

COVID19: ArcelorMittal must react!

On 17th of March 2020, a meeting took place, gathering representatives of employees and the management of ArcelorMittal, in order to address the various questions and challenges posed by the COVID19 virus. **This meeting took place at the initiative of the OGBL.**

At this meeting, the **OGBL representatives asked the company to take on its responsibilities**, applying strictly all recommendations given out by the authorities and the occupational medicine:

- Putting into place a **pandemic plan**, as recommended by the occupational medicine
- **Protecting fragile employees** (those with cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases or immuno-deficiencies)
- **Send home immediately all employees who are sick and appropriately guide those employees who might have had contact with a sick person**
- **Making use of home office**, wherever this is possible
- Putting at the disposition of all employees **all means necessary to guarantee their safety**
- **Making use of short time work** (technical unemployment) in case of any interruption of the production or in the case that a normal functioning of the company should not be possible (lack of work, lack of stocks, underemployment, etc.)
- Do everything to **help with the paperwork** (permits to cross the borders, certificates, etc.)
- **Foresee an action plan** in case of more impacting decisions will be taken
- **Be lenient what delays of handing in documents** is concerned, like for instance sick leaves
- **Listen and be there for the employees!**

The management of ArcelorMittal has promised to put into place all the recommendations in cooperation with the occupational medicine. The company has also promised that it will put every possible measure in place in order to guarantee the safety and security of everybody. It was also decided that the delegation and the management would keep in regular contact both on a local and on a global level during the duration of the crisis.

The OGBL will make sure that these basic principles will be put into place and will intervene at the relevant authorities, in order to insure that the recommendations and regulations regarding health and safety of the employees will be respected.

The OGBL has already made **interventions with government officials**, so that all employees will get guidance and will be covered by a variety of measures (financial support, short-time work (technical unemployment), social security, etc.) in order to guarantee their jobs and their livelihood. Also demands on **various problems (tax, social security) concerning cross-border workers** have been put forward by the OGBL.

The OGBL and its delegates are well aware that we are passing through times unseen and that an unseen effort is demanded from all the employees in the country. The solidarity of every single one of us is more than ever essential.

The delegates of the OGBL will stay at your disposition if you remark any problems or if you have any questions.

Your delegates