



Solidarity with Irish Coca-Cola Workers!

"We are delighted to see the benefit of our cost saving initiatives, together with lower commodity cost, contribute to a solid operating profit performance"
Mr Doros Constantineou,, CEO of Coca-Cola HBC announcing profits of €200 mln for the first half of 2009.

Workers at Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Co (Coca-Cola HBC), organized in the IUF's Irish affiliate SIPTU, have been walking the picket lines at 5 company distribution centers since August 27 in a tough struggle against a harsh attack on their working conditions.

In June, the company announced a plan to restructure operations by outsourcing the workplaces to third party providers with massively reduced terms and conditions for the outsourced employees. The union proposed talks to examine alternatives to outsourcing. However the only "alternative" offer of keeping the jobs in CCHBC stipulated a reduction in terms and conditions amounting to up to 40%, which was obviously unacceptable. Management then insisted there was no alternative to outsourcing, and jobs would have to go.



SIPTU served strike notice on August 20 and took industrial action one week later. On September 8, 130 members were sacked despite the ongoing industrial dispute. The company then rejected as too "costly" the September 18 recommendations of the Labour Court to open negotiations on restructuring in line with past practice.

At the same time, Coca-Cola HBC announced a Capital Return which will directly funnel €548 million in cash to its shareholders.

SIPTU has called for international solidarity and support for its members at Coca-Cola HBC. SIPTU General President Jack O'Connor described the conflict at Coca-Cola as "Symptomatic of the drive in our society to solve the problems caused by gross mismanagement of the economy entirely at the expense of working people." Calling for international protest, he said "We have to take the issues to them in Ireland, in the UK, in Europe and in the United States. We will be there, wherever they are."

You can support SIPTU and the Irish Coca-Cola workers –



- **Wear the sticker visibly and proudly!**
- **Send a protest email to Coca-Cola management! You can find an online form for messages at <http://www.iuf.org>**
- **Spread the word – let coworkers, union comrades, and the public know about the dispute!**

For more info: <http://www.iuf.org/ccww>