

# 1<sup>st</sup> International Automotive Workers' Conference 2015 (IAC) - International Coordinating Group (ICOG) -

Internationale Koordinierungsgruppe für die 1. Internationale  
Automobilarbeiterkonferenz 2015

Grupo Internacional de Coordinación para la 1<sup>a</sup> Conferencia  
Internacional de Trabajadores de la Automoción

Grupo Internacional de Coordenação da 1<sup>a</sup> Conferência  
Internacional dos Trabalhadores na Indústria Automobilística

Groupe de coordination internationale de la 1<sup>ère</sup> Conférence  
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## Closing Resolution of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Automotive Workers' Conference

**One torch will become many thousands – we will carry them out into the world!**

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Automotive Workers' Conference in Sindelfingen, Germany, from 14 to 18 October, was a great and spirited success. The 17 years of preparation through the seven Automotive Workers' Counsels reached its climax with the founding of an international movement of the Automotive Workers' Coordination.

41 delegates from 19 countries unanimously passed the Founding Resolution, the Organizational Principles and elected an International Coordinating Group for binding and lasting cooperation. As active trade unionists and shop stewards they represent the militant base of the workforces of the most important multinational corporations of the automotive industry and its suppliers worldwide. We address the masses of the workers and trade-union members and strengthen their unity.

More than 450 participants, workers, trade union representatives, families, organizations of the environmental, women's and youth movement and many others participated in the conference. It might be unique that such a significant international event was self-organized and financed by voluntary activists from four continents.

The "International Automotive Workers' Coordination" regards itself as a part of the international working-class and trade-union movement. In the face of highly organized global capitalism it aims at strengthening forces and increasingly joining them together to a superior opposing force.

From manifold experience in the struggles at Opel Bochum, Sao José dos Campos in Brazil, GM Bogota in Colombia, in South Africa and India, as well as in many other factories, we drew the conclusion that we can oppose the blackmail logic of the supposed "lesser evil". We will pass on the torch, especially of the unshakeable struggle at Bochum.

In face of the scandal of VW's deceit, the conference emphasized the necessity of a completely different transportation policy without emissions. The participants were outraged about the capitalist profit logic of the conscious over-exploitation of humanity and nature. This comes to a peak in the inhumane practice of producing "throw-away" workers as in Colombia, Pakistan or India. We reject the discrimination of women as well as discrimination for reasons of the color of skin or sexual orientation. The struggle for the liberation of women and the liberation of the workers belong together.

In the corporation forums and thematic forums, as well as in the workshops, the experience from the different countries, factories and movements was creatively evaluated and conclusions were

drawn for the coordination. The workers of our corporations shall know for whom this conference was organized. Whoever attacks one of us gets an answer from all of us. Binding agreements were reached for this aim:

- Obligation to mutual information in order to combat the playing off of workforces against each other and to promote solidarity and trust.
- Construction of stable structures for regular mutual contact
- Mutual support in the daily work of persuasion and organization among the masses of colleagues, as well as in militant actions.
- Joint activities.

The successful cooperation of the different ideologies and mentalities, of the political and trade-union tendencies demonstrates that we workers can put our differences aside and learn from each other in order to take the offensive together with the goal of attaining a fulfilled, "*dignified and healthy life for all people in harmony with nature – a society without exploitation and oppression*" (Founding Resolution). This was also seen in the enthusiastic celebrations in the evening and in the militant demonstration through Sindelfingen's inner city.

We call upon the workforces of the automotive industry and suppliers: make the results and the militant spirit of this conference known among the workforces and trade unionists of all countries and participate in working toward the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Automotive Workers' Conference in 2019!

Sindelfingen, Germany, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2015

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