

Atlas-Boss Confirms Layoffs

Filipov: More people required in production

The owner justifies the ten to twelve terminations by high losses; counters the union's criticism that by 25 transfers he wants to strengthen production.

BY SONIA VOIGT

GANDERKESEE-DELMENHORST – New hires in production and layoffs in the “indirect area”: That’s how Fil Filipov, owner of Atlas Maschinenbau GmbH since three months ago, describes his measures taken since the takeover of the three locations in Ganderkesee, Delmenhorst, and Vechta. The harsh criticism from the labor union (IG) Metall (dk reported) the new boss rebuffs, however, he confirms its information regarding terminations – which he had expected before. Filipov talks about ten to twelve terminations, but it is important for him to point out that these are not workers but managers who will have to leave.

Filipov justifies the measure by losses of more than two million euro per month that Atlas had to take up to now. “Efficiency is at less than 50 percent”, he explains. The company needs “more people who work and less who watch”. Currently only 280 of the 650 employees are working in manufacturing. For the production he plans 15 new hires this month, distributed on all three locations.

Filipov also confirms transfers within the company. He plans to transfer 25 employees from other areas to production. For four or five of them a transfer from one location to another is planned. The Atlas owner denies, however, reductions of compensation as criticized by IG Metall. “I have not cut anybody’s pay”, Fil Filipov declares. At the same time, however, he announces more work for the money. He plans to increase the weekly working hours to 40 hours – at the same pay – “for as long as the company loses money”, the Atlas boss says.

Regarding the criticism of his behavior towards the employees’ representatives Fil Filipov says: “I will work with the works council, but I will not work for the works council.” In the past two months two meetings with the works councils had been held, he replies to the question, why company representatives had failed to appear at committees like the economics council, in spite of timely invitations. Reproaches from the works councils that the management withholds information from them, Filipov replies that he for his part is waiting since four weeks for a reaction regarding the increase of working hours. “The correct contact in this matter would be IG Metall as a collective bargaining party who had signed the collective bargaining agreement”, says Hartmut Tammen-Henke, 1st representative of the Oldenburg IG Metall. Filipov, however, had only contacted the works councils.