Calling on Saint-Gobain to act responsibly at its plant in Eupen

Dear Mr Benoit Bazin,

I am writing this letter to you as the General Secretary of IndustriALL Global Union, which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy, and manufacturing sectors throughout the world, including Belgium and France, to call on Saint-Gobain to consider all possible solutions to prevent the closure of the plant Saint-Gobain Eupen.

Following the announcement by Saint-Gobain Innovative Materials Belgium on 30 October 2023 of its intention to close the Eupen plant by the end of the year, we wrote to you on 2 November to express our strong opposition to the decision to close the plant, which would seriously affect the livelihood of 55 workers and their families.

We believe your local management has utterly failed in making any efforts to find potential buyers. The management’s inertia, lack of consultation, and refusal to consider options to maintain the operation of the plant and guarantee the continuity of employment to a dedicated and professional workforce, which has spent between 20 and 40 years of their lives at Saint-Gobain, are in blatant violation of national labour law, including the so-called Renault procedure.

It is imperative that the headquarters management and the management responsible for the Benelux region as well, contact the unions, including the CSC Bâtiment- Industrie-Energie, without any delay to engage in good-faith negotiations, and in line with the commitment of Saint-Gobain to act socially responsibly throughout its operations, to find a viable and fair solution to the Eupen plant workers.

I look forward to your prompt action and reply.

Yours sincerely,

Atle Høie, General Secretary