

Circle Media Group

URGENT CALL FOR MOBILISATION OF EUROPEAN WORKERS

Coming together for an emergency meeting, the various unions representing employees at the companies belonging to the Circle Media Group (CMG)¹ took stock of a more than worrying situation at each CMG entity.

The Circle Media Group, the leading European company for printing periodicals, books, advertising material and catalogues, is back on the acquisition warpath, without having the financial means to back its strategy.

Taking place under unacceptable conditions, the liquidation of its Belgian printing works in Charleroi reflects the unorthodox practices of the Cypriot and Luxembourg shareholder, often outside the jurisdiction of the countries in which the printing works are located.

Late payment of wages, job cuts, unpaid suppliers of paper and ink, bank delisting, factoring defaults the list of defaults on payments by CMG management is long. And on top of this, the company's high debt burden is increasingly leading to the bankruptcy of many production plants.

With this situation starting to hit each country, we need to join hands on the social front.

The total opacity of the financial flows and the financial situation of CMG companies and CMG itself have prompted the unions and Uni Europa Graphical and Packaging to file complaints with the European and respective national authorities.

In this more than alarming situation regarding the future of the printing works and their employees, the unions have decided the following:

1. To set up a joint platform for exchanging information, feeding it with all business and strategic information for each of the CMG companies, by country;
2. To disseminate this declaration to all CMG employees on the same day and at national press conferences;
3. To file complaints with the public authorities, informing them about the situation and how serious it is;

¹ Circle Media Group is the name given to the company after the merger between Circle Printers and Roto Smeets which took place in 2017. In 2018, Circle Media Group conducted several acquisitions such as Corelio Printing, CPI group and K rner Druck. Today Circle Media Group is located in 10 European countries with more than 5000 workers

4. To take action to increase solidarity between CMG employees by informing each other of any shifts in workloads and any financial flows of which they become aware;
5. Last but not least, to set up as soon as possible a European works council in line with EU legislation.

The unions are calling for the mobilisation of everyone to avoid disasters similar to what the Charleroi employees have experienced.

Brussels, 26 February 2019

