Negotiations set to begin in private waste sector

Germany

Collective bargaining in the private waste sector was due to begin on 21 August. The agreement covers 60,000 workers and ver.di is concerned that the employers want to reduce pay rates. Although the employers have not yet made public their initial negotiating position, the union believes that their main concern will be competition with firms that are not covered by the industry agreement. According to ver.di the BDE employers' organisation wants to get more employers signed up to the industry agreement and it thinks that the best way to do this is to reduce pay rates. This will mean pressure on pay and conditions with some firms already paying only €5 or €6 an hour.

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