**Should we start oil drilling in the Oslofjord?**

As a representative of the Labour Trade Union Organisation, I would also like to welcome you to this meeting today. Drilling for oil is the Oslofjord is a really important issue and affects all of us. Especially the employees. Not just in the private sector, but also in the public. The Confederation of Trade Unions Norway is one of the largest and most influential workers organization. Industri Energi, the trade union for workers in the oil and gas industry, is part of this confederation. Our purpose is to make sure that every employee is getting her/his salary. We fight for better pay and better working conditions, for example less working hours a week. Instead of 40 hours we favour 37,5 hours. All our members can take out different types of insurances like a car, health, accident or household insurance. So, we provide our members a safe and healthy working and living environment. On top of that, we help them with tax problems and negotiate with the government in terms of wages, holidays or special regulations. Our main aim is to fight unemployment and improve conditions for the workers.

Let me show you this with an example. Dale McAngus, a Scottish oil worker had an accident on an oil platform in the North Sea in January 2017. An 11t heavy container crushed his foot. After 10 months of unemployment before, this happened on his 4th working day for the new company. The company refused to pay the full salary. Dale was very worried about his financial future. But he was a member of the labour union form the first day. So, we offered him juristic support fighting against the business lawyers that he receives full salary during the sick period and medical treatment. This shows that everybody should be member in a labour union to get help and support in a difficult position. Nowadays, over 50% of the Norwegian employees are members in different labour unions and the numbers are rising in the last years.

Working on an oil platform is of course dangerous and risky. But the oil and gas industry has, in terms of value, the largest economic significance. Especially the export of crude oil and gas. That is what we want to support. Over the last 20 years, we had an increase in employment in the secondary industries including oil extraction and construction. But since 2014 there is a decline in employment due to the falling oil prices. Over 40.000 already lost their jobs.

To fight against unemployment and for better working conditions, we call our members to go on strike. But to keep the economy and industry running, we support the oil drilling in the Oslofjord. The new platform will provide 600 new jobs and it will boost the local economy here in Horten. Other businesses like construction work or social services will be activated and engaged in the local economy. This will increase the incoming amount of taxes and save jobs in Horten. So, the local economy and the city itself will flourish in the future and will provide a better living environment for all of us.

But we have to safe and secure jobs in the tourism and fishing sector as well as they might be affected negatively. We have to think long-term and what will happen after the oil boom. Therefore, all the labour unions in Norway have to work together. As there still remains more than half of the oil in the sea which is not extracted by now and to provide new jobs, we say YES to the oil drilling in the Oslofjord!

To make sure that our workers will receive the salary they deserve we are willing to start negotiations with the local parties and companies to realise this great opportunity!