

## 1st May International Labour Day

„Your dignity is our yardstick,“ – this was the motto chosen by the German trade union confederation DGB for 1st May 2006. In his May Day address to the DGB in Lübeck, Peter Scherrer, the General Secretary of the European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) emphasised that in these times of relentless worldwide competition it was essential that the trade unions uphold the dignity of working people. „Companies use every opportunity to play off employees against each another in order to reap higher profits. But trade unions in Europe will not permit this. We will stand together, throughout Europe, to fight for better and dignified working conditions,“ stressed Peter Scherrer in his speech. He called on the policy-makers within national governments and the European institutions to step up efforts towards a strong industry and economic policy that is truly co-ordinated at European level. „The sustainable creation and safeguarding of industrial jobs is what Europe needs today“, stated this European trade unionist. The EMF General Secretary called the fact that more than 20 million people in Europe today are unemployed a daily offence to the dignity of its people. At the end of his speech Peter Scherrer made an appeal for Social Europe „because it is only a Social Europe that is truly a Citizens' Europe and this is the kind of Europe that is worth working for.“

Please find the full speech in German on: [www.emf-fem.org](http://www.emf-fem.org)