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WORKERS UNITING

Mr. Berry Wiersum
CEO, Sappi Fine Papers Europe
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15 October 2009
BY EMAIL: berry.wiersum@sappi.com
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Dear Mr. Wiersum:

Workers Uniting, the world's first global union is a partnership between Unite from the United Kingdom and the United Steelworkers (USW) from the United States and Canada, has learned of the contract dispute at Sappi's two mills in the Netherlands, at Nijmegen and Maastricht. We understand that in late September, 800 workers at these two mills, represented by all Dutch unions solidly rejected a very inferior company proposal.

We want it to be made known that Sappi's pay offer over the next 21 months is insulting. We also want it to be made known that Sappi's insistence on taking away the "seniorendagen" for workers with long-time service to the company is unfair. Workers age 55 and over have earned these days off and Sappi must adhere to contractual commitments it has made in the past.

We urge you to instruct your managers in the Netherlands to return to dialogue with the workers' representatives and raise the level of salary adjustments over the next two years, as well as assuring that senior workers retain what they have earned in their many long years of employment service to Sappi.

Working Uniting will be watching closely this dispute at your two mills in the Netherlands, and we intend to take further action if need be. We will strongly support our Dutch colleagues in all ways possible, and urge you now to prevent a dispute that will only deepen if Sappi does not return make an acceptable contract offer to Nijmegen and Maastricht workers.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Simpson and Leo Gerard
Workers Uniting joint chairs