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Opel/Vauxhall gives Investor and Antwerp Workforce No Chance

The European Employee Forum's initiative to directly talk to the potential investor had led to new activities in the deadlocked discussions between management and the investor.

The investor intended to take over the workforce and the plant by end of 2010 and planned to build up to 100,000 vehicles in Antwerp by 2013. Engines and transmissions were planned to be bought from Opel which would have helped to secure jobs at the Bochum transmission site and the Aspern engine plant.

Flemish and Belgian Government both support the sale to the investor.

The most decisive question for the investor was the license to produce the previous Astra models under a different brand name. This question had not been answered by Opel/Vauxhall. Right from the beginning of the talks Opel/Vauxhall management has neither given a chance nor any support to the investor developing a sustainable business plan. Management would rather accept that 1,250 people lose their jobs at Antwerp and additional 230 mill € would be wasted for winding down the site.

The European Employee Forum and Trade Unions make the following demands on management:

- Continuation of talks with the investor who is willing to take over the plant by end of 2010
- Delivery of required data and information to the investor
- Active co-operation to establish a business plan
- Compliance with the contract between EEF and Opel/Vauxhall on Antwerp
- No waste of workforce contributions for an unnecessary closure but investment into new products
- Managing business by economic and not ideological principles

Opel/Vauxhall management must honour its commitment to seek a viable investor to maintain the plant and jobs", stated EMF General Secretary Peter Scherrer.

The European Opel/Vauxhall workforces will jointly and in solidarity support a fair and long-term future for their Antwerp colleagues.

"Opel appears to be going through the motions but is not giving the potential investor a realistic chance to make a business case", added EMF's Company Policy Director Tony Murphy.

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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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