

Frankfurt Statement

In September 2008, the IG Metall hosted a major conference of the European Employee Network in Frankfurt. Employee representatives from companies and trade unions from Austria, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Spain and Spain came together and discussed major challenges of the sector as well as results of the first phase of European Networking.

At the end of the conference, a joint statement was issued:

The representatives of metalworkers trade unions, works councils and trade union committees at the international sector conference of the European Employee Network Agricultural Technology in Frankfurt a.M. state:

The protection and development of jobs and working conditions in a sustainable way as well as the aim to strengthen the innovative competitiveness of the agricultural technology sector in Europe also includes respect and extending principles of social dialogue. The traditional strength of trade union organisations and the influence of shop floor interest representation of employees on company decisions is playing a crucial role in the development of sustainable and strong concepts.

Of course, the EWC Directive and its current and forthcoming revision is important for company based interest representation in the light of the increasing internationalisation of our industry. However, and above that, it is important to establish further cross-border cooperation structures on a solid legal framework which serves company based / trade union interest representation in the primarily small and medium sized companies of the agricultural technology sector. Such framework conditions for sector orientated activities of interest representations also precondition financial and time resources in order to make cooperation possible.

Especially these improvements of the representation of workers interests are necessary for the development of a socially responsible employment policy and industrial policy frame of European politics.



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GD Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Project Partners

The project brings together **metalworkers' unions from ten European countries**. Under the coordination of the **EMF**, a participation of further national union organisations is possible. Also, there will be a direct link to the European level of industrial policy, the European sectoral trade union strategy for the mechanical engineering industry.



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European Employee Network Agricultural Machinery



<http://www.emf-fem.org/Industrial-Sectors/Mechanical-Engineering/The-European-Employee-Agri-Tech-Networking-Project>

European Employee Network Agricultural Machinery

Agricultural Machinery in Europe

The agricultural machinery industry in Europe is currently employing 150.000 workers. Placed into an international context, this industry is highly competitive with most important global players located in Europe and giving the EU a high-tech leadership. However, the general picture of the agricultural machinery industry has changed. Not only are companies affected from restructuring and pressured from increasing international competition, they have to handle the still unknown **outcome and unpredictable challenges of the current financial and economic crisis**.

Therefore it is important for employee representatives and trade unions to intensively exchange information and build networks.

Already in 1996, employee representatives in agricultural engineering in Germany, established a network of employees: the **“Employee Network Agricultural Engineering”**. The IG Metall, the “Network Agricultural Engineering” and trade union partners in several European countries started the **“European Employee Agri-Tech-Networking”** project, which was carried out from 2007 to 2008. Project partners noticed very soon that topics of interest were the same and that west, east, north and south are not far away from each other.

Project phase 2 of the European Employee Network Agricultural Machinery will deepened the cooperation and enlarge the network to more countries, with particular focus on new EU member states. The network will define common positions and concrete approaches on the effects of restructuring on employees and their working conditions.

The Project

The project brings together **metalworkers’ unions from ten European countries**. As an enlargement of network building, new partners from Finland, France, Belgium and Italy have been integrated into the network.

With the **EMF as the project coordinator** of the European Employee Network, a broader range of countries and companies will be addressed. The network will be closely connected to the EMF “Select Working Party Mechanical Engineering” and has the aim to address all major locations of agricultural machinery in Europe.

Companies

In 2007 the network started with major companies in the agricultural machinery sector of Germany, Austria, Spain, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. Now, the project involves more than 30 employee representatives from ten European countries.

Main Project Activities

Project activities will focus on the exchange of experiences and information at company as well as sector level. For this purpose project partners will contribute to the **Online Resource Center** (website) of the network and to a **Map of agricultural machinery in Europe** which will be published by the end of the project. Main project activities also will include two transnational thematic workshops and a major event concluding the EU project:

- *“Crisis, restructuring and possible solutions – what employee representatives suggest”*, 1st transnational workshop, December 2009
- *“Good work – exchanging information and experiences on different forms of workers’ participation”*, 2nd transnational workshop, February 2010
- *“Employee Forum European Agricultural Machinery 2020”*, Final conference, June 2010

