

Sunday 29 oktober
10 am untill 4 pm in Hamburg
Bürgerhaus Wilhelmsburg - Mengestrasse 20

International Dockworkers Meeting



We stand for

- >> the militant way in our union-struggles!
- >> international solidarity and common struggle of dockworkers worldwide! Not just talk - get organized!
- >> our history, the life of dockworkers, our families!
- >> for the international workers' movement – no to division according to nation of port!
- >> for a liberated society! Peace! Environment!
- >> 30-hour working week with equal pay as an answer to automation!

Contribution to expenses is 10 euros



In 2008, dockworkers from Hamburg and Rotterdam, their friends and families, met for the first time for a joint exchange of experiences. The meeting was co-organised by friends and comrades from the MLPD (Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany) and Rode Morgen (Marxist-Leninist organisation in the Netherlands).

Since then, the exchange of port workers' experiences has taken place six times with colleagues from Hamburg, Bremerhaven, Lübeck, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, from Spain and from St Petersburg (Russia). Most recently, the meeting took place in the summer of 2018 in Rotterdam. Because of the Corona pandemic, there was a break and we are now about to make a restart.

We are working together internationally, organising solidarity with striking dockworkers around the world, strengthening our unions for struggle, contributing our experiences and working together respectfully and equally.

We organised visits to dockworkers in Piraeus (Greece) and Sweden. Our aim is to contribute to coordinating the struggles of dockers, seamen and shipyard workers.

We chose a joint coordination group and decided on the principles and rules for our work. And we also included new themes, such as the struggle for the protection of the natural environment, the struggle against militarisation, nuclear transport and predatory, imperialist wars.

Dockworkers from North-Germany

In the summer of 2022, 12,000 dockworkers in northern Germany went on strike for their collective agreement. For the first time after almost 45 years! Immediately, police and strike bans were announced!

Dockworkers recount: *"What I found so powerful is that 99% from the dockworkers had never been to a demo before and then when the police stood there and brought out their tear gas and their truncheons, nobody ran away. They hooked their arms and marched forward as a wall and the police were pushed back for two kilometres."*

Solidarity: *"Colleagues from the railways came to us, had a super nice contribution, a banner... We stood there and were completely dumbfounded: that was heartwarming! They went from one terminal to the other and brought their contribution everywhere."*

"I went to the press. I sent a text to every email address of newspaper, radio, TV. Two hours later, I had the first appointment at the radio and then they practically broke down our door. They don't have access to normal people. We have to establish that ourselves."

"I was one of those who kept saying, 'they should do something' - without doing anything myself. And when it was announced: 'there is a strike now' - the first time in 44 years, it made me say: now I'll do something myself!"



Dockworkers from the Netherlands

The **'Volle Lading'** ('The Full Load') is a periodical for dockworkers - from colleagues for colleagues.



Volle Lading stands inseparably on the side of dockworkers since April 1988. In solidarity, critical and with the perspective of a society without exploitation and oppression.

In all ports of the world, dockworkers are looking for ways to resist the attacks of shipping companies and stevedore corporations. They are also looking for a way for young and old to stand up for common interests and fight for a future for the young workers in the ports.

Rotterdam is one of the biggest ports in Europe, but the future of dockworkers and their families does not lie in competing with colleagues in other ports. Experience shows that any progress has to be fought for and that we have to stand up for real trade-unionism and for the solidarity and common struggle of dockers on an international level.

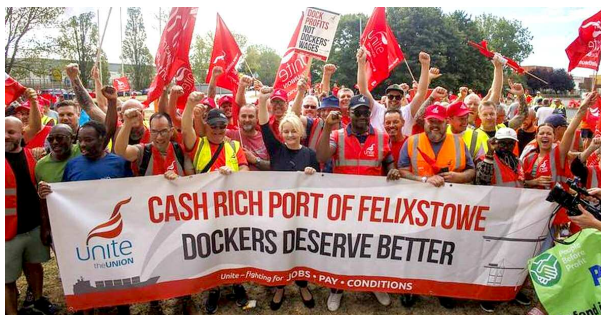


What to expect from the Dockworkers Meeting

- Reports from ports and from the different countries
- Discussion and decisions about our common work
- Election of the new co-ordinating group

Our principles:

- **Fight for every job and traineeship**, with wages high enough to lead a decent life. Equal pay for equal work - collective tariff-agreements according to the principle of one company, one tariff-agreement. Rejection or withdrawal of deteriorations.
- Conversion of all temporary employment contracts, flexible jobs and agency work in permanent jobs. Abolition of pulp work and 'red cards' - **never again day labourers!**
- We are fighting as dockworkers against the sell-out of the ports by privatising the ports and against the attempts of overall deterioration to be implemented as an EU-dictate.
- We are committed to **maintaining the conditions for the natural environment**, by supporting environmental friendly means of transport and we support the **resistance against nuclear and weapons transports**.
- We are fighting for a **better future for our families and especially for the youth** and we therefore purposefully address young people. Traineeship may only be put to work for the purpose of their education.
- **Friends of the struggle of the dockworkers are very welcome**. We are eager to unite with people working in other companies on the



basis of common struggle.

- We demand and commit ourselves to trade-unions that operate **democratically and militantly** defend the interests of the workers.
- We **decide** in a democratic way about our work and do this without payment. Therefore, we can discuss and struggle in solidarity. We are **non party-partisan**: every democrat is welcome. Dockworkers are international, that is why there is no place among us for reactionary, nationalist or fascist ideas.
- In terms of **ideology, we have an open outlook**, because the idea of a society without exploitation and oppression, when capitalism is over, enlivens our struggle and offers it a perspective.
- We are **financially independent**, because we only need to keep ourselves to our own decisions! We welcome gifts, even when they are earmarked in the sense of part of our goals, as long as the donor does not attach any further conditions to his or her gifts.



Actual information:
www.dockers-international.org