) keep at a safe distance – and pocket a good load of profits on our backs, as the neglect of our working conditions helps them save money.

It is only by uniting, by showing our collective strength and demanding, all together, an improvement of the situation, that things are likely to change!

No pay? No work!

The STX management, though it is directly responsible for the disorganisation at work, actually imposes fines on the sub-contractors, or delays payment, for operations that are not delivered on time.

Under those circumstances, the sub-contractors – because they are eager not to lose a penny – often refuse to pay part of, or even all of, the wages of their workers.

Time and time again workers have found themselves in dire straits, with arrears in wages over months and months. The promises that the wages will eventually be paid often drag on and on.

Over the past years, hundreds of workers have been put through that ordeal.

Some resigned themselves to go back to their homeland without their pay.

Others fought to be paid, with the help of the CGT.

Those workers who managed, in the end, to get paid, were those who did not believe in false promises. They organised, cautiously but with determination. They did not wait until the end of the works and the launching of the ship to ask for that elementary right: every hour you work should be paid.

The USM-CGT calls on all the workers submitted to such outrage not to accept the unacceptable!

Let us organise, let us fight together, so that each and every one of us gets a fair wage for his work.

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