



Le 10 février 2012

CATERPILLAR, Incorrigibly antisocial!

The following Caterpillar unions, ACV-CSC METEA, FGTB, SETCA, CNE (Belgium-Caterpillar Gosselies plant), CGT and CFDT (France - Grenoble, Echirolles and Rantigny plants) and FIOM-CGIL (Italy -Mecktrack, Jesi plants) wish to express their full solidarity with the Electro Motive Diesel Canada workers who are victims of a revolting blackmail and a lock-out (business closure) by Caterpillar Inc. Group.

Caterpillar Group took over Electro-Motive Diesel in August 2010 by acquiring the company for \$820 million from pension funds Greenbriar Equity Group and Berkshire Partners (neither of which is known for its social values).

However, shortly before the end of the New Year holiday season, the multinational announced to employees that if they did not accept a salary compression of 50% (\$35 to \$16.5 per hour), the suppression of their pension plan (no state pension in Canada), the reduction of the overtime rate, cuts to health insurance coverage, the loss of four paid holidays, as well as cuts to annual vacation leave and other employee benefits, the group would simply close the plant.

In the face of this disproportional profitability strategy by Caterpillar Group – a strategy we ourselves are also confronted with to a greater or lesser extent – we can only support EMD workers and our CAW (Canadian Auto Workers) brothers, who voted 98% in favour of a strike following this despicable announcement by the company.

The only response made by Caterpillar Group in the wake of this powerful strike movement was to lock out the workers by simply closing the production site and walking away from the negotiations.

These are clearly the deeds and methods of a financial oligarchy that has a complete disregard for its social responsibilities towards workers, their families and their union representatives, despite the fact that the Group benefited from public funds paid for by the taxes of these same workers (*in this regard, the American union has filed a complaint with the government for violations of the Canada Investment Act*).

The Group has also made no secret of its intention to move production to a more conciliatory state where unions do not exist (or are not represented). The company has incurred the wrath of the CAW, which accuses Caterpillar management of never having had any intention to support locomotive production in Canada, and of having purchased the company solely for the purpose of getting its hands on technological advances for use in its U.S. plants.

More than one month after the announcement and the massive mobilization of workers and the public in Canada, Caterpillar still refuses to negotiate and to reopen the business. Even worse, it has announced its intention to close the plant, despite record sales in 2011, incredible profit forecasts for 2012, and increases in the compensation of the company's executives (*the most recent annual salary of CEO Doug Oberhelman totalled \$10.5 million, double the previous year!!!!*).

Our Unions reaffirm their full support for the employees in their fight to defend their plant, their jobs and their benefits against the insatiable appetite of financial interests. **Our Union representatives will make intervene before the local works councils as well as the European Works Council in February and we hope we'll be joined by all of our European trade union colleagues, in order to make heard the voice of employees who are sick and tired of being subject to the competition imposed on them by corporations.**

ACV-CSC METEA Gosselies

FGTB Gosselies

SETCA Gosselies

CNE Gosselies

CGT CMR Rantigny

CGT Caterpillar France SAS

CFDT Caterpillar

FIOM-CGIL Mecktrack-Jesi