



Motions 2016-2020

2nd Congress of
industriAll Europe

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IndustriAll European Trade Union's Motions 2016-2020

As adopted by the 2nd industriAll Europe Congress on 8th June 2016

Southern GTR Industrial Dispute

RMT notes, with utter despair and frustration, the dictatorial attitude of Senior Management within Southern GTR Railways Limited during its ongoing dispute since April 2016 with them concerning the collective dismissal of approximately 500 conductors. RMT cannot accept that the company is intending to introduce driver-only operations (with drivers now being given the additional responsibility of opening and closing the doors) on some of the most overcrowded and potentially dangerous services in Britain. Putting profits before public safety and workers' rights is in complete contradiction with basic trade union values.

RMT is shocked to learn of the serious downturn in industrial relations following the imposition of changes to staff's roles and responsibilities within the grades of guards, such as the removal of safety critical duties. Furthermore, RMT is appalled to learn that the above impositions have been achieved through the dismissal of the majority of guards, only for them to then be re-employed by the Company as "On Board Supervisors".

RMT is alarmed by the levels of bullying and harassment of staff within these grades in an attempt to get them to sign up, against their wishes, to the new roles' terms and conditions, which include the removal of travel facilities for family and friends, staff parking, changes to sickness absence reporting arrangements without agreement and, worst of all, the deduction of two days' salary for each day of industrial action.

RMT believes that this industrial dispute has been engineered by Senior Management and supported, both politically and financially, by the UK Government through the Department for Transport in an attempt to defeat a strong and industrially militant UK trade union (RMT) and their loyal members.

RMT also notes with concern the breakdown of shares of ownership of the parent company Govia. The majority shareholder is the Go Ahead Group with a 65% stake of the shares, whilst Keolis holds a 35% share.

RMT urgently calls upon the Executive Committees of industriAll Europe and IndustriALL Global Union to do all within their power throughout the respective bodies to notify all of their affiliated organisations of this unacceptable attack on basic human rights, the valued and democratic right to strike, management's abusive attack on the health, safety and wellbeing of staff, through various forms of bullying, intimidation and harassment of those longstanding, loyal and professional staff in pursuit of increased profits and dividend to the shareholders.

RMT urges the respective Executive Committees of industriAll Europe and IndustriALL Global Union to notify all European Works Council members and affiliated organisations within companies with links to Govia, GoAhead, Keolis etc, to put pressure on their respective managements - and subsequently the group - to put an end to these unacceptable practices. Ensuring the safety of workers, their passengers and our communities is of a higher priority than excessive profit and greed.