



Draft Statement of BWI European Regional Committee to Support Swedish Workers' Strike and Byggnads

The BWI European Regional Committee in its statutory meeting on 19 November is in full support with the Swedish workers' announced strike against fatal accidents and work-related crime.

The committee expresses its solidarity with the Swedish workers who plan to go on strike next week. On 18 November, Swedish Building Workers' Union Byggnads announced a strike for workers covered by the Collective Building Agreement from 27 November, unless unions and employers have agreed on a new agreement before then. The notice covers 87 workplaces and approximately 1,400 employees across the country.

The reason for the strike is the employers' federation Byggföretagen's reluctance to address the problems with fatal accidents and work-related crime that have long plagued the industry.

During the contract negotiations, Byggnad's proposal to reduce the accident rates and to tackle work-related crime has ended up at the bottom of the agenda.

Byggnads president, Johan Lindholm, explained to the BWI European Committee members that "during the whole year, unions and employers have stood side by side at seminars and talked about how we should clean up the industry. But when we are negotiating, the employers do not "walk the talk". We have therefore given them notice, so they know we mean business!"

"This is a matter of destiny for our industry. We must get rid of cheaters, increase gender equality and secure the working environment!", he added.

The committee condemns the Byggföretagen's lack of interest in solving the two main problems of the construction industry in Sweden. Health before profit and no workers should be exploited. Together we are stronger!

For more info, please see [here](#).