

Brussels, 1 September 2022

To:

Michele de Palma, General Secretary, FIOM CGIL

Roberto Benaglia, General Secretary, FIM CISL

Rocco Palombella, General Secretary, UILM

Re: Solidarity with Wärtsilä workers and families at the Trieste plant

Dear General Secretaries,
Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you on behalf of industriAll Europe, to express our full support and solidarity with FIOM, FIM and UILM in their struggle to support Wärtsilä workers and families at the Trieste plant.

On 14 July, the Finnish-based multinational company brutally announced its shocking intention to cease all of its manufacturing activities in Trieste and transfer them to Vaasa, Finland. No fewer than 700 direct and indirect jobs are at risk of disappearing, which accounts for ca. half of the Wärtsilä workforce at the Trieste plant.

The attitude and management of the situation by Wärtsilä are unacceptable.

The company had continuously denied the likelihood of shutting down production at Trieste, despite repeated enquiries by the Italian trade unions and worker representatives over the past months. And yet, the news was thrown overnight to the press, right in the middle of the summer holidays. Not only did the company fail to inform the Wärtsilä workers and trade unions properly, but no consultation has even taken place at the time of writing, one-and-a-half months after the announcement.

The direct intervention of Italian Minister, Giancarlo Giorgetti, and the proposal for an alternative industrial project (i.e. the inclusion of the Trieste plant in the *Industria del Mare* plan), submitted by the Ministry of Economic Development, were merely turned down by the company, which continues its incomprehensible stance.

We cannot accept that Wärtsilä management denies the workers the right to receive all the information about a project that will impact the lives of hundreds of families, and to discuss with them alternatives and solutions to safeguard jobs and manufacturing activities at Trieste. We therefore stand by the side of FIM, FIOM, UILM and Wärtsilä workers throughout all their actions, and will continue to do so.

After having conducted an 8-hour strike in early August and a permanent picket line in front of the factory gates, FIM, FIOM and UILM are now calling for a massive demonstration in the city of Trieste on 3 September, which we fully support.

The demands of Wärtsilä workers must be heard. It is imperative that Wärtsilä management complies with its legal duties to inform and consult the local trade union representatives at the Trieste plant, as well as the European representatives at the Wärtsilä European Works Council. Any dismantling of the production

facilities and any dismissal procedure must be stopped until appropriate dialogue has taken place and discussions have been opened concerning a viable, long-term industrial and employment plan for the site.

Once again, industriAll Europe rallies behind the hundreds of workers and families at the Wärtsilä plant in Trieste in their fight to defend the future of their jobs and the site.

Yours in solidarity,



Luc Triangle
General Secretary
IndustriAll European Trade Union