

4 February 2009

Press Information ▪ Press Information

EMF welcomes Obama's move to avoid a trade war

Today, the European Metalworkers Federation (EMF) welcomed the news that new US President Barack Obama has committed to avoiding an international trade war on manufactured goods and steel.

Speaking on the BBC's World Service yesterday, EMF General Secretary Peter Scherrer called for "a return to the international negotiating table" to find solutions to our common legitimate concerns about trade dumping.

However, "we must avoid cannibalism between workers" through *Buy American*-style protectionist policies, Scherrer stated, since these policies could prolong the economic crisis and threaten a downward spiral in social competition between workers. The result would be a major success for multinational companies able to play governments and workforces off against each other in order to increase their profit margins and reduce regulation globally: the exact opposite of what is intended.

The move by President Obama to review the proposed 'Buy American' clauses in the \$800 billion US stimulus package will be watched closely by European metalworkers.

PRESS 2/2009

The EMF is the representative body defending the interests of workers in the European metal industry. The EMF has a mandate for the external representation and coordination of the metalworkers' unions and a mandate to engage in bargaining at European level.

For further information please contact:

Editor, Peter Scherrer, EMF General Secretary

Judith Kirton-Darling, Industrial Policy Advisor +32.2.227 1052