



13th March 2009

To All T&G and RMT Members

Dear Brothers / Sisters

COTA 2009 wage negotiations.

You will be aware the first of this years wage negotiation meetings which was due to take place on 7th of April 2009 has now been postponed. We understand that this news is disappointing.

This is due to COTA making the full time officers aware that they are not in a position to present any increase at this time.

Faced with this information we needed to asses whether there was any merit in proceeding with the meeting scheduled for the 7th with the negotiating committee when we were already aware of the likely outcome. If the meeting had proceeded we would have then discussed with the negotiating committee the possibility of balloting our membership on whether they were prepared to take industrial action in support of a wage rise.

At present with oil prices at \$45 a barrel and clients trying to get reductions from COTA both Union Officers took the decision that this was not the time to enter into industrial action.

Let us make our position quite clear we have not agreed to a wage freeze. We have only agreed to a postponement of the negotiations.

We will continue to monitor the economic conditions offshore and submit this year's wage claim as soon as we believe it is practical.

If however COTA continue to insist that they are not in a position to offer a wage increase both Unions guarantee that the final decision on this matter will be made by our offshore membership, who will be balloted in the traditional manner.

You will be aware the anniversary date for any COTA pay rise is the 1st of September, and although it is preferred that the negotiations are finalised before then it has not been unusual in the past for negotiations continue past this date and for any increase then to be paid retrospectively.

We will keep you updated of any further developments.

Fraternally yours,

Mr. John Taylor
Regional Industrial Organiser
T&G section of Unite

Mr Jake Molloy
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RMT