

## **FNV pushes for increased purchasing power and AI regulation**

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FNV seeks a 5.5% pay rise and an additional 80 euros over the coming year. By including a fixed euro amount rather than an entire pay rise as a percentage, the union wants to ensure that lower-paid workers receive a larger boost in relative terms. The wage demand includes automatic price compensation, meaning pay would automatically rise in line with inflation. FNV also makes equal pay for equal work a key priority and aims to narrow the gender pay gap.

Jacqie van Stigt, FNV employment conditions coordinator, states: 'We see that inflation is rising and is still above average, labour productivity is improving, profits are high, and the labour market is still tight. This all leads to a significant wage demand.'

In addition to pay, FNV is also focusing for the first time on collectively agreed employee control over AI. They always take into account conditions in the workplace and find room for discussion with their employer counterparts about customisation in sectors that are under pressure. Billions are being pumped into the further development of AI worldwide, and it is playing an increasingly important role in the workplace in the Netherlands.

Many workers experience that AI mainly increases the workload and is often used as an excuse to reorganise. The introduction of new technology must therefore be steered in the right direction, with 'man before machine'. The involvement and control of employees are very important. In specific cases, additional agreements are needed for new technologies. Ideally, training should invest in 'AI literacy' of employees.

There are significant differences between sectors in Dutch manufacturing. In the metal industry, details for national bargaining will soon be hammered out. In contrast, there is no national agreement in the chemical sector, meaning only company-level bargaining is taking place.

**Edited by industriAll Europe.**