

Conference on Latin American regional company networks in the chemical industry

9-10 November 2009

São Paulo, Brazil

Experiences on Networking, Agreements and Campaigns

- In the self-conception of my union is international solidarity an obligation of honour
- My union tries to do its best to support brothers and sisters all over the world
- My union is doing its support in the culture and tradition of the German system of industrial relations and labour rules

Experiences on Networking, Agreements and Campaigns

- Solidarity is no longer a one-way-street and we can see more and more examples for trade union support from the South to the North, e.g. Vale
- Trade unions from the industrialized countries cannot promise miracles and the reason of the success of the Latin American networks is based on strong and strategic thinking unions on both sides of the Atlantic.
- Union networks in other regions like Asia are by far less successful. This is a big challenge for ICEM to improve our standing there.

Joint experiences between IG BCE and Latin American trade unions

- BASF

- In Latin America well developed and a strong reliable structure
- Every 2 years meeting with a board member of BASF, IG BCE representatives and works council members

- Bayer

- In Brazil well developed
- Close links to IG BCE, but without attendance on its meetings

- Lanxess

- Starting point after break from Bayer and acquisition of Petroflex
- Big interest of German works council to support network

Experiences with GFAs

- Freudenberg
 - Network in Brazil doesn't work because of too many different trade unions
 - After a struggle in the US signing of an understanding of neutrality.

Campaigning

- Our common understanding of campaigning is a bit different from other parts in the world
- Political pressure to improve legislation on national, European or international level:
 - REACH (**R**egistration, **E**valuation, **A**uthorisation and **R**estriction of **C**hemicals)
 - Carbondioxide-Emission-Trading
- New development with World Day for Decent Work

