

# Tariff dispute at Atlas grows more acute

## Petition with a clear vote

**The Atlas employees want to have tariff-based security. The new boss Fil Filipov says he is not anxious to have a conflict. However, he does not feel obliged to IG Metall.**

BY LARS LAUE AND THOMAS BREUER

**GANDERKESEE-DELMENHORST.** A few weeks after the takeover of the former Terex-locations at Ganderkesee, Delmenhorst, and Vechta by investor Fil Filipov, there are strong protests from the employees of the new Atlas Maschinen GmbH. Of the total 650 employees at the three locations, 510 pronounced by their signature that they favor the application of the collective bargaining agreement at Atlas. This is what Hartmut Tammen-Henke, 1<sup>st</sup> representative of IG Metall Oldenburg, announced yesterday. By their signature the employees also expressed that they do not want their situation to deteriorate with new individual employment contracts.

According to Tammen-Henke the management, however, “obviously is not interested to give the workforce that security”. Joint works council chairman Holger Rigbers says: “The works councils have already been forwarded sample employment contracts which the employees will be given as new employment contracts. They include, e.g., provisions which clearly violate legal regulations. This includes the flat exclusion of any overtime compensation.” Furthermore, the working hours will be increased from 35 hours per week to 40 hours at the same pay and neither vacation nor Christmas bonuses will be paid. Promises for company pension entitlements are also cancelled, according to Rigbers.

Tammen-Henke from IG Metall points out that up to now tariff-based provisions had applied at Terex which were transferred as per the legal regulations to the new owner Fil Filipov in connection with the operations transfer. Therefore, Tammen-Henke says that they will also apply to the current employment relationship. The new employment contracts, as presented now, are a clear deterioration of the former regulations and, therefore, are void as per the legal regulations.

IG Metall declared that they had offered to negotiate the new tariff-based provisions with Filipov Tammen-Henke: “We did not want to block the future of Atlas, but we want it to provide security for the employees.” They were not living “on the fat of the land” when they were employed at Terex. “We want a good future for Atlas, and that means together with the employees. We are one unit and, therefore, we also want uniform conditions for all”, the works councils from the Ganderkesee, Delmenhorst, and Vechta locations point out.

When asked, Filipov in a first reaction expressed lack of understanding. He had cut nobody’s wages and has no contractual agreements with IG Metall. “I am not interested in an open conflict”, says the CEO of Atlas Maschinen GmbH. “But I will not have my business run by IG Metall.”