

Prospect in GDF Suez Energy

An Occasional Newsletter for Prospect Members in GDF Suez Energy UK - Europe

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Drawing Strength from Europe GDF Suez European Works Council (EWC)



After what has seemed a life time, Prospect's nominations for the GDF Suez European Works Council (EWC) have finally been ratified. As of May this year Paul Davies from First Hydro Company in North Wales has been elected as the EWC representative for the Energy Sector, whilst John Kilkie from Rugeley Power Station has been elected as first reserve.

In addition, at the May meeting held in Paris,

Paul was also elected as the UK Secretariat. Paul will now attend the bi-monthly EWC Secretariat meetings on behalf of all GDF Suez UK staff, **so if you have issues which you believe require attention or answers please contact Paul on the details below.**



Paul Davies (left) and Bob Van Passen, EWC Trade union secretariat from Brussels, at the council meeting in Paris

Prospect has been working closely with the Company's EWC representatives in Europe since the Company showed interest in obtaining International Power by way of a purchase arrangement in 2010 and the election of Paul can only strengthen this relationship.

During our involvement, it has become clear that agreements secured by the Unions in other countries where employment regulations are not so restrictive would help us provide better protection in the UK for staff. By working closely with the EWC we can now push for similar protections to be put in place in the UK.

To this end, Paul has already started to get busy. On the 29th May at the EWC meeting in

Paris, he was informed that the Company were looking at centralising the Shared Services centres, along with the introduction of a new initiative called 'Perform 2015', something we knew nothing about and were to target France and Belgium initially with a view of extending to all the other European countries.

Paul adds "Eventually, after a prolonged nomination process, my nomination was accepted and already this is proving dividends.

Prior to my attendance at the EWC in May the Company had been in the process of restructuring the Central Shared Services sector, along with the introduction of 'Perform 2015' without any knowledge by or discussion with the Trade Unions. Having raised the matter locally in the UK and having gained no adequate reply, I have requested a meeting with the senior HR team of Rik De Buyserie and Stephanie Nquyen Qui to ascertain a UK perspective in these matters".

We will, of course keep all staff up to date with any progress that occurs.

PROSPECT IS THE LARGEST UNION IN GDF SUEZ (UK), OUR INFLUENCE IS DETERMINED BY THE STRENGTH OF OUR MEMBERSHIP - IF YOU KNOW A NON MEMBER ASK THEM TO JOIN TODAY!

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The government is making it harder for people to seek justice

From July 25, workers who want to bring a claim to an employment tribunal will have to pay a fee of up to £2,000!

Prospect believes that access to justice should not be based on a person's ability to pay. This is why the union will meet the fee* where it supports a member's claim.

Can you afford not to be in Prospect?

Sign up today: www.prospect.org.uk/joinus

*Member's contribution to legal costs

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