



July 5, 2006

# WEC/EWC-NEWS

## **U.S.A: UAW-President Ron Gettelfinger to join the DC Supervisory Board**

UAW president Ron Gettelfinger will succeed Nate Gooden as an employee representative on the DC supervisory board. Nate Gooden has announced his retirement from the UAW. The UAW holds one out of three seats on the supervisory board since 1998 which are entitled to the IG Metall according to German law. Ron Gettelfinger was nominated by the UAW. The employee representatives on the supervisory board welcome Ron Gettelfinger and look forward to a fruitful working relationship.

During the UAW convention, General Holiefield was elected Vice President in charge of DaimlerChrysler. The UAW's decisions clearly underline the importance of the co-operation between the General Works Council, the World Employee Committee and the IG Metall.

## **Germany: New Management Model negotiations fail to reach a solution**

During the session on June 29, Erich Klemm submitted a petition to Mr. Fleig consisting of 16,000 signatures from DaimlerChrysler employees throughout Germany and Europe. No progress was made with regard to the basic demands from the Group Works Council and European Works Council. The company continues to refuse to explicitly forgo involuntary personnel reduction measures. The negotiations have also been hampered by the management's inability to provide details regarding the consequences of the NMM for the plants and the employees. Negotiations are scheduled to continue on July 10.

## **Netherlands: Last smart forfour at NedCar**

DaimlerChrysler's decision to discontinue the smart forfour has hit the Dutch NedCar plant, resulting in

1,100 job cuts, which amounts to nearly half of the employees. Meanwhile, the K lleda MDC plant in Eastern Germany is under DaimlerChrysler management. The company produced four engines and was co-owned by Mitsubishi.

## **Germany: Supplier violates employee rights**

A Mercedes-Benz supplier, HIB, has severely violated the German Labor Relations Act and thereby DaimlerChrysler's Principles of Social Responsibility. Under cover of night HIB dismantled an entire plant including all of the equipment without informing the employees or the works council. The Works Council Chairmen from Audi, Porsche and DaimlerChrysler have strongly protested HIB's behavior. If the HIB management fails to rapidly initiate corrective measures, DaimlerChrysler will be forced to sever business relationships with both HIB and its parent company, Dr xlmaier Group.

## **Harbour enters Mercedes Car Group and Truck Group**

In an attempt to raise productivity, Harbour consultants have begun investigating the production processes at Mercedes passenger and commercial vehicle plants in Germany. According to the management, the number of hours required per vehicle at the Mercedes plants is far too high.

Erich Klemm

WEC/EWC-Chairman