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President, DISK
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By e-mail only

SOLIDARITY WITH SHIPYARD WORKERS IN TUZLA

Dear Colleagues,

Fellesforbundet has been informed by the European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) of a 24 hour sit-down strike and a commemorative ceremony that DISK is organising on 27 February to protest against poor health and safety conditions at Tuzla shipyards near Istanbul, which have during the past eight months caused the death of 18 workers.

18 dead colleagues are 18 too many, and to us in the northern parts of Europe it is practically inconceivable and certainly unacceptable that a company can ignore your demands given such a health and safety record.

On behalf of Fellesforbundets 160 000 members in Norway I wish to express our full support to your unions' demands for decent working conditions for Tuzla shipyard workers. In Norway, employers have to ensure that shipyard operations are organised in a safe way, and government authorities have to monitor this, and guarantee workers the possibility of joining a union and defending their rights. This should also be the case for you and the workers in Turkey. We know that our global and European federations IMF and EMF are working on support action. As part of this, we will together with our Nordic colleagues be looking at possibilities to assist you and we hope that together we can bring change to the health and safety situation for our Turkish colleagues.

Best regards
Fellesforbundet



Arve Bakke
President