

Austria: Spring collective bargaining 2025

in the EEI, chemical and paper-pulp sector

May 2025

EEI: No conclusion in the fourth round, industrial action from 12 – 14 May 2025

Even the fourth negotiation round to conclude a collective agreement for more than 55,000 blue and white-collar workers in the Austrian electro and electronics industry (EEI) failed on May 9. "The employers' latest offer for wage and salary increases is a disrespectful provocation," criticised PRO-GE chief negotiator Reinhold Binder. The employers came forward with an offer for wage increases of 1.5% and 0 for companies in economic difficulties." After the adoption of a strike resolution on 7 May in a nation-wide conference of 500 workers' representatives of the EEI sector at company level works meetings were convened from 12-14 May by the workers' representatives to inform about the current situation of the negotiations and decide on further action. Thanks to the pressure the employers signalled to return to the negotiation table and negotiations will be resumed on 6 June.

Paper industry: Third negotiation round broken off

No agreement could be reached in the third negotiation round for 8,000 workers in the paper and pulp sector on 8 May either. Although the employers moved away from their original demand for a zero-pay increase round after works meetings in the sector to decide on further industrial action, their current offer is still well below the inflation rate of 2.65%. The reason for this is a proposed cap, which would mean that most workers would lose purchasing power in real terms – despite the positive development of sales and production volumes in the industry. The negotiating unions' team of PRO-GE and GPA rejects this: "Anyone who gains profits must not expect employees to suffer losses!" The next round of negotiations will take place on 19 May. As a precautionary measure, the Austrian Trade Union Confederation (ÖGB) was asked to authorise a strike.

Chemical industry: First conclusion of collective agreement during the 2025 spring wage round

In the third round of collective bargaining negotiations for 50,000 blue- and white-collar workers in the chemical industry, an agreement was reached on 23 April after 13 hours of negotiations. Wages will be increased by 2.65% on 1 May, with a minimum increase of 80 euros and a maximum increase of 113 euros. Apprentice incomes will rise by 2.65%.

The negotiations were extremely difficult due to the current economic conditions. Nevertheless, we have succeeded in achieving sustainable wage increases for employees in the chemical industry instead of the one-off payments forced by the employers.

Edited by industriAll Europe