



Press Release

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Social Unrest at DHL Airlines Belgium ?

In the current economical climate, EAT/DHL, the Belgian airline branch of the worldwide group Deutsche Post/DHL has immediately laid off 24 flight crewmembers after grounding 4 of its Airbus A300B4 freighters last week without any social negotiation.

Loosing jobs is a very difficult experience that is currently undergone by thousands in the world. But, as any employee, DHL flight crewmembers and ground personnel expect this to happen in a respectful and ethical manner, which was not the case.

The employees DO NOT ACCEPT that:

1. Direct pressure with immediate deadlines to sign addendum to their contract is put on employees. These practices took place at the same time and after a conciliation meeting at the Ministry of Work where employees' representatives and Management were 'trying to find a solution'. Moreover, direct pressure on individual crewmembers can have direct negative impact on Flight safety.
2. Dismissals happened within less than one week after decision to ground planes was made. Immediate cost savings do not prohibit the 53rd employer in the world to take a few more days to sort out the human side in a negotiated and balanced way.
3. The principle of seniority list is misused and some crew bases are protected from dismissals, while other not. This does not comply with commitments made to the company Works Council. Refusing to share key documents like an updated seniority list combined to the violence of dismissals can only feed suspicion that there is a bigger "hidden plan".

The world economy is in recession, but its downturn can't be used to justify everything and anything. This situation is not compatible with Deutsche Post/DHL's corporate value nr7 of "Social Responsibility".

This dispute goes far beyond an industrial/social problem.

We hope that the non respect of Social Dialogue will not lead to social unrest within the company and would like to ask support to the DHL employees in their strive for Ethics, fair and respectful treatment in good as well as in bad economical times.

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