

## **Strike - Your right!**

Dear colleagues,

collective bargaining will take place in your company from . In collective bargaining your wages and working conditions will be negotiated between trade unions and employers. If the negotiations fail, there may be a strike. A strike is when workers in a company temporarily stop working. Instead of working, they gather in front of the company to press their demands. This is because if workers do not work, the employer cannot earn money from their work.

### **What are trade unions?**

Trade unions are the workers organised in them. In Germany, every worker has the right to be a member of a trade union.

### **Who is allowed to strike?**

Only trade unions are allowed to call a strike in Germany. If a union calls a strike, however, *all* colleagues (including vocational trainees) of the called companies may take part in a strike within the framework of collective bargaining. Your employer cannot give you a warning or dismiss you for taking part in a strike. Nor may they prevent you from taking part in the strike. You do not have to work overtime or sign off.

### **What are the benefits of union membership during a strike?**

You will not be paid for the duration of the strike. However, members of the union calling the strike can get strike support. This is intended to partially compensate for your loss of wages - regardless of whether you are employed full-time or part-time or are a vocational trainee. Your union representative can tell you exactly how much strike pay you will receive. You are also entitled to legal protection if your employer gives you a warning or dismisses you, for example as a result of a strike. However, this is very rare.

If you have any further questions about strikes and trade union membership, please contact your

Works Council:

Trade union representative: