

Press Release – 23 June 2010
European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)

Statkraft sets up a European Works Council – matching the industrial ambition with our social responsibility

Norwegian company Statkraft and the European trade union federation EPSU have agreed the establishment of a European Works Council (EWC) which will bring together representatives of the workforce from the different European countries in which Statkraft is active.

Jan Willem Goudriaan, EPSU Deputy General Secretary says: “Europe’s energy landscape is undergoing profound change on a path to sustainable electricity production. European Works Councils will assist workers and companies to understand the implications for jobs and skills. We welcome that Statkraft, a leading green producer, is integrating its social and industrial policy in a way that can set an example for Europe’s energy policy.”

Christian Rynning-Tønnesen CEO of Statkraft says: “The EWC is a natural consequence of our vision and strategy. Statkraft has a leading European position in renewable energy based on competence, innovative thinking and responsibility. A positive and responsible attitude towards our employees and the union representatives is a part of this. We are convinced that together with our workforce we can develop Statkraft as a flexible power producer in Europe and a green energy provider worldwide.”

Morten Sando, Corporate Head of Employee Relations in Statkraft says: “The EWC is an extension of our good social relations in Norway and complements our European industrial policy. Together with the EWC we will work to improve the skills, knowledge and working conditions of our workforce and be an employer of reference. Further developing and implementing our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy will be a key task of the EWC.”

Vidar Hennum, Vice-president of Norwegian union EL & IT and EPSU representative for Statkraft says: “The workers will now have the opportunity to discuss Statkraft’s industrial and social policy together, and with central management. This will contribute to a better understanding of the challenges facing Statkraft, and improve social dialogue in the company.”

Statkraft’s EWC agreement recognizes the new and revised directive of June 2009 as its basis. That directive has defined the information and consultation rights of workers in multinational companies. The agreement also underlines that Statkraft will respect the relevant standards of the ILO. An innovative element of the agreement is the stress placed on considering the CSR policies of Statkraft.

The CEO of Statkraft will co-chair the meetings of the EWC which will bring together 12 representatives from four countries. The EWC will meet two times per year. The Steering Committee will be composed of four persons who will manage the work in between meetings and also consider the possible training of EWC members. A representative of EPSU will be part of the EWC. The agreement is flexible and allows for other representatives to be integrated when Statkraft expands. The agreement can also be renegotiated if necessary. The European Directive will be transposed in Norwegian legislation and this will provide a first moment of evaluation.

Statkraft is Europe's largest renewable energy company. The group develops and generates hydropower, wind power, gas power, solar power and district heating, and is a major player on the European power exchanges. Statkraft also develops marine energy, osmotic power and other innovative energy solutions. In 2009 Statkraft posted gross operating revenues of

EUR 2.9 billion. The group employs 3,400 staff in more than 20 countries. Statkraft has its headquarters in Oslo, Norway. <http://www.statkraft.com/about-statkraft/>

EPSU is the European Federation of Public Service Trade Unions. It represents workers in public services. In the energy sector the Federation represents workers in public and private companies using all fuels, in distribution, transmission and retail. EPSU works together with PSI, Public Services International, the global federation, representing workers in the same areas worldwide. www.epsu.org/r/34

For more information

Contact for Statkraft: Morten Sando: +47 91703102

Contact for EL & IT, EPSU: Vidar Hennum +47 90855828

Press Release