

Finnish Industrial Union issues strike warnings.

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The Industrial Union (Teollisuusliitto) has issued strike warnings for the technology and chemical industries. Company-specific strikes are set to last for five days across 60 businesses, involving 8,000 workers, starting on Monday, 10 February. This strike warning has been renewed, with fresh five-day strikes scheduled for 17 and 21 February.

The strikes will not affect emergency work or any activities necessary to protect life and health. Strike warnings are part of the union's efforts to speed up ongoing collective bargaining in the two sectors.

At the beginning of 2025, the Finnish right-wing government introduced a new law. Now, all other sector agreements must be in line with or below the technology and chemical agreements regarding costs. This law puts a lot of pressure on the negotiators of Teollisuusliitto.

According to union president Riku Aalto, strike action is necessary to exert pressure on the employers. The current bargaining round has been dragging on for too long, as it has already been underway for several months. The collective agreement for technology industry workers expired on 30 November 2024, while the agreement for the chemical industry expired on 31 December 2024.

The parties in the tech negotiations have already met with the conciliator (mediator) thirteen times. The union's aim is to reach agreements as swiftly as possible to achieve industrial peace in the affected sectors and allow workplaces to focus on their core activities that truly matter.

The Industrial Union has previously announced that its goal for the collective agreement negotiations is to secure a 10% pay rise for workers. This increase is needed to boost workers' purchasing power in a climate where the cost of living has risen sharply over the past few years.

Edited by industriAll Europe.