



UNI europa P&MS Steering Committee calls on IBM Turkey to play fair

The UNI europa Professional and Managerial Staff (P&MS) Steering Committee, representing 132 UNI europa affiliates, at its meeting on 15-16 June 2010 in Istanbul, expressed its full support for the IBM employees and their trade union TEZ-KOOP-IS in Turkey, who struggle for a collective agreement.

After IBM Turkey had exhausted all legal options, it was eventually forced in February 2010 by the Turkish High Court to recognize UNI affiliate TEZ-KOOP-IS and to enter into collective bargaining.

However, IBM has not shown much willingness to reach an agreement at the bargaining table.

After a detailed brief about IBM Turkey behaving in the negotiations of a collective agreement, the P&MS Steering Committee expressed its dismay and condemned IBM's tactics of protracting the bargaining process and its reluctance to negotiate in a constructive way.

Before negotiating seriously, IBM called for mediation. IBM Turkey has indicated it would present a new draft collective agreement, however, expressed its objection to negotiate the terms and conditions.

The P&MS Steering Committee said that such a proposal was totally unacceptable and it would stand in solidarity by its Turkish colleagues.

The P&MS Steering Committee expressed its determination to give any support needed to the Turkish trade unionists in order to achieve an acceptable collective agreement.