



**Federazione Impiegati Operai Metallurgici nazionale**

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## **UNITED WE CAN DO IT!**

We call for a general strike of metalworkers on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January; it is a fundamental step to reclaim the National Contract and protection of workers' rights in the workplaces.

What Fiat has put in place at the Mirafiori and Pomigliano d'Arco plants is an unprecedented union-busting, authoritarian and antidemocratic decision. Nothing similar has ever happened in the history of labor relations in our country after the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war.

It is an attack on the principles and values of the Italian Constitution and democracy, because it tramples on workers' freedom to choose which union to join in order to protect their collective rights and elect their own representatives within the company. The union which has not signed the agreement gets wiped out from the workplace, while those which have signed are transformed into corporative company union, the watchdogs of whatever decisions are taken unilaterally by Fiat. The National Collective Contract gets cancelled, working conditions deteriorate, workers are more exploited and forced to work longer hours, the right to strike is violated and workers on sick leave are subject to wage cuts: years of labour struggles and achievements have been wiped away in one stroke.

Marchionne's blackmail is in line with the ongoing dismantling of labor laws, aimed at making every worker isolated and precarious; it is the same regressive approach adopted by the Government in attacking the right to education and research, through Minister Gelmini's so called "Education reform" and the cuts in government funding of information and culture. In this way, fundamental democratic principles for a civil coexistence, are challenged.

Fiom believes that work is a common good. For this reason, after the blackmail/illegitimate referendum imposed by Fiat at the Pomigliano plant, we convened a mass demonstration, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. That demonstration was open to all people committed to the defense of inviolable constitutional rights and freedoms.

The general metalworkers strike called on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January and the demonstrations after the blackmail/referendum in Mirafiori have the same objective: when fundamental rights are violated, there is no limit to the damage done, which will eventually affect the whole labor community. This has clearly been shown in the case of the derogations to the National Metalworkers Contract signed by Federmeccanica and the other metalworkers Unions.

Fiom is committed to supporting the national collective Contract, without any derogation; to defending legality, democracy and freedom of association; to fighting precariousness and marketplace supremacy, which devour people's lives and jeopardize social cohesion and the future of our country.

We ask all women and men, associations and social movements who share these views, to support the metalworkers' struggle and to sign this petition.