

## **Germany: IGBCE demands compensation for inflation**

February 2022

IG BCE has presented its demands ahead of the collective bargaining campaign that will start next month. In the wake of Covid-19, high inflation is now the dominant topic for debate.

With its 580,000 members, the chemical and energy sector is the first heavy-weight sector to negotiate amid inflation of 3-4% this year. While IG BCE does not refer to a specific number, it did say that it is out of the question that wages and training allowances aren't higher than prices increases. Order books are full and the profit levels are high, particularly since price increases can easily be passed on to customers.

Purchasing power must be strengthened and real wage losses must be compensated according to IG BCE. Investment in people is also a good way to cope with the lack of skilled labour and the decline in company-based training provision.

The chemical employers' association (BAVC) firmly rejects these IG BCE demands which they call a bottomless pit. The higher the inflation, the more companies have to pay. This would mean that tariff policy would be decoupled from economic developments in our sector. If IGBCE continues on this path, collective bargaining will be difficult, they say.

**Edited by industriAll Europe**