

Danone



Extraordinary EURO CIC Meeting

Geneva, 19 February 2013

Statement of the IUF Trade Union Representatives in the CIC

At the last CIC Meeting, the Chairman, Franck Riboud said that we were not in a period of austerity but a period of crisis in which everyone was trying to get going again.

Is a cost-cutting plan the best way of getting going again, assuring the Group's future and assuring the dual project?

Europe is going through a crisis without precedent since the Second World War and once again it is the workers who are going to pick up the tab. Whatever the social or professional category, the major risk of loss of skills, demotivation, new organizations – whether or not they work – are all at stake and the Group has much to lose both internally and externally.

It is not enough to talk about growth. We must also keep on talking about innovation and research because these are the foundations of growth.

Again quoting the CEO in the social and economic report 2011 (replying to a question on what remains to be done) "This isn't the end of a great adventure — it's the beginning of a new one".

We note that 901 jobs are going to be cut and there is nothing to guarantee that the omens for the Group in the future will be any better.

Sometimes, it is not enough to know whether to cut off a branch rather than cut down the tree. What is important is knowing whether or not that branch ensured a certain balance.

For us, the important things are to rediscover the energy to drive us forward in order, as far as possible, to assure the Group's future. Just now, we cannot make do with defensive solutions for which the workers pay the bill. What we want is a proper strategy for the future.

We will be vigilant about everything that happens under this plan and we will play our part in tackling any drifting away from it, globally or locally. We too will play our part in assuring the Group's future for the sake of Danone's workers.