

The strike at Nexen Tire ends after a week

(Prague – 7 February 2023) **The strike at the Korean company Nexen Tire in Bitozeves in Žatec ends exactly one week after it started. The trade unions succeeded in enforcing a significant part of the demands. It is the result of today's negotiations between the leadership of the OS KOVO and representatives of the Korean owner. The end of the strike is only conditional at the moment. If the company does not honour today's agreement, the workers will return to strike and their indefinite strike will continue.**

"The wording of the current agreement is a compromise between the demands that we presented as the OS KOVO and the well-founded counter-arguments of the representatives of the Korean owner of Nexen Tire. In any case, it means a huge shift," said the OS KOVO President Roman Ďurčo regarding the outcome of today's meeting. On behalf of OS KOVO the meeting was also attended by the Vice-president Ivo Kužel, ČMKOS President Josef Středula and Pavel Rohel, Chairman of the OS KOVO Company Trade Union Organization in Nexen. The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Marian Jurečka (KDU-ČSL), with whom the trade union representatives met before the meeting with the Koreans, also intervened.

Today's agreement includes an 8 percent wage increase effective since March 1 of this year. It also expects financial compensation for not raising wages for 2022 and the first three months of this year, in the amount of 20,000 crowns. The remaining points of the collective agreement will be discussed, and according to the agreement, it should be signed by the end of March at the latest. "At this moment, I have to thank the trade unionists and employees from Nexen for their courage to stand up for their rights. At the same time, I thank the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Marian Jurečka and His Excellency Mr. Ambassador Taejin Kim, who contributed to the positive turn in the negotiations, as well as the Korean management with whom we reached the current agreement," added the OS KOVO President.

"From the trade union's point of view, a strike is always the last step. In this case, it could certainly have been avoided if the management of the company had approached the justified demands of the unions rationally and with sufficient respect. Every day of strike means huge losses for the company, and this is not in the interest of the unions. In this case, the management put its employees in such a hopeless situation that a strike was the only logical outcome," states the OS KOVO President.

The strike at Nexen Tire started last week on Tuesday, January 31, with a demonstration in front of the plant in Bitozeves, and continued with a protest in front of the Korean embassy in the morning of the same day. A day earlier, it was preceded by a meeting between the representatives of OS KOVO and the management, after which the management requested a week to think about it. However, management immediately turned to the court with a request for a preliminary injunction to declare the strike illegal and prevent it. At the same time, management tried to fill the jobs of strike-breakers, offering them higher wages. The union has therefore called another demonstration outside Nexen Tire on Monday 6 February to express its protest against the company's attempts to thwart the strikers' intentions.



press information

The unions decided to go on strike only after they failed to agree on a collective agreement with management despite repeated efforts. That's why they announced a strike alert last January. The company did not even accept the mediator's compromise proposal. The trade unionists thus exhausted all the options allowed by the Czech legislation. The majority of employees expressed their agreement with the strike.

The trade unionists also received massive support from their colleagues not only in the Czech Republic, but also from abroad. At the end of last week, the European Trade Union Federation industriAll Europe also joined them. At its Conference in Milano, it even adopted a resolution in which it condemned the management's attitude and called on it to negotiate with the unions.

Bc. Roman Ďurčo

OS KOVO President

Nám. W Churchilla 2

130 00 Praha 3

durco.roman@cmkos.cz

+420 605 517 595