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**Vereinte
Dienstleistungs-
gewerkschaft**

Bundesvorstand

ver.di welcomes the Workscouncil garanty for Ryanair - Bsirske: Huge sucess for ver.di and the employees of Ryanair- Labour minister Heil did stick to his word

5 The civil aviation union ver.di welcomes today's (15th of November) decision by the cabinet (council of Ministers of the government) that cabin crew and pilots will have undisputed right to establish a works council. „This works council-guarantee protects cabin crew from the arbitrariness of an ever-growing number of low cost airlines“, says the general secretary of ver.di **Frank Bsirske**. Bsirske pointed out that labour minister Hubertus Heil did stick to his promise after he had heard the complaints of employees of Ryanair in Berlin and Frankfurt in personal encounters. „This shows that if unions are putting pressure and politicians are willing to listen to the people, then politics in the interest of working people has a chance. The employees of Ryanair and ver.di did win a great victory“, said Bsirske.

15 The decision of the cabinet comes few days after the members approved of a cornerstone paper for a future collective labor agreement between Ryanair and ver.di. The Irish low-cost airline has been refusing to negotiate an agreement which would have included the right to form a works council. „This is a huge success for ver.di, the employees of Ryanair and all workers in the aviation sector. With the works council-guarantee passed by the German government cabin, which will have to pass parliament, crew can now establish a works council, whether Ryanair likes it or not“, says **Christine Behle**, ver.di board member and head of the ver.di transport section, responsible for civil aviation.

20 The former legal exception for cabin crew and pilots stems from the 1970s and said that cabin crew and pilots could only establish a works council if the company and the unions agreed to it through a collective labor agreement. A lack of means of communication in times without tablets and smartphones and high wages in state owned and regulated companies did the rest. But with the rise of the low-cost airlines the material basis for flying personnel has drastically deteriorated. Since international corporations do not respect the social partnership tradition in Germany, unions and the formations of works councils have often been frustrated. A works council guarantee gives the employees of these corporations a chance to stand up for their rights and interests.

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