# France – Strike called in Energy Sector to Mobilise for Purchasing Power

<u>May 2022</u>

French trade union organisations will stage a general mobilisation in the energy sector on 2 June 2022. This happens after an ultimatum to increase wages has been given to the employers of the branch (IEG). The monthly wage in the sector is defined according to a formula based on a coefficient called "National Base Salary". This index is revised each year in accordance with the provisions of the national statutes of the IEG. However, for more than 10 years it has been more or less frozen.

For several months, the trade union federations have been alerting the employers' representatives to the decline in the purchasing power of workers in the electricity and gas industries. In spite of this, they continue to "play for time" by invoking pretexts such as the calendar, waiting for confirmation of inflation figures, possible government measures, legislative elections, etc.

Year after year, the IEG grid and with it the wages of IEG workers lose purchasing power. In the year 2022 it's become much too much! The National Base Salary was raised by 0.3% on 1 January 2022, whereas the inflation is over 4.5% on a twelve-month basis and living cots will probably continue to rise. This is unacceptable!

The employers have so far not responded. The organised workers will therefore be on strike from 2 June to defend their members' purchasing power. The employers must revalue the wage index to ensure protection against inflation. They have done so in the past, in years of high inflation, and they must do it again today!

Under the current circumstances, management leaves workers and trade their unions with no other choice than to establish a balance of power through a strike!

The following trade union federations are calling for a general mobilisation of workers in defence of purchasing power, and a pay rise of least 4.5% effective from 1 January 2022.

- FNME CGT, CFE Énergies, FCE CFDT and FO Énergie et Mines

**Edited by industriAll Europe**