

Croatia: the Supreme Court decided that strike in the Same Deutz Fahr Žetelice factory is unlawful

The Same Deutz Fahr Žetelice factory is part of the Italian Same Deutz Fahr Corporation. It is located in the City of Županja in Eastern Slavonia and produces 400 combine harvesters a year, most of which end up on the European market. Thus is the only factory of its kind in Croatia and prior to its privatisation it was part of the Đuro Đaković factory for farm machinery.

Workers at the Same Deutz Fahr Žetelice factory have been on strike since 9 January 2019 due to low wages and demanded an increase of HRK 750 (Euro 100) and an 8% allowance for special working conditions. The management offered the increase in salaries for HRK 85 (Euro 11.5) and HRK 400 (Euro 54) that are not liable to taxation with the obligation that workers would not negotiate on wages in next three years. Workers did not accept such proposal and began with the strike. The Supreme Court on 7 February decided that strike in the Same Deutz Fahr Žetelice factory is unlawful so the workers returned on their posts on 8 February 2019. The Supreme Court in the explanation states that the Collective agreement is still valued, and that the employer fulfils all his obligations. However, the representative from the Trade Union underlines that the Annex to the Collective agreement has expired on 31 August 2018.

Predrag Bejakovic

Source: tportal.hr: *Najveća tvornica kombajna Vrhovni sud proglasio štrajk u Same Deutz Fahr Žetelice nelegalnim, radnici razočarani*, 7 February 2019, available on https://www.tportal.hr/vijesti/clanak/vrhovni-sud-proglasio-strajk-u-same-deutz-fahr-zetelice-

nelegalnim-radnici-razocarani-20190207