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Tata Corus decision to mothball Teesside plant

"Tata Corus' decision today to mothball its Teesside Cast Products (TCP) activities in the UK is another demonstration of the need for a strong European industrial policy for the steel industry", stated Peter Scherrer (EMF General Secretary). The decision to mothball TCP puts 1700 jobs at risk and threatens the manufacturing base of the North East of England.

Europe's steel sector has been heavily hit by the economic crisis. So far, the Commission has resisted calls for a strategic sectoral industrial policy platform for the steel and basic metals sectors. This latest announcement demonstrates the need for intervention to support the industry and its workers through the crisis.

According to the EMF's UK affiliates (Community, Unite and the GMB) today's decision about Teesside is premature and devastating for the workers and region. Steel is the backbone of Europe's manufacturing industries and the loss of steel production capacity in Europe will deal a severe blow to these industries in turn.

The European Metalworkers Federation (EMF) today calls on European and national authorities again to put forward concrete proposals to address the crisis in the sector. Clear demands to the Commission, governments and employers were made in June 2009. For more information see here: <http://www.emf-fem.org/Press/Press-releases/A-New-European-Deal-for-Steel>

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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.

For further information please contact:

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Press releases of EMF's British affiliates:

<http://www.community-tu.org/information/100099/104657/mothballtcp/>

http://www.unitetheunion.com/news_events/latest_news/unite_calls_for_urgent_action.aspx?lang=en-gb

<http://www.gmb.org.uk/Templates/PressItems.asp?NodeID=99385>