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### ***Car-workers Newsletter***

Dear friends,

with this auto-news-letter in English and German we want to contribute to mutual exchange on important developments in car workers industry.

This are summaries of the German web-side [www.rf-news.de](http://www.rf-news.de)

We would be happy to get feedbacks from you, order to decide, whether the monthly appearane can be of support for your work and to improve it.

Of course you can hand out these news to others.

Yours

German-Filipinos Friends

***zur Ansicht - Versand per email***

## **Car-workers News December 2008 January 2009**

### **12/05/2008 8,6% more temporary workers in one year**

According to the newest dates of the Federal Agency for employment (BA) has the number of temporary workers in Germany increased to 794,363 employees on June 6th 2008. It is an increase of 63,211 workers or 8,6% compared with June 2007.

### **12/13/2008 Daimler aims on entering the Russian Market**

Daimler has become a 10% shareholder of the largest Russian Truck builder KAMAS. Kamas produces 30% of trucks in Russia. Daimler intends to use the distribution net and the local workshops of Kamas for a faster influence on the Russian truck market due to the loss in the US.- and west-European market.

### **12/16/2008 Car industry crisis even in Latin America**

The car industry in Latin America which reported a record sale in the first half of 2008, has a draw back since November. Alone in November 28% less cars were sold compared with the previous month.

### **12/20/2008 India Hyundai dismisses 2000 temporary workers**

The Indian branch of the Korean Car firm Hyundai says having to dismiss 2000 temporary workers. The firm employs altogether 8400 workers, 3300 of them as temporary workers. This is due to falling sale figures in India and for the export.

### **12/20/2008 17,4 Billion Dollars for General Motors and Chrysler**

The US-government decided to offer both US-car firms GM and Chrysler a credit of 17,4 Billion Dollars. GM will receive 13,4 Billion. The money will be funded from the financial parcel for the banks comprising 700 Billion Dollars.

### **12/29/2008 Japan: More than 80,000 temporary workers dismissed**

The working agreement of 80,000 temporary workers will not be renewed which means that they will lose the job. Temporary workers of Toyota will also have to clear out from the living quarters of Toyota in less than a month after the end of the contract. The town administration of Toyota City plans to provide contemporary quarters.

### **01/06/2009 Toyota stops production for further eleven days**

The largest car firm in the world, Toyota has announced to lay off the production lines in 12 factories for eleven days during February and March. In January there has been a lay off for three days. In USA alone the sale of Toyota cars sunk by nearly 16% in 2008.

**01/12/2009 VW reaches a record sale in 2008**

The German Volkswagen firm reached a sale record in 2008 against the general trend. VW raised its sales by 0,6% to 6,23 Million cars worldwide. The increase was especially in Brazil and China. In Germany the sale increased by 0.4% to 1,06 Million cars. For 2009 VW expects a decrease of sales by 10 %.

**01/14/2009 Brazil: Protests at GM against dismissal**

On Tuesday the early shift of some 3000 workers in the GM factory in Sao Paulo stopped work for one hour to protest against the dismissal of 800 temporary workers. The night shift also aimed on protesting in this way. The trade union declared for Thursday more strikes.

**01/21/2009 Verheugen: No way around closing car-factories**

The EU-Commissionary for Industry Gunter Verheugen does not see any way out from closing down car factories in the European car industry. He announced at a french car-conference: *some production plants will have to close down*. According to his opinion the European Car Industry produces 20% beyond the demand.

**01/24/2009 Strikes of Renault workers in France and steel workers in Belgium**

The Renault colleagues fight against a new organisation for production which plans for shortened working hours in February and March. According to the Trade Union CGT will the production of the *Laguna* car be cut down to only four, in March to six days. It also says that 1000 of the 3700 jobs will be dismissed, if possible voluntary.

**01/24/2009 Ford-Chief: 27 Million cars for sale**

The Ford management warns in view of a growing over capacity in the car branch. According to the German Ford Chief Mattes there are 20 Million cars beyond demand worldwide and this number will grow by another seven Million. Ford in Germany will also increase shorter working hours.

**01/27/2009 On one day more than 70,000 lay offs announced.**

International firms announced more than 70,000 dismissals yesterday only. Here the numbers: Caterpillar (20000), Pfizer/wyeth (8000), SprintNextel (8000) Home Depot (7000) Texas Instrument (3400), Philips (6000), ING (7000), GM (2000), Corus (3500), IBM (2800)

## **Car-workers News February 2009**

### **02/04/2009 US car sale down by 27%, an annual low**

The US car sale in January dropped again. By GM the sale fell by 49% compared with January 2008, by Ford 40%, by Chrysler and Daimler 35%, by Toyota 32%, By Audi 26,4% and by VW 12%. The sales in 2008 sank by 3 Million to altogether 13 Million cars. These sale figures are the worst since 27 years.

### **02/05/2009 New orders for the industry fell by 25,9%**

New orders for the German industry fell in November/December by 25,9% compared with Nov-December 2007. Orders for exports fell by 29,6% and for inland by 21,9%.

### **2/9/2009 Nissan cancels 20,000 jobs**

The japanese car firm Nissan announced the closing down 20,000 jobs worldwide amounting to 8,5% of ist weorkforce. In Japaan it will be 12,000 jobs. The number of all workers employed will be reduced to 215,000.

### **2/10/2009 6 billion Euro for France´s car industry**

The French President Sarkozy supports the French car firm PSA, Peugeot, Citroen and Renault with some six billion Euro. As in Germany, France also subsidies already the purchase of new cars under the condition to dismantle the old one, a so called wrechage premium in order to encrease the sale of cars.

### **2/11/2009 Peugeot plans to close down 11,000 jobs**

Europe's second large car firm Peugeot-Citroen (PSA) is to close down at least 11,000 jobs during this year The idea is that workers effected would leave by consent. In 2008 Peugoet's deficir of 343 Million Euro was much higher than expected. The sale of cars had decreased by 4,9% to just 3,26 Million cars.

### **2/12/2009 EU Commission declares: Production falters away**

The EU Commission has set up a study group to follow up the decrease of industrial production. Guenter Verheugen said: *The extend and the speed of the crisis is totally new.* E.g The monthly orders for lorries in the EU dropped from 38,000 in January 2008 to just 600 in November.

### **2/17/2009 BMW: Protests against job clossure at Mini**

BMW has discharged 850 contract workers in the British Mini-factory Cowley at Oxford without any prior notice. The decision was announced just one hour before the day shift had finished. In the Mini facory Swindon it will be 150 jobs to be laid off.

### **2/18/2009 Daimler: We have not come to beg**

More than 800 apprentices of the Daimler factories at Stuttgart, Sindelfingen, Raststatt, Woerth and Gaggenau demonstrated today for employment after the end of there apprenticeship even in icy weather: *We have not come to beg, we are here to stay on!*

**2/18/2009 GM/Opel: To attack is the best way to defend**

GM is to close down 47,000 jobs worldwide which amounts to 19 % of its workforce, including 26,000 overseas. The management has not yet dared to announce concrete plans for closing down factories in Europe due to fear of provoking mass strikes. But actually by indiscretion it has become known that the factory in Antwerpen and Bochum are to be shut down and the factory in Eisenach and Saab will be for sale.

**2/20/2009 Saab announces for closure**

The Swedish car firm Saab, a subfirm of GM has applied for foreclosure, after the Swedish government refused to give Saab any financial support. Saab CEO Jan\_Ake Jonson declared that the production will not be stopped. Saab wants to disengage from GM and be independently re-organized under new creditors. One option will be the cooperation with Opel. Saab has 5,000 employees.

**2/23/2009 VW puts 61,000 workers on shorter working hours**

Since today 61,000 workers of the VW-factories in Germany will be put on shorter weekly working hours, which amounts to two thirds of the total number of the workforce. VW reckons for 2009 with a decrease of sales by ten percent.

**2/26/2009 Worldwide trade breaks dramatically down**

Exports in Japan are down by 49% in January 2009 compared with January 2008. The export of German cars fell by 39% in the same time. Two thirds of the German car production is for export. According to Uwe Angenendt, the chief economic adviser of the BHF Bank has the world trade *effectively collapsed*. Since the end of WWII there has not been any such enormous backlash and this simultaneously in all world regions.

**2/28/2009 Strike and demonstrations of the FIAT workers in Pomigliano**

Yesterday Thousands of Fiat-Workers demonstrated against the closing down of their factory in the South Italian town Pomigliano d'Arco near Naples. These 5,000 Fiat Workers went on strike for four hours.

## **Car-workers News March 2009**

### **03-04-09 US car sale down scaled even worse**

The sale of cars in the USA in February even lower than in January. Yet January was the worst sale month since December 1981. Ford sold with 99,400 cars in Feb. only 48,4%. 405,000 cars are for sale. Chrysler sale in the USA went down by 44% and GM by 52,9%.

The EZUU commission puts the production capacity per year to 94 Million cars. The actual sale for only 55 Million cars which means a surplus capacity of 39 Million.

### **03-13-09 Industrial turn over in January down by 20%**

The industrial sale in January 09 was down by 20% compared with 2008. This is the worst reduction since the reunification of Germany. The inland turnover was down by 16,6%, the export by 23,8% The car industry down by 34,3% other metal branches by 30% and the chemical industry by 27,2%

### **03-18-09 Car-industry, metal and Chemical branches are the main export branches**

In 2008 Germany exported goods for 994,9 Billion Euro.

Top was the car industry with 17,5%

Other apparatus products by 14,8% and Chemical products by 13,9%

### **03-02-09 VW closes all 16,500 temporary jobs**

VW firm will cancel all temporary jobs by the end of 2009. VW has all together worldwide some 16,500 such temporary jobs

### **03-31-09 VW: Today is officially the last working day for 217 temporary workers**

Four temporary workers on strike are reported all over Germany, yet no mention that this is not a singular action of these four workers but larger groups of temporary workers fight for their jobs

### **03-03-09 Opel: rescue plan the same as MG in Detroit**

Yesterday the rescue plan for Opel was announced. Nearly one Billion Euro are to be taken from the workers income and 3,3 Billion state support is guaranteed aiming on other investors

### **03-12-09 Metall-owners: GM Opel has no future**

The president of Metall owners Martin Kannengießer spoke in an interview of German Radio against any state financing for Opel/GM. He said: *if a car producer fails, it is his failure. One has to find ways how he can carry on under other conditions and with other structures.*

### **03-20-09 Opelworkers: Bochum needs no second Nokia!**

The Opel workers in Bochum rallied together in the last few days with a collection of signatures signing the following text: *we shall not be ready for a further down scaling on account of the threat of getting the firm closed down.* During the last ten days more than 900 signatures had been collected.

### **03-23-09 Two Ways at Opel-Ruesselsheim**

Colleagues from Powertrain followed the demonstration rally using sirens, slogans and posters on the march to the workers meeting on 20. March. The management had announced plans to move the production of the F 40-parts, for which 380 jobs will be moved to Hungary. The colleagues emphasized their fighting spirit to act on it. The applause at the meeting showed the support from their colleagues.

### **03-30-09 GM boss Wagoner stepped down**

The world largest car producer made 80 Billion debts during the last four years. Critics accuse the manager Wagoner for this deficit. His successor, the former GM-Europe boss Fritz Henderson is claimed to be the ideal man for the sanitizing GM

### **03-31-09 GM and Opel-colleagues not ready to be taken in!**

Henderson and US President Obama join in attempting to press the GM workers into further conditions. Obama declared: *it is important that all partners cooperate and are ready to accept painful pre-conditions, not only the GM management, but also the trade unions.*

In the news from Bochum is stated: "The work force has to decide whether or not to follow this pressure and to start anew the struggle for every work job and the payment for it."

The monopolies and the governments know that they play a risky game, for the work force should never submit to any such pressure.

***03-12-09 Mercedes counts on 50% decrease***

The management of Daimler reckons with a down scaling of its car production of Mercedes by 50 % compared with 2008.

In February no lorry had been ordered for export while all together only 14% of the number of lorries sold in February 2008 have been ordered. The shorter working hours will be further reduced

***03-21-09 Daimler workers meeting at Sindelfingen: strong applause for the struggle of the trainees***

Main theme was the future of the youth. The management plans not to take over some 180 Azubis countrywide and 52 in Sindelfingen for permanent jobs. The trainees marched to the workers meeting with the poster Operation Permanent employment and were welcomed with tremendous and long lasting applause.

***03-31-09 Secret talks about crisis management at Daimler***

From IG Trade Union it has been made known that there are secret talks between Daimler leadership and the Top job steward about how to share out the cost of the crisis onto the working force.

The measurement suppose a much more dramatic load of the crisis than reported thus far. Not only will 20% of the trainees not taken into full employment after their training but the agreed wage increase fixed for February will only be reckoned from the basic salary, not the present wage.

***03-13-09 Continental: after shorter working hours now firm closures***

Continental being one of the worldwide largest firms producing car parts announced the closing down of the tyre factory for lorry tyres in Hannover with its 780 working staff due to massive reduction of tyre sale,

Also the factory in Clairoux with its 1,120 workers producing car tyres will be closed down in March 2010. The whole firm employs worldwide 150,000 at more than 200 factories in 36 countries.

***03-18-09 Protest against closing down of Conti Hannover***

Yesterday 1000 workers of the lorry tyre factory in Hannover protested against the closing down of their factory, as the statement of the management hat even if the market would recover by 2010, it would not be profitable to renew the production.

***03-27-09 Hannover: Thousands against Conti- closing down***

Yesterday some 5,000 Workers of the Continental Firm and other employers in Hannover protested against the planned closing down of the tyre factory in Stoecken. Even VW workers and employees of Schaeffler-Firm participated in the demonstration. The day before some Hundreds workers from the French Conti-factory in Clairoux Paris demonstrated against the closing down of their factory.

## **Car-workers News April 2009**

### **04-02-09 VW opens new plant in India**

Nine months earlier than proposed, the big plant in Chakan (State Maharashtra) was opened last Tuesday on an area of 700 acres. The VW production chairman Jochen Heizmann said: "Despite the present crisis we are totally convinced that the Indian Car-market has a bright future". VW is the only German car-builder in India with a compound production line. VW invested some 580 Million Euro. The factory will eventually employ some 2,500 workers.

### **04-08-09 The workforce of Ebersbaecher blocks the entry to the factory**

In an overnight action the firm Ebersbaecher, producing car parts at Sindelfingen, tried at the weekend to move away all production facilities in order to make sure that the closing down of the factory would be a permanent fact. But the workers blocked with their cars the entry to the factory on Monday morning and stopped the removal of the third plant.

### **04-11-09 Protests at Visteon in Great Britain and Ireland**

Car workers in the Belfast and in Great Britain protested against their layoff at the Visteon Firm, which produces car parts for Ford. Visteon had been separated from the Ford Trust and intends to close down several factories in Northern Ireland and GB.

### **04-22-09 Belfast: Solidarity with the workers at Visteon**

Last Friday some 1,000 trade unionists demonstrated in Belfast in support of the workers of Visteon who have occupied the factory for some weeks already to prevent the closing down of the factory. The bus drivers of Belfast even went for four hours on strike in solidarity. Yesterday a court appealed to the workers to leave the factory.

### **04-16-09 Protesting WOB colleagues celebrate with their families in front of the VW plant at Hannover**

Temporary workers of WOB-AG have protested since March 27th against being laid off. Altogether 215 temporary workers have been dismissed. In the meantime the VW management offers some way out. E.g. 92 colleagues have been offered to agree on a three months employment at Wolfsburg.

### **04-22-09 French Toyota-workers protesting**

In the French Toyota plants there have been production line stops for days because workers are angry on account of the downscaling of their wages due to shorter working hours. First strikes started two weeks ago. Last Thursday the workers blocked the factory at Onnaing in Northern France. At the plant the model Yaris is assembled. The workers ask for higher payments to compensate the shorter working hours.

### **04-24-09 "Continental-Solidarite" a signal for the international solidarity at the day of Action at Hannover**

Yesterday some 3,500 colleagues from various countries assembled at Hannover for a joint Day of Action on account of the Conti-Annual Conference. There were delegates from Clairvoix (France), from Belgia, from San Luis Potosi in Mexico and from many Conti plants in Hannover, as well as 200 colleagues from the French Sarreguemines factory which is also threatened to be closed down.



**04-27- 09 Audi: Million profits despite crisis**

The car producer Audi announced the first Quarter balance. Despite a 29% shorter turn over in comparison to 2008 the firm made a profit of 363 Millions Euro in the first three months of 2009. 210,026 cars had been sold, some 16% less than in 2008. The turn over was 19% less from 2009 amounting to 6,7 Billion Euro.

**04-27-09 India: The workers of Hyundai on strike**

More than for four days some 1300 workers of the car firm Hyundai in Chennai, India have been on strike. 1,200 of the strikers are fully employed, but some Hundred temporary workers have joined them. The fight for the acknowledgment of the Union HMIEU by this firm. They also ask for equal conditions for all workers and the re instalment of Hundreds of temporary workers who had been dismissed.

**04-22-09 The German Daimler boss Zetsche in Beijing**

The Daimler Trust boss Dieter Zetsche is negotiating since yesterday with party and government officials in Beijing about the joint venture with the Chinese State Fonds Investment Corp (CIC). The CIC Chief Lou Jiwei said: We have identified many good chances. Daimler together with FOTON aims on a 22% market deal in the production of lorries at this proposed joint venture.

**04-28-09 Daimler totally separated from Chrysler**

The car firm Daimler separates totally from the last shares of the US-Chrysler. This separation also includes a reduction of the guaranteed pension from one Billion to 200 Million US-Dollar for the workers of Chrysler in the USA. At the same time announced Daimler to publicize its saving programme regarding the employment of the workers.

**04-29-09 New Horror catalogue from Daimler**

Yesterday the Daimler Board announced its new crisis programme at the worker assemblies. As in the first quarter the sale of private cars went down by 34% and of lorries by 39%, all the months long promises to the workers exploded. The management wants to save a further two Billion Euro on wages via an 8,75% shorter working time, as well as a postponement of wage increase from instead First May to First December, also lower contribution for shorter time working hours and forfeiting the annual premium of 1,900 Euro. The hard effect of the crisis is to be loaded upon the colleagues and their families.

## **Car-workers News May / June 2009**

### **05-06-2009 Toyota-trade union leader in Venezuela shot.**

On 5th May the trade union leader Argenis Vasquez (33) was shot down by an unknown person. He had been the leader of the Toyota-union in the strike matter in March. On the same day another union man, Kelles Maneiro was shot at. During the last few months such political killings of union activists increased, caused by fascistic or para-military factions, obviously hired by international firms or their stooges in Venezuela.

Already in January two workers of Mitsubishi had been killed during a strike, at that time through police actions which never were properly investigated. Toyota had proclaimed to possibly leave the country after working there for 51 years due to increasing strikes and obligations of the Chavez government.

### **05-06-2009 Strike started at Federal Mogul**

The workers of Federal Mogul, a firm producing parts for the car industry, in Wiesbaden started a undetermined strike. Already the night shift had gone on strike for two hours. In a general vote 94% of the workers voted for the strike. The reason: Federal Mogul intends to lay off 436 from altogether 1600 workers.

### **05-07-2009 India: Strike of car-workers of M&M**

4000 workers of the Indian car firm Mahindra & Mahindra went on strike for the reinstallation of the discharged union leader. The strike has caused a near total stand still of the plant Nashik. This firm produces especially pickups and small lorries.

### **05-11-2009 Strike at Hyundai in India a success**

On 20th April more than 1300 car workers in the Hyundai factory in Chennai went on a undetermined strike. Their claim was for higher wages, better working conditions, equal treatment of contract workers and acknowledgement of the rights of the unions. On 6th May 600 strikers were imprisoned. The union stopped the strike after the management agreed to all demands, freeing the workers and reinstating them and also taking no actions against the strike leaders.

### **05-12-2009 Strike at Fiat in Sicily.**

On Monday workers of Fiat Imerese near Palermo went on strike for one and a half hour. Fiat intends to close down that factory in connection with the international take over of Opel and Chrysler.

### **05-26-2009 Fiat workers of Termini Imerese: No to closing the firm!**

Excerpts from the Italian Daily "La Stampa" of 23rd May: For two hours Termini Imerese plant was stopped as a sign of solidarity with the Fiat workers. A near surreal atmosphere showed people on their balconies and closed shops with 5000 folks demonstrating. Seven years after the Fiat decree to close down that factory people defended again their work by mobilizing workers and their families leading to a change of the decision of Fiat to close the factory during this year.

**05-04-2009 A statistic of the Ukraine** stated that the car production in the months January to April 2009 has decreased in comparison to the respective months in 2008 by 90 %. Private cars from 147,390 to 22,800 ( -84.5%), busses from 3,600 to only 336 (90,9%), lorries from 5,070 to 446 (-91.2%). Early this year, most car producing firms have laid off their production.

**06-02-2009 South Korea Workers of Ssangyong on strike**

Since ten days several thousand workers of Ssangyong are on strike against the lay off of more than 2,600 workers. The workers took over the main factory and prevented the manager to enter his office. The union demands a shortening of working hours instead of laying off workers. Now Ssangyong Motors has shut out the strikers and threatens to call the police.

**06-25-2009 Occupation of a factory in South Korea**

1,700 workers of Ssangyong in Pyeongteak have occupied the factory for more than four weeks causing a stop to the production.

When on 16th June an attempt was made to break the strike line with the aid of the higher employees and strike breakers, some 700 to 800 workers from near by factories, especially from KIA came along to support the strikers. Since then are the Ssangyong workers ready to defend the factory by using weapons. The core of the occupiers consists of some 50 to 60 groups of ten workers each , having a delegate for the strike committee. At the moment still some 1,000 workers support the occupation together with their families.

**06-30-2009 Strike and occupation of the factory in Ssangyong motors continues**

On 27th June 3,000 hired and armed strike breakers invaded the factory to dispell the workers and their family members by using iron bars and tear gas. In a 24 hour battle the invaders were driven away. The police had closed off the streets leading to the factory to prevent workers from other firms to come to aid.

The workers expect that shortly even the state apparatus will order the security forces to intervene. Speakers of the management declared: If the union continues with the strike, the firm will close down and 4,000 workers will loose their job. The Korean Metal Union (KMU) which is member of the Korean confederation of Unions reacted to this, stating, that ten thousands of their members will assemble at the Ssangyong Motors factory on 29th June in solidarity with the strike of the car workers and a general strike will be started by First of July.

## **Car-workers News July 2009**

### **2009-07-01 Russia: "Italian fashion strike at VW plant in Kaluga**

On June 15th the VW plant at Kaluga (some 100 Kilometres south west of Moscow) was idle. It was unbearable hot and the colleagues demanded five minute pause every hour while temperature was beyond 28 degrees Celsius. They also demanded a special bonus, the doubling of the wage of 148 rubels per hour (equal 3.30 Euro) and the acknowledgement of an independent union with accepted wage agreement. To support this demand, they not only strikes for a short while but started a so called continuing "Italian strike" i.e. work along labour rules. Instead of producing daily 20 cars, only 9 cars leave the production line.

### **2009-07-09 Bochum colleagues of Opel: "Not even once cent for extortioner. No breaking the wage agreement at Opel and anywhere else.**

Since the end of June colleagues of Opel Bochum protest. Also the workers at Ruesselsheim and Eisenach protest against the denial of holiday benefits. The anger about the denial of holiday benefits and closing down of work places is growing. The colleagues start to act and take initiatives by collecting signatures, rallying during breaks and calling for critical assemblies of the workforces in all plants.

### **2009-07-10 Independent action of 700 Daimler workers at Sindelfingen**

Since weeks there is a turmoil especially at the assembly line of E-Class at Daimler Sindelfingen. With the start of the new E-class there was an enormous rationalisation. The production lines run faster and the numbers of workers on the line reduced. There is a lack of enough personal in almost all sectors. According to the account of the shop stewards there is a lack of some 300 extra workers in the plant to have an adequate working condition. To organize extra qualification time and other necessary arrangements, some 500 extra workers would be needed. Therefore since weeks various groups of workers of sections call at the shop steward. Today it was the whole plant force

### **2009-07-10 Thailand: Strike at Kawasaki a success !**

Some 900 workers of the motorcycle firm Kawasaki in Thailand went on strike for nearly two weeks at the end of June to enforce the reemployment of eleven Union representatives. The strike ended when the management agreed to their reemployment. The cause of the disagreement had been that working hours had been reduced to save "production costs".

**2009-07-15 Fiat-workers protest against wage dumping.** On Tuesday this week more than 1000 Fiat workers in the Mirafiori plant Turin laid off work for two hours and blockaded the street. Already last week there had been a two our strike in Melfi. The workers protested against the cutting down their bonus to 500 Euro while demanding 800 Euro. In the Termini Imerese plant strike went on during the 7th and 10th July.

### **2009-07-20 Awful struggle between Porsche and VW management**

VW will get some 49% shares from Porsche. In the new super conglomerate Porsche will be only the tenth trade mark of VW corporation. Porsche had under-

taken very hazard speculations to acquire 51% of the VW shares. Yet due to the world financial crisis and a dramatic decrease of car sales Porsche ended up with debts of more than ten billion Euro. Now these debts will be paid off by VW. VW itself also has been hit by the crisis expecting for this a reduction of car sales by 10 %. Due to the over filled "war-treasures" from the record sales in 2008, VW can easily manage the new arrangement.

As to the effects of the crisis, the workforce will have to bear the crunch. With VW some ten thousands were put to short working hours and lots of contract workers were laid off. Porsche had during the first half of 2009 its production closed of 20 days, and in both firms the boards are discussing a wage reduction of between 20 and 30%.

### **2009-07-23 Paris: Struggles in the car industry in France, a hard fight**

The many struggles going on in the factories in France producing parts for the car industry, are combined with hard fights and increased pressure from the government. The fights at Goodyear in Amiens and Molex at Toulouse are especially worth to be mentioned as they are aimed towards the upkeep of all jobs with all possible means. Partially angry workers chose even spectacular forms of fighting, rather anarchistic and without any sinful aims.

The colleagues of PSA in Poissy near Paris met a cordon of Hundreds of CRS, that aggressive police force which has always been called in against worker's struggles. The whole town was blockaded and even the plant was totally occupied. Hopefully the strike day on 17th September, arranged by the Union CGT in favour of all the laid off workers could allow for the coordination of the different struggles and fights.

### **2009-07-23 The Porsche Chief Wiedeking resigned**

The chairman of the board of Porsche Wendelin Wiedeking resigned after a special board meeting. He was offered 50 Million Euro for his resignation of which he will contribute a half towards social and charitable institutions. At the same time the Porsche Board decided to sell new shares for five billion in advance to the VW Board meeting today.

### **2009-07-31 Sit in strike at Ashok Leyland in India**

500 workers at Ashok Leyland Car-factory I in Hosur India have gone on a sit in strike last Thursday to protest against the transfer of 353 workers to Hosur II plant. The Union fear that the firm plans a lay off of the work force.

### **2009-07-18 Ssangyong: 3000 workers at a solidarity demonstration in South Korea**

On Thursday 3000 workers of the Metal-worker Union KMWU assembled in front of the town office to demonstrate their solidarity with the workers of the Ssangyong car factory. 1000 workers of that firm have occupied the plant since eight weeks to prevent their being dismissed.

### **2009-08-07 Police invades the Ssangyong plant**

Yesterday, 77 days of occupation of the Ssangyong plant in Pyeotaek ended.

4000 police men invaded over the week more and more parts of the occupied factory by force. More than 100 workers were wounded. Before the last police action the union made a deal with the firm management and most of the worker left then the plant. These 600 workers had tried to prevent their being dismissed.

## **Car-workers News August 2009**

### **08-04-09 General Motors will cut thousands jobs**

GM threats to dismiss thousands in its turn to decrease the amount of jobs. The latest offer for shift workers to quit voluntary has not got the enough approval, says the management. By the end of this year GM plans to reduce the jobs in the US plants down to 40500. The last offer to leave voluntary had been accepted by 6000 workers up to First August which means that there are still 48000 shift workers employed, according to the management 7500 too many.

### **08-07-09 2000 Lada workers protest due to shortened wages**

several hundred workers of the largest Russian car firm Avto VAZ have demonstrated yesterday at Togliatti, Wolga against their wages being halved. The firm belongs partially to the French car firm Renault, partially to the state owned firm Russian Technologies. The workers request that the factory will become totally state owned. The management declared that no mass dismissal is planed.

### **08-07-09 Daimler failed in its disciplinary punishment**

Five colleagues of the section tool control at the Daimler Untertuerkheim appealed successfully before the Labour court Stuttgart against disciplinary punishment and wage reduction applied against them because in March 2008 all of them met the workers counsellor Volker Kraft, the candidate of MLPD for the federal election.

### **08-11-09 Strike at Kia Motors for higher wages**

The workers, organized in the trade union of the second largest Korean car firm Kia Motors have today started again their four hours strike. The union asked a wage increase of 5,5% while the firm calls for a wage freeze. The union announced that the four hours strikes will be continued in the early and late shift until the end of August. The strike had already started in July.

### **08-13-09 Ssangyong 64 union members imprisoned**

In Pyeongtack the Ssangyong car factory has reopened its production after the factory had been laid off for 77 days due to the factory having been closed by striking workers. The police announced that in the meantime 64 unionist have been imprisoned including the union leaders. They are accused of having used force against the police and the security personal of Ssangsong. We call for solidarity with the colleagues. Thea must bee set free instantly!

### **08-13-09 Contract workers win against VW**

The Labour Courts Hannover accepted the claim of ten contract workers against VW lorry section to be reemployed again, one of them even with an contract with no time limit!

As from March these contract workers had fought for some weeks against their contracts not being renewed at the end of their terms. 120 of 213 workers inqzestion had got jobs at the Wolfsburg plant, but the activists in this struggle had been laid off.

One of the colleagues said after the judgement: "The fight was not in vain after all!"

### **08-14-09 Aftermath of the premium of car wracking**

The branch club Old Cars has announced today that the sale of cheap second hand cars has been reduced by 80% and some 60000 car mechanics will be unemployed on this account. This means the programme for increasing business outlook for cars by wracking old cars which the government had arranged will hit back like a boomerang. The car monopolists profit from this programme but the small firms and their employees will suffer from it.

### **08-15-09 VW-Porsche: with the Union leader Bertold Hubers blessing becoming No one in the world market**

After the fusion of VW and Porsche by 2011 this car firm will have more than 400,000 workers and a proposed sale of 6,4 Million cars. The Emirate Qatar contributes 7 Billion Euro and will be the third largest owner of this firm. This will heighten the world wide battle amongst the car industry resulting in further capital concentration and mass lay offs of the work force.

VW plans a "strategist partnership" with the Japanese car firm Suzuki. VW has already the majority of shares of lorry producer Scania and 30% of MAN AG, while MAN early in the year has taken over the VW lorry production.

VW boss Winterkorn, being outspoken thinks that the fusion will cause BMW and Daimler to get high blood pressure. He threatened Magna to loose orders, if Magna will take over Opel.

The mass medias beat the drums for the German VW firm to supplant the Japanese rival Toyota. These international monopolies not only try to outnumber their rivals, but attempt a restructuring of the industry with the aim of the car industry being No one.

### **08-19-09 Deutz producing engines cuts 650 jobs**

Deutz cuts some 650 jobs at its main base in Cologne and the close by factory Herschbach. On Monday an agreement had been made with the worker's council to close down 500 jobs in the last quarter 2009. Further 150 jobs will follow in the second quarter 2010. With this agreement Deutz expects the realisation of the cost reducing programme.

### **08-20-09 VW workers in Mexico on strike**

9,440 workers on strike have laid off work since 18th August at Puebla, Mexico. The strike started with a demonstration across Puebla, a city of more than a Million. The strike of the union aims on higher wages. And asked for an increase by 8,25%. The organized workers earn an average 370 Pesos (20 Euro) per day. The inflation in Mexico is this year by 6%, while last year it was only 3,8%.

The strike has international importance and needs broad solidarity. It happens in midst the world economic crisis which has also hit VW in Mexico immensely. The production at Puebla went down from January to July by 37 % to only 167,246 cars compared with the previous year. No one had been laid off thus far but workers have been given holidays.

One reason for it is that the plant in Mexico should be restructured for one Billion US-Dollars to produce a new compact car for the US market with a capacity of 550,000 cars, At the moment the production is by 450,000 cars. VW in Puebla employs at present 13,500 workers and employees.

VW complains that this strike causes a daily production shortage of 1500 cars. The cars produced in Mexico of the make Jetta, Beetle and Sport car and a kombi version of Golf are mainly for the export.



**08-24-09 Strike at VW ended**

On Saturday the union and VW agreed after five days of strike in Puebla to a wage increase of 3% for the 13,000 workers and a single payment of 110 Euro. VW announced at the same time a production increase by enforcing higher productivity.

**08-26-09 Nissan workers blocking streets in Barcelona**

On Tuesday 50 dismissed Nissan workers blocked in Barcelona the coast road in protest against a mass lay off at the Japanese car firm. Nissan had dismissed 700 workers. On Monday more than 1000 workers went in front of the Nissan factory and blocked the entry.

**08-29-09 Car industry: 90,000 jobs threatened?**

In the German car industry 90,000 jobs are in danger of being cut due to the follow up of the "Abwrack Prämie" (the programme of the government to wreck old cars by subsidizing the purchase of a new car with 2500 Euro.) A study of the management consultant Roland Berger states that 40% of the 18,000 sales agents are threatened to having to close down an this account.

## **Car-workers News September 2009**

### **2009-09-02 - Continental threatens with closure of US plant**

The Continental AG producing car parts is racketing the work force at Huntville in Alabama threatening to close the plant in 2010. The majority of the 972 workers are against the shortening of wage and benefits. Continental had taken over this in 2007 in connection with the Siemens VDO section.

### **2009-09-03 - Unionists in the Philippines call for a worldwide "Anti-Toyota campaign"**

Philippine car workers from Toyota fight insystemly for years to get their rights acknowledged by the firm and the government. It started when workers lost their jobs due their struggle for better wages in 2001. Since then Toyota refuses to reemploy the workers and recognize the union. Despite threats against health and life the workers keep on their fight and have already completed three campaigns leading to growing response in by now 45 countries.

These three campaigns got special attention in South East Asia. Even the union of Toyota workers in Japan support them. One delegation of these Philippine workers attended the last car workers counselling in Germany in 2007 and found their univocal support.

### **2009-09-11 - Strike surge in the Brazilian car industry**

Thousands of workers went on strike for higher wages in the Brazilian car firms. This hit especially the plant of General Motors do Brasil in Sao Jose dos Campos (Sao Paulo, where 8,300 workers went on strike ass well as the VW plant in Parana. In addition various firms producing car parts were also involved in this strike.

### **2009-09-12 - VW wants to expand their leading market position in China**

VW wants to invest in China up to 2011 four billion Euro. For the first time VW sold in China more cars than in Germany and wants to put up the sale to some two million cars in the next few years.

### **2009-09-15 Porsche: the sale of cars went down during the last year**

The sale of Porsche cars went down by 24% to some 75,200 cars according to the report of the management. The production was lowered by 27% to some 76,700 cars. Up to the end of this year the 2500 workers were put on shortened working hours for 18 days.

### **2009-09-18 Job reduction in the industry gains speed.**

According to the Federal statistic bureau the producing industry employed by end July 2009 despite shortened working hours 3,9% less people than in 2008. The number of working days sank by 10,4%. The employees in the car industry were especially hit as 4,9% jobs had been cut down.

### **2009-09-03 Daimler Duesseldorf: young workers are forced to so called voluntary contract**

At the car firm Daimler all young workers and new employees since 2004 have been taken on with a separate tariff agreement. This is called "Daimler Move" and includes together with a much lower wage for Daimler the possibility to employ these young

worker for two years in one of the German plants, which means that these workers become a kind of migrant labourers.

**2009-09-22 Daimler assembly line Sindelfingen: “We refuse to be racketed or played about against other plants.”**

There was a very exploding commotion at the workers meeting. It was rumoured beforehand that the management plans to move the production line of the C-Class Model away from Sindelfingen to another place. A number of colleagues and representatives of the workers had turned up with posters expressing the mood of the workers: If you take away from us these C-Class jobs, then there will be anger all over the country.

In the discussion the main message was: we do not accept being racketed or part of a play against other plants. We need our jobs for us and our children! The work force supports with all the possibilities to fight for the jobs. Demonstrations and actions are to be discussed. We have to carry on this struggle to unite internationally for our interests and not only in Sindelfingen. Only united will it be possible to win.

**2009-09-11 The Opel Crime:**

The “good solution, as sold by the government and General Motors is a fraud. The idea is to lull the workers into security despite the fact that thousands of jobs will be cut down, also closing of plants, wage dumping and for the remaining work force intensified strenuous work.

The fear for the fighting power and experience of the Opel workers dictated the happening. A hectic crisis management came together with the government, the management, the head of the workers council and the mass media playing their part. At the beginning, the worst horror scenarios of disclosure were displayed in order to present the proposed solution as the best alternative. Every few hours there were new claims. And why this? It was close to a mass struggle in the European Opel plants.

In Bochum as well as in Eisenach the majority of the work force were ready to close down production if their plants were to be shut down.

**2009-09-16 Opel: Aggression is the best way of defence!**

It becomes more and more obvious, what is called a solution through Magna means for the Opelians that at least 10,500 jobs in Europe will be cut down and the Antwerpen plant will be the first to be closed down.

**2009-09-22 Brazil: 19,000 GM workers on strike**

On Friday 18th September some 19,000 workers went on strike in Brazil in two GM-Plants at Sao Paulo fighting for a wage increase by 10 to 14%. In Parana 3500 VW workers have been already on strike for 13 days while some 60,000 workers of the car part industry in Sao Palo went on strike by Friday.

**2009-09-21 Saragossa: 15,000 workers at a Demo for the Opel jobs.**

On Saturday 15,000 people demonstrated in Saragossa (Spain) for the 7,200 jobs at the Opel plant Figueruelas near Saragossa.

**2009-09-23 International Opel/GM- Action Day against any splitting up!**

Some 5000 unionists and colleagues of the European GM or Opel plants participated at a joint assembly at Antwerpen. The participants came from almost all European countries, from Spain, England, Austria, Portugal, Nederland's, France and

Hungary. Delegation from all GM/Opel plants, also from Germany- Ruesselheim, Kaiserslautern were there. Delegations from many other firms near Antwerpen were present, including some 200 Ford workers from Gent, colleagues from DAS, Netherlands, from Johnson Controls and so on...

## **Car-workers News October 2009**

### **2009-10-06 Bosch counts on drastic losses**

Top managers of the worldwide biggest producer of car parts Bosh reckon a loss of up to three billion Euro for 2009. This would amount to treble the loss prospected in April. The economic crisis hits the car branch fully. There are already 40 large car parts producing firms bankrupt.

rechnet jetzt mit massiven Verlusten

### **2009-10-06 Strike at General Motors in Thailand**

The workers of the assembly firm of GM in the province Rayong in Thailand went yesterday on strike for higher wages. The plant will be closed until further notice.

### **2009-10-08 The decree against Jan Jaeger must be ended as he wins his court case against Daimler AG.**

The court for workers rights in Hamburg decided that the decree against Jan Jaeger must be obliterated in his personal fact sheet. Jan Jaeger had protested in May 2008 against the laying off contract workers. This was taken as a massive disturbance of the peace in the factory and was declared an offence against the working rules.

### **2009-10-18 The car counselling conference at Hannover ended successfully**

The 6th international Car counselling conference has ended most successfully. By now more than 200 participants, amongst them 48 international guests from 17 countries took part in this meeting.

The closing session decided on a mutual international programme for the rights of the car workers. It declares that "we are resolved to join in the cooperation on firm and branch level, to strengthen this cooperation and bring more workers of other firms into it. Never before have been the condition for it so good, the workers so productive and well trained, unified internationally and mutually informed. Never before has there been such a mutual trust and understanding about the basic claims for which we will have to struggle".

### **2009-10-19 Karmann wants to close down 800 jobs.**

It was announced at a meeting of the creditors that the bankrupt Osnabrueck car part producer Karmann will send off 800 of the 1600 workers.

### **2009-10-19 Aschaffenburg: Strike at Takata-Petri**

This morning some 250 colleagues of the early shift at the car part producing firm Takata Petri at Aschaffenburg did not assume work because the proposed job reduction. This Japanese firm wants to close down 335 jobs in the section producing steering wheels and move that production to Romania.

### **2009-10-20 Strike at Takata-Petri: The management threatened with police control but cancelled it.**

The management of Takata-Petri withdrew the decision to close down the production of steering parts after a 14 hour strike. This production "close to the usage at the assembly line" caused an immense shortage by BMW, Audi, Daimler and VW. The production line had to be stopped for four hours effecting a loss of 1,2 million turn over.

### **2009-10-20 India 80,000 car workers on strike**

At Gurgaon, an industrial centre in the Indian state Haryanam some 80,00 workers of some 60 car firms went on strike. The workers ask to have the management of Rico Auto brought to court after a worker had been killed over the weekend. Strikes at Rico continue since several weeks, involving 1700 out of 3000 colleagues who fight for the recognition of their union and for higher wages.

**2009-10-22 Protest actions against mass lay off at Avtovaz in Toljatti Russia**

On 17th October a protest rally took place in Toljaati against the projected closing down of 30,000 jobs by the Lada-firm AwtoWAS.

**2009-10-26 South Africa: children of laid off car workers restarted their fight.**

A report from South Africa says that this year the children of some 1400 colleagues who had been laid off after their strike in 2000 continued their struggle for their fathers.

After these 1400 workers had been discharged the firm employed 1000 youth children. Amongst them children of the discharged workers. These children started now to take up the struggle of their fathers in a similar way.

**2009-10-29 so called "voluntary blood and urine tests" at Daimler.**

Apparently Daimler had asked applicants for a job to undertake voluntary blood and urine tests. Such tests serves the selection of healthy workers, for these monopolies cannot use unhealthy workers for raising their profits. Many other firms seem to apply such methods to the degrades of a majority.

## **Car-workers News November 2009**

### **2009-11-04 - Karman-Strike stops Mercedes production**

The employees of Karman at Osnabrueck stopped the production of the chassis for Mercedes on Monday. This involves the Mercedes SKL-plant at Bremen. This has something to do with the quarrel between Karman and Mercedes about open claims of around 20 Million Euro. Karman is bankrupt.

**2009-11-05 - "International program of the struggling car workers on account of the economic world crisis."** (See news of 18. October - this programme can be downloaded from the internet)

[www.automobilarbeiterratschlag.de](http://www.automobilarbeiterratschlag.de)

### **2009-11-05 - Opel: a fight over the next steps of the work force has started**

Today the workers in all Opel plants of Germany laid off work for some time. There were rallies and demos at Bochum with some 3000 workers, at Eisenach with some one thousand workers, at Kaiserslautern with 3000 and at Ruesselsheim with some ten thousand colleagues. Tomorrow actions in other European plants are to follow.

### **2009-11-05 - Daimler intends to decrease many jobs.**

Daimler encourages several Thousand workers to retire voluntarily. A discharge programme of Hundreds Million should sponsor this programme, according to news from the management. There are already contacts about it with the shop stewards.

### **2009-11-05 - USA: Ford-workers against lowering of production costs.**

A report of "Süddeutsche Zeitung" says, that Ford workers, having assembled several times, refuse to accept the agreement between the Car Union (UAW) and the management. This agreement fixes the wages of new employees, accepts the shortening of paid holidays and the lower contribution to the health insurance. There is one particular point causing opposition: the right for strike is to be censored. At GM and Chrysler UAW has already agreed to similar arrangements.

### **2009-11-06 - India: Strike at Rico ended**

A six week long strike of some 2,200 workers at the car part factory Rico in Gurgaon has ended. The workers called for the reinstatement of these 16 colleagues. The agreement aims on the instant reemployment of eight colleagues while the others are still out of work. This strike led to particle closing down at GM and Ford in the USA and Canada, due to non delivery of components.

### **2009-11-06 - "the new GM-Europe Chief, a tough reconstructor**

The present GM Europe chief Carl-Peter Forster will be replaced by Nick Reilly as the reconstructor of GM in Europe.. Reilly had been responsible for the Asia-business of GM and the cheap market of Chevrolet, which in Europe tries to compete with Opel. Foster had been criticizing the GM Board for stopping suddenly the sale of Opel to Magna.

### **2009-11-07 - threatening strike at Opel Antwerpen**

At Opel Antwerpen laid off work on Friday for one hour: at 5AM all 120 workers of the night shift, at 1PM some one thousand colleagues and at 9 PM another 800 Opel

workers. The whole workforce comprises of 2,300 workers. Another lay off will start on Sunday evening and last for one hour.

**2009-11-13 - Daimler reduces working hours even in 2010.**

Daimler will continue shorter working hours in Germany into the next year. At the moment some 27,000 workers are working shorter hours.

**2009-11-13 - Strike at Indian car part producer hits Ford and**

The workers of Rico Auto Industries Ltd ended their 45 days strike on 6th November, asking for higher wages and better food in the firm. Due to underproduction Ford and GM plants in USA and Canada had to shut down their assembly line. According to the strike leader Prem Kumar earns a worker at Rico 6000 Rupia per month (86 Euro). The factory prefers to employ contract workers for 4000 Rupia, compared with workers fully and fixed employed earning up to 11,000 Rupia.

**2009-11-16 - Protest actions at GM-firms in Russia**

On 11th November 2009 the workers in GM firm Sanct Petersburg started an "Italian strike", meaning, "to work according to the order".

On 13th November a rally took part at the GM-AwoWAS in Toljatti against mass discharging. The rally was organized by the independent Union MPRA-WKT (transregional Union of the car workers - All-Russia-federation for work)

**2009-11-17 - Strike at Indian car parts producer: The colleagues need solidarity**

"rf-news" publishes Interview about the strike at Rico in Gurgaon:

We were in front of the firm with some 2000 people all through the night. Suddenly armed men appeared, sprayed tear gas and shot at us. One worker was killed. On account of this, the Union AITUC called on all 20 firms for strike of solidarity. It is said that some 100,000 workers took part in this strike.

**2009-11-20 - Brussels: Strike at Autovision hits Audi**

The colleagues of Autovision in Belgia are on strike already for three days. Therefore the production of the AR model at Audi Brussels has been laid off for want of components. The colleagues protest against the agreement about the delivery of the car components which ends in 2009 to be fixed with another deliverer.

**2009-11-20 Opel pays Christmas bonus and higher wages**

GM Opel has tried for a year to manipulate the various workforces in Europe against each other. Against court decisions the management held back agreed higher wages and holiday bonus while threatening with bankruptcy and mass unemployment, should the workforce not comply with the arrangement of the management.

All their effort was in vain. A broad protest over months of the Opel colleagues showed backbone against not only these provocations, but also the mass discharging. Despite all the media propaganda (PR) about the "Opel-crisis" and despite all the measurements of suppression of the management even threats against individual colleagues, the workforce has fought and got their right.

**2009-11-30 - 3.000 jobs at Daimler in danger**

The Daimler management tests the chance to close down the production of the C-model from its plant at Sindelfingen and transfer it to the US-plant at Tuscaloosa. Apparently this should bring down the production cost and make Mercedes more independent against the Dollar exchange rate. In this US plant SUVs and the R-model are



produced. According to the shop steward at Sindelfingen, such a displacement of production would endanger some 3000 jobs. The shop steward board had already submitted to plans in 1996 and 2004 when the management had threatened with such a rearrangement.

## **Car-workers News December 2009**

### **2009-12-02 Fiat intends to close plant at Termini**

The Italian Car firm Fiat wants to raise the car production during the next few year by some 40% to 900,000 cars. Connected with this programme the production at Termini on the north east of Sicily will be closed down by 2011. The workforce struggles already over the years against this closure, has blocked motorways several times, also railway lines. The closure intended a few years ago had been effectively stopped.

### **2009-12-02 Daimler Sindelfingen: 3.000 to 4.000 on spontaneous strike**

When this morning the news came out that Daimler will move the production of the C-class from Sindelfingen (2014 60% to Bremen, 20% to Tuscaloosa in USA and 10% to China and South Africa), it did not take long to bring the assembly line to a stand still: 3000 to 4000 workers working at the C-class, S and E-class left their job and assembled before the management to hear about the future of their jobs.

### **2009-12-03 Reutlingen: AL fights for jobs**

Last week the producer of car parts Automotive Lightning (AL) announced that the complete production of LED and other relays will be moved from Brotterode, Thueringen and of the reflectors to Jihlava in Czechia . AL was formerly a Bosch plant and belongs now to MAGNETI Marelli (Fiat). Yesterday some 1000 colleagues protested on the street and got support from delegations of other firms.

### **2009-12-04 Sindelfingen: 15.000 Daimler-worker demonstrated this morning**

This morning at 10 AM some 15,000 colleagues of the early and main shift marched to the main entry of Daimler and the centre of Sindelfingen

The shift fixed for Saturday was stopped. Even in the evening, Thousands of Daimler colleagues assembled at the main entry. No one to carry the demonstration to Boeblingen

### **2009-12-05 500 of Toyota Motorsport atn Cologne laid off.**

500 of all together 650 workers of Toyota Motorsport at Cologne were given notice on 30.11.09 out of the blue. After Toyota ended the contract with Formel One, these 500 workers will only be employed until summer 2010. Another 150 contract workers will also loose their jobs.

### **2009-12-07 - Independent strike at Hyundai in Czechia**

On 2nd December a strike was started in the **Czechia** car work of Hyundai at Nosovice against miserable working conditions. The workers complain about the 11-hours shifts, too short breaks and disadvantages after sick leaf.

### **2009-12-09 - Firm down closures heightened in 2009.**

According to the prognosis of the statistic federal Bureau there will be 34,000 foreclosures in 2009. It is part of the foreclosures of firms producing car parts and other services specially hit by the economic crisis which effected especially the car industry, the trade and tool production.

The prognosis of the Economic Credit form for 2010 reckons with further foreclosures up to 40,000.

**2009-12-10 - Mann+Hummel-colleagues demonstrate**

Yesterday some 400 colleagues of the car part producer Mann+Hummel at Ludwigsburg marched out to protest against the prospected job reduction of 388 from 1800 working places.

**2009-12-16 - car-supplier producer Kiekert cancels the job stewards**

Kiekert AG at Heiligenhaus produces lock systems for the car industry. After the management had forced the colleagues to accept a new agreement called security of the working place with rigorous measurements, a new social arrangement was agreed on with part of the job stewards according which 307 workers will lose their job from all together 1000.

**2009-12-17 - "Information assembly" at Daimler in Mettingen**

In Mettingen an additional "Information assembly" took place, in which a power point production was replayed to other places of the Stuttgart plants. The message was that the relocation of the C-Class would make the jobs in the motor production more secure.

The listeners took this message calmly, although there was much to think off about the future. There was direct opposing reaction. Yet the discussion at the production line about the future of their jobs will continue.

**2009-12-19 - GM liquidate the Saab branch**

GM ended talks about the sale of the bankrupt Swedish firm Saab. The liquidation is to start in January 2010 together with notifying the 3,400 workers. The production lines will be dismantled in Sweden and moved to China.

**2009-12-21 - Fiat-workers fight for their jobs**

Workers of Fiat plant Pomigliano D'Arco near Neapel protested against having the agreements of Hundreds colleagues not extended. This firm produces the Alfa-Model. The Fiat chief Marcionne announced strong measures to upgrade the production in the Italian Fiat-plants.

**2009-12-21 - Car branch hit by massive sale loss**

According to a study of the "Centre Car-research" (CAR) at the university of Duisburg-Essen the sale of cars will go down dramatically due to the so called premium for car sales. After the end of this programme there could be a slump of between 25 and 50 %. This study forecasts the closure of up to 4000 car sale agencies.

**2009-12-22 - Ford to close further 41,000 jobs.**

The fourth largest car firm Ford is to cut down some 41,000 jobs connected with bonus payments and early retirement offers. Ford has already cut down nearly 10,000 jobs since early this year. Today only 80,000 workers are employed compared with the 240,000 workers and officials in the 1980.