

## **THE SECRETARIAT FOR EMPLOYEES IN NORDIC FOOD SECTORS NORDISKA UNIONEN NU: WEAKENING OF FINNISH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MUST STOP!**

Nordiska Unionen supports Finnish Trade Unions in their struggle against weakening of Collective Bargaining. The proposals the Finnish Government is making are dangerous and when applied demolish the whole Nordic welfare model.

Nordiska Unionen demands that the Finnish Government steps back and cancel these acts that endanger collective bargaining and decent existence of the employees. Nordiska Unionen is ready to take action with other Nordic trade unions and support the Finnish trade union movement and collective bargaining of employees in food sectors.

The Finnish Prime Minister Juha Sipilä and Finnish Government unilaterally decided on a package of austerity measures to be directly borne by workers. The government is using the pretext of boosting competitiveness in relations to main export rivals Germany, Sweden and Denmark by:

- Eliminating pay for two bank holidays;
- Making the first day of a worker's sick leave unpaid and reduce the benefits for days two to nine;
- Cut 30 per cent from holiday bonuses;
- Cut holidays in the public sector

With the Finnish government intending to introduce changes through legislation, social partners' autonomy is challenged concerning issues traditionally regulated through social dialogue.

Negotiations between Finnish Confederations about alternative solutions for the forced legislation ended on 2.12.2015. Finnish Trade Unions were ready to continue with the negotiations but the Employers' organisation withdrew from negotiations.

Nordiska Unionen is worried about the future of Finnish food workers' and how the forced measures effect on income of different employee groups. Depending on sectors and branches it means over 1500 €/year pay cuts for individual members.

Nordiska Unionen wants to remind that the Nordic welfare model is worth fighting for. In Nordic countries it has been possible through negotiations and cooperation between employee organisations and employer organisations to agree even on difficult issues. This been the way of building up welfare and employment. In this current situation all over Europe, with poor economy situation and refugee crisis, we shouldn't throw away the Nordic model. On the contrary we should use it as a tool to solve difficult issues through cooperation.

Nordiska Unionen is a cooperation body for unions in Nordic food sectors. Member unions in Nordiska Union come from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark Iceland and Faeroe Islands .

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