

Austria – Big win for textile workers in collective bargaining

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After a long fight, workers in the Austrian leather tanning industry can celebrate a significant victory. PRO-GE and GPA had been fighting for a 1,500-euro minimum wage in the sector since 2017. The employers ignored the demand and the unions had to start campaigning. The leather tanning industry was actually the lowest paid in the Austrian economy!

The deal was struck in the eleventh hour. Warning strikes had been prepared for the week after. The new agreement brings a wage increase up to 15% for the lowest-paid workers this year in three steps. The new level of minimum 1,500 euro per month will be reached on 31 December 2022.

Work in this sector can be both strenuous and risky. So, there can be no doubt that its workers deserve a solid pay rise. The efforts and the willingness to fight of the unions have also been a success in terms of recruitment. New members have joined and strengthened union power in the leather tanning sector in Austria.

Edited by industriAll Europe