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Onderwerp: European Multinational's position on Vietnam wages "totally unacceptable", say ETUC and ITUC

**EUROPEAN MULTINATIONALS' POSITION ON
VIETNAM WAGES "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE",
SAY ETUC AND ITUC**

25 November 2010

**John Monks, General Secretary of the
European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)**

**European Trade Union Confederation [ETUC]
Confédération européenne des syndicats [CES]**

today described as "totally unacceptable" the position of the European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (EuroCham) threatening withdrawal of European investment in the country if minimum wages are raised. ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow has described EuroCham's intervention as "offensive".



John Monks said that the ETUC expected European companies to contribute to decent work and sustainable development in their host countries. He pointed out that the European Union (EU) had consistently pressed for sustainable development chapters to be included in Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with third countries in line with those objectives. The EU is planning to engage in negotiations with Vietnam on such an FTA. In a letter to Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht, he asked the Commission to ask EuroCham, which the ETUC understood received support from the Commission, *"to desist from making such statements which can only undermine the development of proper trade relations with Vietnam"*.

Sharan Burrow described the Eurocham's position as *"an offensive intervention in Vietnam's wage-setting, at a time when many foreign companies are actually finding it hard to attract workers due to the low wages they offer. European companies should not be trying to export poverty wages to Vietnam or anywhere else - decent incomes are central to economic growth and development."*

Link to ETUC's letter: www.etuc.org/a/7880

The ETUC exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 82 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 12 industry-based federations.

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