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Whether it is in France, in Europe or in the rest of the world, the employees can count only on themselves to conquer new rights, and prevent the disappearance of those already conquered.

In numerous countries of Europe, the rights of the employees are attacked. In Greece, in Italy, in Belgium and now in France, the same methods are applied. The governments attack, at first, the trade union rights before allowing the companies "to cut in the deep".

Increase of the working time, wage cuts or still job cuts, are so many measures which allow the companies to increase their profits on the back of the employees.

And to prevent that the workers have the means to oppose and to defend themselves, the intimidations and the criminalization of the trade union fact, the violence against the representatives of the workers, being able to go until the murder, is very widely spread.

In the face of all these attacks which undergo the peoples and workers, the trade union has to mobilize in a joint way. The FNIC CGT well intends to contribute to build a movement of scale of class struggle in Europe and in the world as it makes it in France today.

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The trade unionism of lounge and lobbying which some unions advo-

cate, widely spread today in Europe, always demonstrates more every day its ineffectiveness. Trying "to control" and "to regulate" a system which, by nature, feeds on the exploitation and the disparities, is waste of time. All that we can obtain with this method, they are some adjustments marginally, divisions of crumbs and poverty and especially a caution of the policies of social regression.

On the contrary, workers needs today that the trade unionism of struggle becomes the standard. The claiming of the employees must be above all defended by the mobilization and the strike. The end of the social dumping, the progress and the development can be obtained only by a joint and coordinated opposition, in all the countries, to those who hold the economic and political power.

This necessary rapprochement of the progressive trade unions which bear a trade unionism of class struggle, will also pass by the co-construction and the defence of an alternative project of society, based on social progress and by the repossession of the wealth by the workers.

**THE CLASS
STRUGGLE
IS THE REAL
STRUGGLE**



Ideological war in the service of the class struggle

In 2009 eight of ten main countries of South America were governed by the left.

Not to mention Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, the Dominican republic or mention Guatemala.

In these countries, the first years of the XXIth century were marked by big economic, social and political advances.

If we exclude the coup against Chavez in 2002, the attempts of destabilization begin at the end of 2000s: Bolivia (2008), Honduras (2009), Ecuador (2010), and Paraguay (2012).

From 2014, these offensives of destabilization take advantage of a reversal of the economic cycle to operate a conservative restoration, benefiting from an international support, from foreign financing, etc.

This strategy of the international capital does not have either limits or scruples: it takes the shape of an economic breathlessness of Venezuela, of a parliamentary coup in Brazil or judicialization of the politics, with threats against the former presidents. That it is in Brazil, in Argentina or in Ecuador.

So that there are no more than three progressive governments in South America: Venezuela, Bolivia and Uruguay.

The media "well thinking" would want to persuade us today that it would be the result of the failure of the attempts of implementation of another economic system.

But Uruguay, governed to the left, isn't it the country the most developed in the South of the Rio Bravo?

Doesn't Bolivia have the best macroeconomic indicators of the planet?

In spite of very severe difficulties, these countries surmounted the recession in record time, and in

a reduced cost: no increase of the poverty, no increase of the disparities. A new exploit in Latin America.

But for the population, the economic analyses are a part of a lesser importance. They perceive that these last years, their business turns less well, their children have difficulty in finding a job and their income does not increase any more enough fast.

In this context, a press which prefers the manipulation to the information, presents this recession as a failure of the alternative policy which take place in those country.

Some consider that the governments should have proceeded to deeper reforms. We shall avoid carefully carrying this kind of appreciations.

The report is the following one:

According to the economic Committee for Latin America and Caribbean (cepalc) of United Nations, about 94 million people went out of the poverty to join the average coat of the population during the last decade, largely thanks to the policies of the left governments.

It is necessary to show self-criticism, but we nevertheless have to remain confident in these progressive movements which undergo the constant attacks of "elites" and media which use the slightest false move to make doubt them.

For that reason, the main strategic challenge of the Latin American left may consists to remember that the contradictions and the errors are a part of political processes: they don't have to cause us to give up.

The poverty is not an accident, it is a system. It is very well organized and those who take advantage of it have no intention to change it. We must know that. Only the class struggle and the solidarity will overcome the poverty.



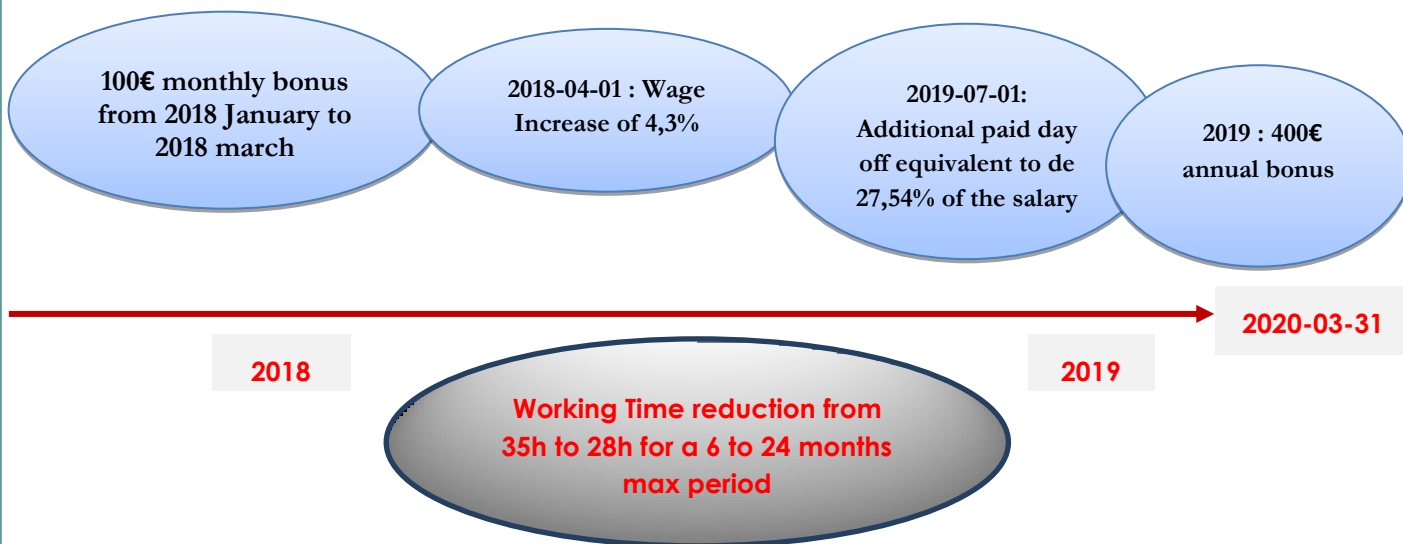
The big victory for IG Metall, is it really a big one for the employees?

The agreement of branch in the industry of the metal industry and the electronics, signed by the German labor union IG METALL, was widely presented by the politics, the media, but also by the European Trade Union Confederation, as an example of "social dialogue" of which we should inspired.

After two and a half months of negotiations, punctuated by strong "warning" strikes, made in about 300 companies, the IG Metall labor union and the employers' federation signed an agreement in the night of 5th to 6th February, for the region of Bade-Wurtemberg (southwest of Germany)



Agreement structure



The agreement seems rather positive for the employees:

- Reduction of working time from 35 h to 28h with possibilities of compensation only for the employees who have young children (less than 8 years old) or handicapped people in charge and for the posted workers.
- 4,3 % Wage Increase from 2018-04-01

BUT WHAT IS IT REALLY?

A REAL REDUCTION OF WORKING TIME?

We can doubt of it. 28 hours of work payed 28, it is what we call in France a part-time agreements with an individualization of the working time, which leads to the breakage of the working collectives.

It is exactly the contents of this agreement.

All the German employees of both concerned sectors will have the possibility of reducing their working time at 28 hours a week and they'll be able to go back to full-time work after 2 years.

But it will be made without wage compensation.

In the same time, the employer managed to set up flexibility and increase of the working time at 40 hours.

Furthermore, a maximum quota of 10 % of the employees can benefit from this agreement. Companies can refuse it if there's a risk of loss of qualifications.

The German employers of electronics and metal industries reached their goal: break the 35 hours agreement (REDUCTION of WORKING TIME), won by 7 weeks of strikes en1984.

WHAT DOES REPRESENT A 4,3 % WAGE INCREASE OVER 27 MONTHS?

The initial claiming of IGMetall union was 6 %. Results: a 4,3 % increase over 27 months and a exceptional annual bonus of 400€ in 2019 and days of CP equivalent to the conventional salary supplement, that means a real increase of 3,2 %. So the real year increase is 1,42 %. It does not cover the inflation which was 1,65 % in 2017.

During 27 months, companies won the social peace.

In Germany, the agreements, negotiated for a branch and, most of the time, for the whole territory, limit the possibilities of action for the employees, because once concluded, the social horizon is cleared for companies until expiration of the agreement.

The right to strike is very strict in Germany and can intervene only after exhaustion of all the possibilities of negotiation, thus in a limited time, approximately one month in the year during the negotiations.

The directives established between unions and management also plan the organization of a referendum before the adoption of a resolution of strike: the employees have to pronounce in more than 75 % in favour of the strike so that the call can be done. If there are

25% of workers who are against the strike, it's then illegal.

Naturally, without the mobilization of workers, without 24h strike of 500 000 employees, the result wouldn't be the same.

However, the possibility to organize a referendum or to extend the fight to all the employees of the metal industry, haven't been attempt, although IGMetall union claims 2,2 million members among 3,9 million employees in the sector.

The claim of a real reduction of working time at 32 hours, with increases of salaries and job creations has to become a claim of all the employees in Europe and in the world.

It can only succeed if we stop the trade unionism of accompaniment of the capital advocated by ETUC and ITUC. It can only succeed if the employees decide to fight collectively against the capitalist exploitation in a class and mass trade unionism.



PALESTINE



Israeli Occupation for 50 years

The Palestinian people suffer from the Israeli occupation for 50 years. This situation completely disrupted the labor market in the country.

The Palestinian trade unionism is quite hard struck by the war situation with a Military state Israeli who colonizes lands, destroys regularly houses, roads, social infrastructures, breaking the Palestinian economy permanently.

One of the reasons, nevertheless little evoked, by the Israeli occupation is the one of the appropriation of the water: from 1967, servicemen and government collaborated to take control of vast water resources of occupied territories. The water represents an essential stake in the Jordan Rift Valley and the water is one of key issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Nevertheless the agreement of September, 1995 specifies that "Israel recognizes the right to the water of the Palestinians in the West Bank" but reduction of the level of the Lake Tiberias, the drought, the increase of the consumption of the colons, do that the Palestinians are in situation of "hydric stress".

To develop a trade union activity today in Palestine, is also complicated that in France at the time when the people were under the yoke of the Nazi boots. But the objectives are the same: take care of the everyday life without forgetting the main part, the liberation.

The Trade unions in Palestine, the PGFTU, shows working conditions in **Palestine**: these last years, unemployment has still very strongly increased. In the **Gaza** Strip, 42 % of the population are unemployed.

"The provocations get worse. Infrastructures are destroyed, the illegal colonies keep proliferating, lands and resources are plundered, and then there is this wall which isolates even more people."

More and more Palestinians are obliged to look for a job in **Israel** or in colonies. "It is every day a real ordeal to go to the work, with a long wait in checkpoints (control military roadblocks of the Palestinian populations).

The wall has still complicated things. Furthermore, a person out of three has no legal authorization. "They have to cross the border illegally and do not have protection as workers".

In theory, the Palestinian workers have the same rights as the Israelis. But in the practice, they are exploited(run) and discriminated. They are often used for the dangerous and unhealthy jobs. Forced to pay a trade union dues to the Israeli trade union, they are often ignored and not followed in their defense.

Wehbe Badarbeg, of Arab Workers Union, denounced a pamphlet of the Israeli trade unions, which exhorted the workers not to take part in a demonstration. In another case, the Palestinian workers having participated in a demonstration were dismissed.

They are thus in a particularly precarious situation, of which the employers take advantage.

Yesterday, South Africa had to end the apartheid in front of the international action and the boycott of its economy. Today, the people and the Palestinian workers need international solidarities, need for an increase of BDS blocking the sale of the Israeli products in Europe and in the world.

Let's inform, let's discuss this situation with the workers in our industries to amplify their struggle, the same that ours, carrier of claiming for better conditions of life, work, rights and liberties.

