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PS/CJ/TM/LR 6 April

10 April 2008

To: EMF Affiliated Organisations

Re: Solidarity with the workers at Delphi in Ponte Sor (Portugal)

*Dear Colleagues,*

It has been announced that the Delphi plant in Ponte Sor (Portugal) is closing by summer 2009. The closure will affect several hundred workers in both direct and indirect employment.

The announced closure in Portugal is part of Delphi's plan to sell off or close down production of non-core products throughout Europe so further closures are expected elsewhere. In the Ponte Sor case, production of airbags will be transferred to Hungary, production of sliding doors has also been sold off and the engine mounting division will simply be closed.

The Ponte Sor employees met today and were informed there was no alternative to the closure and that negotiations will centre on the conditions of closure and compensation. The workers' representatives have also met with government representatives with regard to retraining or redeployment provisions.

In the meantime, the EMF intends to ensure that the closures issue is raised at the Delphi EWC meeting which is taking place in Paris on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April. The EMF will also organise a European trade union coordination meeting to discuss strategy shortly after the EWC meeting.

The EMF clearly opposes the plant closures and calls on Delphi management to enter into proper information and consultation procedures with the employee representatives. The EMF and the Portuguese unions are also investigating what options are available to the plant in order to prevent closure, e.g. support from the Globalisation Fund or other measures.

The EMF expresses its full support with the workers at the plant and asks its affiliated organisations to also send solidarity messages and support letters.

These should be addressed to:

Jose Antonio Simões  
General Secretary of SIMA  
[simap@net.vodafone.pt](mailto:simap@net.vodafone.pt)

João da Silva  
General Secretary of FIEQUIMETAL  
[geral@fiequimetal.pt](mailto:geral@fiequimetal.pt)

Thank you for your cooperation.

*In Solidarity,*

Peter Scherrer  
General Secretary