



Geneva and Brussels, 12 June 2017

Mr. Lothar Kriszun
Executive Board
Claas KGaA mbH
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Germany

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IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll European Trade Union call on Claas Group to intervene to ensure respect of trade union rights at AKG Thermotechnik International's plant in Izmir, Turkey

Dear Mr. Kriszun,

We are writing this letter to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](#) and [industriAll European Trade Union](#), both representing millions of workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in Europe and worldwide, including Germany and Turkey, to call on Claas KGaA mbH, as an important customer of AKG Thermotechnik International, to demand that AKG Thermotechnik International respect fundamental trade union rights at its plant in Izmir, Turkey.

IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll European Trade Union sent a letter to AKG Thermotechnik International on 29 May, but to no avail, urging them to intervene immediately at its plant in Izmir to ensure that that your local management recognize Birleşik Metal-İş, which is affiliated to both international global unions, as the legitimate collective bargaining partner.

We are appalled to learn that AKG Thermotechnik International's local management is disputing the Certificate of Majority, issued by the Ministry of Labour of Turkey, confirming that Birleşik Metal-İş has a membership in the plant representing more than fifty percent of the workforce.

We strongly condemn AKG Thermotechnik International's behaviour, which includes challenging the Certificate of Majority in court, as a delaying tactic and a refusal to allow trade union activity in the plant, harassing workers and forcing them to resign their union membership, and the dismissal of six union leaders, who have been targeted for being active in the legitimate unionization drive.

As AKG Thermotechnik International has neither replied to our letter nor addressed the workers' legitimate demands, we call on Claas KGaA mbH to demand that AKG Thermotechnik International redress the serious violation of labour rights at the Izmir plant by

reinstating immediately Levent Danacı, Ertan Uruf, Dinçol Dinçer, Ramazan Yavuzer, Nadir Çök, and Bekir Sancak, ending any acts of intimidation against workers, and engaging with Birleşik Metal-İş, as the legitimate collective bargaining partner, in negotiations to the benefit of workers and the company alike.

We strongly believe that Claas KGaA mbH, as an ethical and socially responsible company, will agree with IndustriALL Global Union and IndustriAll European Trade Union on the crucial importance of AKG Thermotechnik International to act in full accordance with national and international labour law, thus guaranteeing a fair and safe environment for workers to exercise their fundamental labour rights, including the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining at the plant in Izmir, Turkey.

Sincerely,



Valter Sanches
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union



Luc Triangle
General Secretary
IndustriAll European Trade Union