

Press Information - Press Information

Alcatel Lucent restructuring plans: a worrying signal for highly qualified employment in Europe

The Alcatel Lucent Trade Union Coordination Group met on 1st March 2007 under the auspices of the European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) following the announcement of job cuts within the company.

The European unions consider that the restructuring plan put forward by Alcatel Lucent is a worrying signal for highly qualified employment in Europe. The 4,500 job cuts chiefly concern jobs in R&D and strategic lines of work either within the company or within supplier companies. This plan confirms the increasing policy towards relocating know-how to low-cost countries (China/India/Russia).

NO TO REDUCING INNOVATION POTENTIAL

The 40% increase in the job cuts envisaged in 2006 means that central management considers that salaried jobs must be directly linked to short-term activities and the stock market rates. For the workforce, this plan is synonymous with unemployment whilst the shareholders are entitled to a solid dividend and management is paid exorbitant salaries.

NO TO REDUNDANCIES DIRECTED BY THE STOCKMARKET

The high degree of mobilisation of the workforce in many countries underpins the call for a clear and offensive strategy in contrast to the general management's defensive cost-cutting strategy. For Alcatel Lucent, it is vital to reinforce its R&D potential in preparation for the future. This implies an increased effort with regard to research and innovation rather than the destruction of highly qualified jobs.

ESTABLISHING A FUTURE TOGETHER

By making Europe the most open market in the world and by refusing a strong industrial policy capable of protecting European employees, the ultra-liberals currently in power are helping to destroy innovation potential. It is not an absurd « *laissez-faire* » policy of this kind that will turn Europe into the « most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world » proposed by the European Commission. An offensive industrial policy is required via framework programmes aimed at giving impetus to the telecommunications technology industry. The EMF and its affiliates will bring these issues to the attention of the European and national powers decision-makers.

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FOR A EUROPE WHICH INVESTS AND SUPPORTS ITS INDUSTRIES OF THE FUTURE

The European Trade Union Coordination Group calls on European and national decision-makers to take urgent measures to maintain and develop competence and jobs of the future in Europe.

FOR THE RESPECT OF EMPLOYEE INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION RIGHTS AND EUROPEAN SOCIAL RIGHTS

The European Trade Union Coordination Group calls on Alcatel Lucent management to respect its commitment to the European social dialogue via its European works council. It expects management to take the opinion of the employee representatives into account.

It is opposed to any deterioration in employee rights in Europe. The success of Alcatel Lucent depends above all on the involvement of its employees in the running of the company. Management's intention to destroy this equilibrium, especially in Germany, will not contribute to the success of the merger.

The European Trade Union Coordination Group calls for a rally of all

Alcatel Lucent employees on Thursday 15th March in Paris

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The EMF is the representative body defending the interests of workers in the European metal industry. The EMF has a mandate for the external representation and coordination of the metalworkers' unions and a mandate to engage in bargaining at European level.

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