



# The Newsletter

## Chemistry and Energy Industry



A PUBLICATION OF UIS CHEMISTRY ENERGY

N°1- 2020

## EDITORIAL

### THE DAY AHEAD

Today, in France, in terms of health, the deconfinement seems to be going well. Even if we still do not understand all the reasons, the government takes all the credit – after months of lies. On the economic front, the global recession is beginning its inexorable work, like a tsunami. Unemployment soars; bankruptcies multiply; every day thousands of lives are shattered. In France, 843,000 more people are unemployed in April alone. Meanwhile, in the ivory towers of the multinationals, the «1% » is feverishly preparing social plans, restructuring and closures. They sort, throw and merge, with only one goal in mind: to defend their profits – and, if possible, to increase them.

Not only will unemployment explode, but the capitalists and their valets tell us that wage earners will have to work longer and «agree» to wage cuts. And so they are willing to increase unemployment, reduce consumption when that is what they supposedly want to avoid. In fact, he doesn't. Their only goal: to recover an increase in profits and a profitability of the capital invested sufficient in their eyes. It is therefore out of question to increase wages, to reduce working time and to hire.

Capitalists do not invest to meet needs or to give work to the unemployed. They invest to make a profit. And if, in times of crisis, factories have to be closed to make money, no worries. Capitalism has always functioned like this – and will never function otherwise. It is high time to draw all the conclusions. Faced with the avalanche of social plans, restructuring and closures, the trade union movement cannot be content to negotiate the number of jobs cut or the amount of redundancy premiums. It must revise its strategy and adapt it to the new period.

To build a “day after” of social and economic progress, the question of *corporate ownership* must be raised and placed at the heart of the struggle. *The nationalisation* of the company – under the democratic control of the employees – must be claimed. This is the safest way to maintain the productive tool, jobs and wages.

Starting with companies that meet the most essential needs for the population: energy, water and health. In this field, the pharmaceutical industries, hospitals, laboratories, must be entirely public, and managed by employees for the needs of the whole population

We must also *nationalize all the private banks*, otherwise they will continue to make the rain and the good weather. We must end these parasites who, in the current crisis, find new opportunities to enrich themselves.

The slogan of nationalisation – without compensation for the big shareholders – is all the more topical as the private sector lives under a massive infusion of public money. For example, the management of Renault, Air France or Airbus are preparing to eliminate thousands of jobs, but at the same time, they are demanding – and getting – billions of euros of public money! This is the scandalous realization of the old bourgeois slogan: «nationalise losses, privatize profits».

*The workers' movement must respond by fighting for the expropriation of the capitalists.*



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### Coal workers strike in India

**O**n July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> energy workers in India are called on strike to protest against the privatization of the sector led by the MODI government. The two federations PGWFI AND EEFI launched this call and issued a motion in support of the fight against coal workers.. Here are some excerpts from their motion:.

The Federation of Oil and Gas Workers of India (PGWFI) and the Federation of Electricity Employees of India (EEFI) being the two main components of the unified movement of the energy sector with coal...have signified an opinion on 18 June 2020

jointly for a 3-day consecutive strike between 2 and 4 July 2020 to oppose the Indian government's retrograde decision to transfer 41 blocks of coal to private hands for commercial mining. As a prelude, all the coal organizations of the federations representing 100% of the coal workers organised a nationwide protest demonstration on 10 and 11 June 2020.

...**On behalf of all employees** in the energy sector in India, PGWFI & EEFI extend their warm greetings to the coal workers and call on all the constituents of the energy workers' organizations to express their solidarity with the patriotic spirit and struggle of the coal workers against the pseudo-patriots...

...**In the energy sector**, the GOI has been pushing ahead with privatization since the first days of the neoliberal economy three decades ago with the entry of ENRON with a sovereign guarantee. The 2003 Electricity Act adopted at the time of the NDA 1 Government, promised a cheaper energy. The tariff increased from 6 to 8 times. The Modi government launched the bill on electricity, 2020, in the situation of containment and as the country fights the pandemic of COVID-19. The sole objective of the bill is to accelerate the process of opening the door of the electricity industry to the private sector

...**Given all the bad plans** of the Indian government to privatize all of the country's basic industries, throwing people into the hands of private monopolies, our two federations, Once again, give their cordial support to the five demands of the coal federations on which the strikewasbuilt.

**We hope that the coal strike will be a great success and we pass on the revolutionary greetings to the coal workers and their heroic struggle to save the nation's wealth and sustainable energy resources.**

Nogen Chutia , General Secretary of Petroleum & Gas Workers' Federation of India

Prasanta N Chowdhury , General Secretary of Electricity Employees' Federation of India





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## The right to strike and protest endangered in GREECE!

**T**he trade union organization PAME informs us of extremely serious decisions of the Greek government concerning trade union freedoms.

*It wants to introduce a law inspired by the junta that imposes new restrictions, repression and prohibition of fundamental democratic rights. Rights, won by many and long bloody struggles.*

Among other things, the Greek government wants to ban demonstrations and gatherings.

*This "bill", a copy of the 1971 Dictatorship*

Act, confers an expanded and executive role on the police. In addition to its role in law enforcement, it will have the opportunity to "interpret the law". The police authorities will be able to determine the restrictions to be imposed on a demonstration, to invent new ones not foreseen by the texts, to decide in advance whether a public gathering can be authorized, if it is spontaneous, which restrictions will be imposed. It is the establishment of a strict control of trade union activity.

*The "new" bill states:*

*"The organizer of the event* must inform the local police or port authority of its intention to invite the general public to an open-air public gathering. The notification shall include the identity and contact details of the organiser (natural person), the exact location, the start time, the end time, the purpose and route of the event." (Article 3)

*The rally organizer* "cooperates directly with the police and in particular with the mediator of the demonstration and complies with its instructions, providing assistance to the maintenance of order." (Article 4) If the mobilisation (march, rally, demonstration) is not announced, "the police authority may proceed with the dissolution of the above meeting ... "(articles 3 and 9). In addition, "imminent public meeting may be prohibited (even if notified), if a serious threat to public safety is threatened or serious disturbances to socio-economic life are threatened." (Article 8)

*Participation in an event is reduced to statutory, because:*

*"Those who participate* in an open-air public gathering, which has been banned, shall be punished with imprisonment from one (1) to two (2) years." (Article 14)

*"The organizer of a public* gathering shall be responsible for compensating those who have suffered damage to their lives and property." (Article 14)

The ban also includes the number of demonstrators and the possibility for the police to change routes or places of assembly. (Article 7, paragraph 4)

*"The Minister of Public* Order is authorized to regulate the dissolution of gatherings," they say, with concise procedures. (Article 15)

The ban on demonstrations, especially in the current period, is not an isolated act.

*In France, while the obligation of prior declaration of a demonstration was already in place, today the government has given the Prefects the power to estimate whether a demonstration should be authorized or not.*

*Everywhere in the world, as the economic crisis, accelerated by the health crisis, becomes more and more important, the governments at the order of the capitalists, try to limit by all means the capacity of reaction of the citizens. Individual and collective freedoms are increasingly under attack*

**THE WORKERS AND ALL PEOPLES MUST REACT IN FORCE AND BYPASS THE PROHIBITIONS. THE RIGHT TO STRIKE AND PROTEST IS NOT NEGOTIABLE!  
THE STRUGGLES MUST GROW!**