



UNI signs global agreement with Securitas

Respect for the worldwide rights of workers to join trade unions is a key ingredient in UNI global union's agreement with Swedish-based security services company Securitas.

The agreement covers 225,000 workers in this rapidly globalising company and is the ninth so far signed by UNI with major multinationals to secure worker rights wherever those companies operate in the world.

UNI General Secretary Philip Jennings, Securitas Chief Executive Thomas Berglund and the Swedish Transport union's Per Winberg signed the agreement in Nyon, Switzerland.

The agreement draws on the UN's Declaration of Human Rights and the International Labour Organisation's fundamental principles and provides for regular global dialogue between unions and Securitas.

The agreement recognises that unions need access to workers in order to organise effectively and recruit members. The company also agrees to recognise unions under the easiest process available. There will be joint monitoring of the agreement with a global implementation team and local monitoring to include local management, unions and health and safety representatives.

All parties to the agreement commit to support the company's key objectives of integrity, vigilance and helpfulness and the company's Code of Conduct (itself the result of discussions between the company, unions and the European Works Council).

The Code includes a pledge from Securitas that "Ethical conduct is good business. Ethics must be an everyday concern and every action taken by Securitas and by each employee must at all times satisfy the highest ethical, moral and legal standards."

The Code recognises that "corrupt and anti-competitive measures distort markets and hamper economic and social progress" and supports "efforts by international and national authorities to establish and enforce high ethical standards for all businesses".

Securitas will consult employee representatives over any changes to the Code and business partners who fail to observe the Code could lose their contracts after a written warning.

"We support ethical companies like Securitas and, as unions, we'd like to promote responsible contractors everywhere," said UNI's Philip Jennings. "We believe the agreement strengthens global dialogue and the ability of unions to organise and recognises that strong unions are in a better position to defend standards."

"We want quality service by creating jobs with pride and a future," Securitas CEO Thomas Berglund told UNI Property Services global union during their meeting in Nyon.

"I am proud to be chairman of the union that has been able to contribute to getting this agreement," said Per Winberg, of Sweden's Transport union, which will play a key role in the implementation of the global deal.

* UNI is the global union for skills and services, representing more than 900 unions in 150 countries with 15 million affiliated members.

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