

National Sector Conferences 2011

Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel

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**ROAD TRANSPORT COMMERCIAL  
LOGISTICS AND RETAIL DISTRIBUTION  
National Industrial Sector Conference  
Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel  
Monday 28 November 2011**

**A G E N D A**

**Plenary Session.**

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This will take place in the Oxford Suite, Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel at 9 a.m. (see enclosed plan) and will be chaired by Tony Woodhouse, Chair Unite Executive Council. The business for this session will include:

1. General Secretary's Report
2. Assistant General Secretary's Report
3. Contributions from the mothers of the Miami 5.
4. Nominations for the SOC for the 2013 National Industrial Sector Conference will also be taken at this session.

Following the plenary session each conference will adjourn to its own room and follow the agenda set out below:

**Road Transport Commercial Logistics and Retail Distribution  
National Industrial Sector Conference**

**Buckingham Suite, Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel**

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**The conference will be chaired by the National Industrial Sector Committee Chair: Ron Evans**

5. Apologies, Introductions and National Officers' welcome
6. National Reports by Matt Draper and Paul Davies National Officers
7. 100% Campaign
8. Consideration of Sector Motions
9. Guest Speakers: Rosalba Gaviria, Executive Member Fensuagro, Columbia
10. Elections
  - (a) Unite delegation to the 2012 TUC (Brighton)
  - (b) Unite delegation to the 2013 TUC

## DELEGATE LIST

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<b>SECTOR</b>	<b>REGION</b>	<b>FORENAME</b>	<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>Delegate no.</b>
RTC & Logistics	East Midlands	Stewart	Campbell	1
RTC & Logistics	East Midlands	Chris	Hart	2
RTC & Logistics	East Midlands	Pat	McGrath	3
RTC & Logistics	East Midlands	Craig	Plowman	4
RTC & Logistics	East Midlands	Lillian	Taylor	5
RTC & Logistics	Ireland	George	Brash	6
RTC & Logistics	Ireland	Noel	Coard	7
RTC & Logistics	Ireland	Oliver	Kelly	8
RTC & Logistics	London & Eastern	Richard	Allday	9
RTC & Logistics	London & Eastern	Mark	Barter	10
RTC & Logistics	London & Eastern	Jeff	Hesketh	11
RTC & Logistics	London & Eastern	Charles	Mwando	12
RTC & Logistics	London & Eastern	Steve	Peacock	13
RTC & Logistics	London & Eastern	Adrian	Sawyer	14
RTC & Logistics	NEY&H	Stuart	Asquith	15
RTC & Logistics	NEY&H	Darren	Finney	16
RTC & Logistics	NEY&H	Neil	Howells	17
RTC & Logistics	NEY&H	John	Kelly	18
RTC & Logistics	NEY&H	David	Leech	19
RTC & Logistics	NEY&H	Walter	Longden	20
RTC & Logistics	NEY&H	Darren	Rushworth	21
RTC & Logistics	NEY&H	Jeff	Talbot	22
RTC & Logistics	North West	William	Gilfoyle	23
RTC & Logistics	North West	John	Graham	24
RTC & Logistics	North West	Kenneth	Rowe	25
RTC & Logistics	North West	Trevor	Rowland	26
RTC & Logistics	North West	Dave	William	27
RTC & Logistics	Scotland	Alistair	Edgar	28
RTC & Logistics	Scotland	Dale	Pascoe	29
RTC & Logistics	Scotland	John	Russell	30
RTC & Logistics	Scotland	Mick	Symon	31
RTC & Logistics	South East	Dennis	Johnson	32
RTC & Logistics	South East	Gordon	Lean	33
RTC & Logistics	South East	Tony	Lewington	34
RTC & Logistics	South West	Andrew	Caswell	35
RTC & Logistics	South West	Anna	Costello	36
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RTC & Logistics	South West	Alan	Tatchell	38
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**ROAD TRANSPORT COMMERCIAL LOGISTICS AND RETAIL DISTRIBUTION**

SECTOR MOTIONS

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**1 RTC Reps Education**

This conference recognises that this sector has specific rules and regulations that impact on our members. To ensure that all Unite representatives have the skills and knowledge to represent members professionally there should be organised courses on specific issues including taco rules, WTD, CPC etc. This should be delivered regionally to both driving and non driving representatives. Furthermore the Union should produce a reps handbook covering these topics.

Moved by: Pat McGrath  
Seconded by: Chris Hart  
**East Midlands**

**2 Drive for Five**

This conference notes the degree of support it's recent organising drive has gained among its active members involved in container haulage out of the ports of Felixstowe and Ipswich.

The central thrust of the campaign has been the slogan "Drive for Five", which is based on winning the basic terms of "£500 for 50 hours, and 5 weeks holiday"

It further notes that driver-members engaged in haulage more widely have welcomed it.

Conference is therefore asking to adopt the key demands of the campaign as the core of the Sector's organising drive and campaign, to achieve a national minimum standard for Unite members in road transport and distribution, and to ask the Unite to support this initiative.

Such support should take the form of:  
circulating the demands to Activists and Stewards in a short, concise manner, and producing "Drive for Five" campaign materials branded with the Unite Logo.

Moved by: Adrian Sawyer  
Seconded by: Jeff Hesketh  
**London and Eastern**

### **3 Building Unite Industrial Strength within our Workplaces/Sector through the use of Companions / Accredited Stewards**

The R.T.C, R.I.S.C Region 3 committee urges the National Industrial Sector Conference to endorse the use of companions / accredited stewards within the RTC Sector.

The strategy we are proposing is the recognition of an agreed number of shop stewards within each region to be nominated as accredited stewards / companions. This may need to include a degree of training for the nominated stewards to achieve a higher accredited level of understanding within industrial relations and employment law.

If this strategy is endorsed we believe that the major benefits that can be achieved will be as follows;

- By training a number of accredited stewards / companions this will allow them to represent members at different locations and workplaces throughout the region at initial first stage disciplinary and grievance issues.
- We believe that this will have an accumulative strengthening effect within the region and will build up an understanding, knowledge, skill base and unity of each individual workplace, contract and location.
- If this can be achieved it will have the effect of releasing more valuable time being made available to our regional industrial officers who are currently dealing with these first stages of disciplinary and grievance issues within our region.
- The funding for the training and release of the nominated stewards from their own workplaces we believe could be funded by the 1% of the current regional budget allocated to the Regional R.I.S.C committees.
- Establish a team ethic with those lay members on the R.I.S.C/Shop stewards and branches with the R.I.O's to achieve our Union's industrial and organising goals.

If the National Industrial Sector committee agrees with our strategy we would ask that this be endorsed for the National R.T.C committee to develop as national policy as we firmly believe that the acceptance of this motion will build confidence in our stewards and strengthen the shop stewards movement within each region which will help build Unite industrial strength.

Moved by: George Brash  
Seconded by: Oliver Kelly  
**Ireland**

#### 4 Strict Liability, No Blame Accidents (Nobody's Fault)

Nobody's fault is a driver's dilemma, a Catch 22 situation if you like that can result in injury, disability, or death but it's nobody's fault. Herein, lies the dilemma in civil law, common law liability for causing personal injury tends to be fault liability.

By way of example, despite significant improvements in truck safety jack-knifing is still a problem that still needs addressing. Although Jack-knifing incidents have fallen by 15% over the past decade, they still account for as many as 200 deaths and 900 serious injuries in the UK each year. You also need to take into account roll-overs, many of which are a consequence of a, jack-knife.

Another aspect in this situation is icy roads, black ice in particular, here again the irony and the paradox faced by drivers is that for example, in Northern Ireland the Department of the Environment Roads Division \*(Corresponding legislation is in place in the UK) is responsible for preventing snow or ice interfering with the safe passage of persons and vehicles using the road. However, they are not actionable in tort for failing to do so. The relevant legislation is articles 9 and 10 of the Roads (NI) Order 1993.

In this particular instance one article places them under a duty to clear the roads; while the other gives them a way out for it's impossible to clear all the roads. The net result of that is if your vehicle leaves the road and the driver suffers an injury – the roads service is not to blame and your employer is also not to blame – that's the Catch 22 it's nobody's fault!

In light of the above our proposition is 'Strict Liability', sometimes called absolute liability, a legal responsibility for damages, or injury, even if the person found strictly liable was not at fault or negligent. To meet this challenge it would be necessary to set up a separate compensation insurance scheme. The purpose of this insurance would be to pay benefits on behalf of an insured employer to employees or their families in the case of no blame accidents that result in injury, disability or death resulting from occupational hazards.

This model or concept is not unique it's prevalent in Australia, New Zealand and Germany and moreover, since 1948 in Canada they have had in place what's known as the Workers' Compensation Act (1948). This scheme allows for three key responsibilities to be administered.

1. Paying compensation for work-related injuries and illnesses.
2. Funding the system through a levy on the employer's payroll.
3. Providing occupational safety and health, including education, inspection and enforcement.

In the final analysis it's the employer that puts the driver in that position, why else would he be there? Given that, is it not reasonable to say to your employer, "you put me there, and as a consequence of that I have suffered an injury, compensate me for my loss."

We move 'Strict Liability'

For the record: driving for a living is not safe!

Official figures from the office for National Statistics confirm this. Recent figures show for 'light goods vehicle drivers' a total of 5,914 Accidents. 52 drivers killed and 512 were seriously injured, 9.5% of the total. 'Large goods vehicle drivers,' 39 were killed and 344 seriously injured from a confirmed accident total of 8,444 a massive 15.1% of the total.

Moreover, a recent study by the Institute of Safety and Health (IOSH) emphasises that employers must do more to reduce the high level of work-related road traffic accidents, given that, one in three company drivers has a road traffic accident (RTA) every year.

Research for IOSH carried out by the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) has revealed that a huge number of companies have failed to assess the effectiveness of their road safety strategies. Compounding the dilemma faced by the Catch 22 situation they already face.

Moved by: Stephen Macauley  
Seconded by: Noel Coard  
**Ireland**

## **5 Swedish Deregation**

This conference .....This motion is submitted by the members of the Northwest RTC RISC The Agency Workers Directive which came into effect on 1st October this year is a major step forward in recognising that exploitation of agency workers is wrong.

This Union believes that employers and their associations are attempting to negate the principles laid down in the Agency Workers Directive (AWD) by implementing a concept called "Swedish Deregation".

This Deregation would allow employers to hire agency workers under the disguise of full time employees of an agency on Zero hours contracts on lower rates of pay and reduced Terms & Conditions, totally undermining the principles behind the AWD and then continue to threaten the Terms & Conditions of the core workforce therefore negating completely the aims of the Agency Worker Directive and in addition the threatened potential of massive job loses.

We congratulate Unite the Union the major transport union in achieving the support of the TUC at the 2011 congress in getting support from the whole of the trade union movement in opposing the "cheat" contained within the so called "Swedish Derigation" and commence a major industrial campaign on how to best deal with this continued threat to our members and the exploitation of agency workers. ..

Moved by: William Gilfoyle  
Seconded by: Trevor Rowland  
**North West**

## 6 AGENCY WORKERS REGULATIONS

This conference recognises that the use of Agency Labour in our Sector is increasing however it must be the policy of this Sector to resist the casualisation of the workforce in our Sector. This conference also recognises that the policy of this union as agreed at the Unite policy conference in 2010 that we as a Union will only accept into our workplaces workers from agencies where we have a recognition agreement containing minimum standards. As from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 the Agency Workers Regulations came into effect in this country and to resist employers techniques to get around these Regulations and to use agency workers to undermine the Terms & Conditions we have managed to achieve over the years in our workplaces this union must ensure in this Sector that:

- All national and local agreements have included in them a clause that reflects the new Agency Workers Regulations and that the clause includes rates of pay and other Terms & Conditions for Agency workers that match those of the core workforce.
- That only agency workers covered by a minimum standards agreement between a representative trade union and the agency that employs them are able to work in our workplaces.
- Oppose the use of contactors and third party hauliers in our workplaces who use agency labour on Terms & Conditions that do not meet the requirements of the Agency Workers Regulations.

Moved by: Gordon Lean  
Seconded by: Tony Lewington  
**South East**

## 7 Bridlington Agreement

The North West RTC RISC condemns USDAW for their failure to adhere to the Bridlington Agreement. We call on our Union to peruse through the TUC all points where USDAW are in breach of the Bridlington Agreement.

We call on this sector conference to ensure Unite the Union backs our calls for a clear mandate to redress the historic and current detriment perpetrated on our members by USDAW and their clear disregard for workers right to join a independent Trade Union of Choice.

We ask that this conference understand the continual undermining of this sector and its industrial strength by USDAW and that we cannot allow this to continue if we are to be successful in defending our members and this sector.

Furthermore we insist that existing members transferring between employers or place of work have the right to retain membership of their preferred Independent Trade Union and that this Union takes all steps to ensure, protect and negotiate the furtherance of this objective.

We demand that all sister Trade Unions act in all matters of inter union dispute in a principled way with the choice of workers paramount despite any deals done with the bosses.

Moved by: K Rowe  
Seconded by: W Gilfoyle  
**North West**

## **8 NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICING**

This conference recognises the work load of the National Officers in this Sector and that workers in this Sector are constantly under attack from employers. To combat this relentless attack on our members in this Sector Unite must ensure that communication between National Officers in this Sector and the Representatives of the membership must improve.

To achieve this, the union must ensure that the Policy in this Sector is that:

- Each Regional Sector Committee receives current National Sector minutes in time for each Regional Sector Committee meeting.
- That all National industrial issues are communicated to all RISC's between National Committee meetings and distributed to the Committee members by the Regional Officers.
- National Officers communicate all redundancy situations to all RISC's and that the information is distributed to the Shop Stewards in each Region
- That National Officers return calls to Stewards in the workplaces the National Officers service within 24 hours.
- That no protest or demonstration at any workplace is initiated without the agreement of the Shop Stewards at the location and with agreement of the RISC in the Region in which that protest or demonstration is to take place.

Moved by: Tony Lewington  
Seconded by: Gordon Lean  
**South East**

## **9 Union Information on Drivers Hours**

This conference believes that Unite must make individual contact with its driver membership to emphasise that vocational drivers must comply fully with the drivers hours regulations and European working time regulations.

The above South West RTC realise that heavy goods drivers are under great pressure from their employers to complete often unrealistic schedules during the course of their working week.

However, this often results in members placing Tachographs on break periods while they are unloading, not having the full regulated period of break, not taking some break periods at all or using periods of availability (POA) illegally. Although the foregoing is usually carried out in an effort by members to protect their jobs it often leads to action by VOSA, the police and most importantly the Traffic Commissioners.

When members are detected for the above infringements often in roadside checks, the outcome can be the removal of the member's vocational section of their license and/or penalty points awarded to the entire license.

Even in a situation where the member manages to retain their license overall, disciplinary action is almost always taken by the employer against the member.

The employer inevitably insists that they did not cause or sanction the regulation infringements to protect their operator's license and therefore dismissal is used as evidence to the authorities of the employer having "correct procedures" by carrying out hard-line disciplinary action.

Therefore the above committee requests that this conference sanction a written communication to all professional drivers in membership stating clearly the need for members to comply with the stated regulations and emphasizing the need to place foremost in their actions protection of their drivers licenses by complying fully with all regulations surrounding those licenses even where that may mean not meeting unrealistic workloads and scheduling given by the employers.

The communication should emphasise clearly that action by employers is often easier to overcome than action by the courts and traffic commissioners which can have much more serious and long-term detrimental effects.

Moved by: Andy Caswell  
Seconded by: Ian Phillips  
**South West**

#### **10 Opposition to the restriction of holidays around The Olympics**

This conference believes that Unite the Union should vigorously oppose any attempts from transport companies to stop members taking their annual leave entitlement during the June – September period because of the clash with The Olympics Games. We believe that Unite should support any campaigns against this holiday restriction.

Moved by: Kevin Terry  
Seconded by: Shaun Murphy  
**South West**

**Joint General Secretaries Report**

**I. Winning the Battles that Face Us**

Good morning. Colleagues, this is a day that I have been looking forward to for a long time when we bring together our industrial strength in the sector conferences. What is so vital about sector conferences is it gives you the individual right within your sector to determine your policies. It is not going to be determined by anyone else. It will be determined by you. There is no other lay democratic process anywhere at all than what you are doing now, and you are doing it within the bounds of Unite. And why? Because as individual sectors, we would not have the strength to win the battles that face us.

We knew this when we first discussed bringing together Amicus with four recently merged unions, and Tony with the T&G bringing those together. This is the only merger in the history of the movement that I can recall, that is not based on the fact that one or other partner were a lame duck; financially or in membership difficulties. It has been brought together for a strategic reason. There is an obvious reason: strength in the workplace, strength in your workplaces. We could spend our time fighting together instead of fighting each other: who is going to get the membership? Who is going to get the single union agreement? We do not have to worry about that now.

There are still some areas where old histories will take a while to die away, but we can spend the time much more productively fighting on behalf of all our members to improve terms and conditions and build our membership through organising, through the 100% Campaign and trying to stem the decline in union membership due to the economic problems that we currently exist in. That is great and that is wonderful, and that alone would be worth doing. But if that is all we did – if that was the limit of it – then it is all about winning in the workplace. Under the present set-up, we will ultimately lose a much bigger and greater battle.

We will fight to try and repeal the anti-union laws. We will fight to try and allow solidarity actions which are illegal under those anti-union laws. We will support our colleagues who, for example, if you recall the refinery workers and the construction workers challenged by the law because of solidarity action. We did not get the law used against us, maybe because we have a Labour government. Maybe they held back because they did not want to expose an open sewer. But, sooner or later, unless we change the law we will not be able to have that solidarity action win it back.

**II. Changing Politics**

So, there is a greater battle to fight than the next wage claim, or regrettably, the fight to protect jobs as people are threatened with redundancy. That greater fight is one of the three reasons why we merged T&G and Amicus together. It is to change politics. Tony referred to it: we want people in Parliament that represent us. I do not want people in Parliament representing us; I want us in Parliament representing us.

I go around on regional tours and I say to people, 'Why? Why aren't people in this room MPs? Why not?' Many of us do not believe we have it in us. Somehow or other we believe it is something special to be a MP. Crikey, if you look at some of them you cannot believe that for much longer, can you? We need people in Parliament that represent us. Back to the traditional roots of the party we created. The Labour Party did not create the trade

union movement; it was the other way around. We created the Labour Party and it is time – long past time in fact – that it was back to that tradition and back to representing our interests. We would not be low in the polls. We would not be as concerned, disillusioned, or disappointed if we had a party that was our party. It is time to take it back and we need a big, strong union to do it. That is us. There is not another union that can do it. There is not another union with the breadth and strength to do it. Quite frankly, I wonder if there is any other union with the intelligence to do it.

Let us look at some of them. Our friends in the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) Union. One of our National Officers told me that in the transport sector, in real terms, there is something like 60% unorganised, so what is the RMT's answer to recruiting their 60%? They go down to Heathrow and pinch our taxi drivers. They go into the old North Sea and to the oil rigs to do that. It is time they got on the bloody railways and organise them; an indication that a single specialised union cannot survive. We cannot survive unless we have this kind of a conference because everybody in a big, powerful union will say, 'This union does not represent me'. You will have unions saying, 'Join us because your union is too big and broad and they are not interested in you'. Well, this is the answer. The sectors give you the right to determine your own policy, but within a union big enough to make a difference. Let us assume for example, we change the law, we win Parliament, we win the Labour Party back and we get shot of the anti-union laws. There is a bigger battle still to fight, and what is tragic about it is that most people do not actually know it because we are concerned about today's problems.

We have just applauded two good colleagues, John and David from Canada. Vale Inco, a Brazilian company intent on world domination. They want to buy up all the mineral resources so that one company can control almost life itself; become so powerful it can dictate to governments. They are in a four month strike because they are up against a powerful conglomerate. We referred the crisis of capitalism. Do not believe for one minute that that crisis of capitalism was a crisis of the capitalists. They are still there, they are still powerful, they control fortunes, they dictate to governments. It is fairy stories, you know, the faceless ones, you do not see them. Not the G8, not the G20, the faceless ones; the ones that can pull strings, bring governments down, start wars, stop wars, create crises in energy, and move petrol prices around so that the rest of us suffer as a consequence. Those people are still there and they operate on a global scale. How do we as working people expect to contend when they are more powerful than the government that we could create?

### **III. Our Challenge**

We have to have a plan. We have to have a plan that builds an international union strong enough to take on the strongest of the conglomerates. A union that anyone who works anywhere in the world for any particular company can join. A union that can, for example, bridge the dilemma that we just experienced at General Motors; where the Germans tried to screw everybody else with that Magna contract. Until the intervention of ourselves, and particularly Tony, which got our government galvanised, and they think those in Germany who scuppered the deal, and Tony is very popular in Germany now apparently. When we have got back to GM, what were the Germans saying? 'Ah, you will be all right in Britain but in a few months you won't be'. There is still that competition, and that is what happens in global federations, quite frankly. We all sit around and have great ideas and then we all go back and look after our own backyards; a bit like we could be if we are not careful. We sit around and talk about our policies and then go back to our own backyards. It is time to think outside the box. It is time not just to think about how we win terms and conditions or even how we change the laws to make it easier for us to win terms and

conditions. It is about how we are going to survive in the future if we do not have a union capable of fighting on the international front, that can stand solidly with Vale Inco colleagues because we have plants over here that belong to that conglomerate. We should be in a position to fight across the board.

That is the challenge, so why did we come together? Because you cannot build an international union if you cannot build a UK union, or a German union, or an Australian union, or an American union. That is why we stand in with the United Steelworkers (USW) and with Workers United. It is a beginning perhaps, but hopefully a successful beginning that will go on to build that international union.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Colleagues, when we talk about building a union where there is no place for fear, fear this: unless we change politics and ultimately build an international union we need to be very afraid. That is the task and only this union can do it in this country; no other union can. That is the challenge to you. I am delighted, absolutely delighted, that we have been brought together in this way. Whatever we do in the future, whoever we elect as General Secretary, and whoever we elect as our Executive, needs to keep one thing clearly in mind: strong workplaces are no better than shuffling deck chairs on the Titanic if we do not have a political and international strategy. If some colleagues, and I have read some of them, now change their leaflets to reflect that they will get my support. Thanks.

## Rural & Agriculture National Industrial Sector Conference

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1. Apologies, Introductions and National Officers welcome.
2. National Report Chris Kaufman, National Officer (Chris to provide as an attachment).
3. Consideration of Sector Motions plus 2 Emergency Motions (see attached for details).
4. Guest Speakers.
  - a) Lord Brian Davies, Minister in the Lords, DEFRA  
*Spoke around topical issues, e.g. average age of farmers now 65 and research into bee pollination with £10m going in from Government.*
  - b) Martin Sandival, Colombian human rights activist  
*Spoke around the horrific situation in regards to workers / unionist rights in Columbia.*
  - c) Gertrude Hambira, General Secretary of GAPWUZ  
*Spoke, with assistance of 'House of Justice' DVD they have produced, around the horrific situation in regards to workers (specifically farm workers) / unionist rights in Zimbabwe.*
5. Elections
  - a) Unite delegation to the 2010 TUC (13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September in Manchester) – W Scot Walker elected (moved by Steve Leniec, seconded by Jamie Pritchard).
  - b) Unite delegation to the 2011 TUC (Brighton) – W Scot Walker elected (moved by Edwin Rowlands, seconded by Jamie Pritchard).
  - c) Substitute delegate to TUC 2010/11 - Jamie Pritchard elected (moved by W Scot Walker, seconded by Lyn Stevens).
  - d) Ian Beeby, Richard Neville, Andy Smyth and Ivan Monckton were also present.  
Ugne Buckinskaite and Shaun Jeffrew did not attend.

Apologies were received from:

Michael Carr	Moy Park Ltd
Ronald Corbett	Moy Park Ltd
Paul Devine	Omagh Meats
Veronica Sadauskiene	Moy Park Ltd
Gintare Zokaityte	Moy Park Ltd

## **NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL SECTOR CONFERENCE**

### **RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL**

#### **SECTOR MOTIONS**

##### **1. WINNING PAY AND CONDITIONS FOR RURAL WORKERS**

This conference calls on the national sector conference to enshrine the protection of the AWB's into Unite Policy, in addition to pushing for statutory joint industrial council in the future. To this end Unite needs to campaign in favour of the AWB's so to pursue a Policy to win decent pay and conditions for rural workers.

**Moved – Steve Leniec (delegate 13)  
Seconded - Mike Ward (delegate)**

**Carried**

##### **2. THE SALE OF PRIME FORESTRY COMMISSION LAND IN ENGLAND**

This Conference calls upon the Executive Council to mount a campaign against the sale of prime Forestry Commission woodland in England also to pressurise the government into increasing the funding available to the Forestry Commission thereby properly financing the Urban Forestry programme centrally and thus removing the need to sell off prime rural woodland to do this, or to fill budget deficits. Forestry Commission England is an efficiently run organisation excellent value for money is had by the taxpayer for the small cost incurred.

**Moved – Edwin Rowlands (delegate 15)  
Seconded - Mike Ward (delegate 8)**

**Carried**

**3. HALT RURAL SERVICES CLOSURES**

This Conference calls upon the Executive Council to put pressure on Government to halt the closure of rural Post Offices and Services.

**Moved – Edwin Rowlands (delegate 15)**  
**Seconded – Brian Coomber (delegate 14)**

**Carried**

**4. SUPPORT AND CAMPAIGN IN FAVOUR OF RURAL TRADE UNIONISTS**

This Conference calls on the national sector conference to support campaigns in favour of persecuted rural trades unionists around the world such as Colombians Banana workers, Zimbabwean farm workers and the peasant movement in the Philippines.

**Moved – Steve Leniec (delegate 13)**  
**Seconded - Mike Ward (delegate 8)**

**Carried**

**5. UK PRODUCE MORE FOOD MORE SUSTAINABLY**

This Conference campaigns for the government to invest more in producing more food in UK, more sustainably.

**Moved – Charles Clutterbuck (delegate 10)**  
**Seconded - Mike Ward (delegate 8)**

**Carried**

**6. DEVELOP SKILLS TO DELIVER EU SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES STRATEGY**

This Conference calls on the relevant Sector Skills Councils and Awarding Bodies to develop nationally recognised skills and standards to confirm with the EU Thematic strategy on sustainable use of pesticides.

**NORTH WEST**

**Moved – Charles Clutterbuck (delegate 10)**

**Seconded – Karen Matley (delegate 11)**

**Carried**

**SECTOR EMERGENCY MOTIONS**

**1st Emergency Motion**

**Moved – W Scot Walker**

**Seconded – Jamie Pritchard**

**Carried**

**2nd Emergency Motion**

**Moved – W Scot Walker**

**Seconded – Jamie Pritchard**

**Carried**

# Standing Orders 2011

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## STANDING ORDERS – NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (NIS) CONFERENCES

### 1) Purpose

The National Industrial Sector Conference has the following purposes:

- 1.1 to set industrial policy for the Sector provided that it is not inconsistent with the general policy and objectives of the union.
- 1.2 to consider emergency motions, on matters that are in accordance with 1.1, that could not have been considered by a RISC, which should be submitted in writing to the General Secretary for the attention of the Standing Orders Committee.
- 1.3 to elect representatives to attend the annual TUC Congress
- 1.4 to elect the Standing Orders Committee for the following NIS Conference

### 2) Composition and Size of NIS Conference

- 2.1 NIS conferences will be comprised of one delegate per 1,000 paying members in the Sector (subject to a minimum of 30 delegates). Regional allocations will be based on paying membership in the region in the sector.

### 3) Delegates and attendees

- 3.1 The NIS Conference will be open to all accountable representatives of workers elected by Regional and/or National Industrial Sector Committees.
- 3.2 All delegates will be allocated a numbered seat and will retain that for the duration of conference.
- 3.3 Executive Council members, working in or representing the sector but not elected as delegates shall be invited to attend on an *ex officio* basis.

#### **4) Chair**

- 4.1 The Conference plenary shall be chaired by the Chair of the Executive Council.
- 4.2 The Sector Conference shall be chaired by the chair of the National Industrial Sector Committee.
- 4.3 The Chair shall only have an ordinary vote on all matters if elected as a delegate.
- 4.4 The Chair shall not have a casting vote.

#### **5) Secretary**

- 5.1 The National Official or other employee shall act as Secretary to the conference – advising the chair as appropriate and, assisted by a member of the Research Dept, recording decisions taken and the outcome of the elections.

#### **6) Order of Business**

- 6.1 The Order of Business for the Conference shall include:
  - 1. Plenary: General Secretary supported by the Assistant General Secretaries as appropriate
  - 2. Election of delegates to form the SOC for the following NIS Conference
  - 3. Political, international and other speakers
  - 4. National Officers' Introduction and Apologies
  - 5. National Officers Report including national strategy for the Sector
  - 6. Consideration of composites and motions approved by Standing Orders Committee.
  - 7. Election of delegates to the annual TUC Congress for the next two years

#### **7) Conduct of elections**

- 7.1.1 All nominees in conference elections shall be individually nominated and seconded. Nominees who do not attend may be elected provided they have given an appropriate apology reported by the National Officer and accepted by conference.
- 7.3.1 Votes shall be cast by a ballot vote or by show of hands from amongst those delegates present at the Conference.

- 7.3.2 Any dispute about the conduct of an election should be settled by the Chair. If it is not possible to settle any dispute at the Conference, then an appeal should in the first be lodged with the Standing Orders Committee which has overall responsibility for the conduct of the elections.
- 7.3.3 In the unlikely event that any such dispute cannot be settled, an appeal against the decision of the Chair can be forwarded to the General Secretary, who may delegate handling the appeal to an appropriate senior official.

## **8) Conduct of Business**

- 8.1.1 The Chair shall be responsible for the conduct of the meeting. Delegates may only speak when called by the Chair. The Chair shall have discretion on whether to allow a delegate to speak more than once on a subject..
- 8.2 The mover of a motion shall be allowed five minutes and subsequent speakers three minutes each. No delegate shall be allowed to speak more than once on any motion except the mover who shall have the right of reply.
- 8.3 Next business, that the vote be taken or such other procedural motions may be moved and seconded by any delegate who has not previously spoken during the debate. There shall be no speeches on such motions.
- 8.4 Emergency motions shall be put if in writing to the General Secretary for the attention of the Standing Orders Committee. No such motion shall be deemed an 'emergency' that is connected with circumstances which could have been dealt with by conference/committee allowed to forward motions for the agenda.
- 8.5 The Chair shall have the same speaking rights as any other delegate. In addition, the Chair may intervene during or at the conclusion of any discussion, to clarify the issues decided and/or to sum up the discussion.
- 8.6 A delegate who wishes to raise a point of order (which must be confined to the manner in which the meeting is being conducted) should say "*point of order*" and hold his/her hand aloft until called by the Chair. Subject to that exception, delegates should not interrupt another speaker.
- 8.7 The ruling of the Chair on any question relating to the conduct of the meeting shall be final unless a challenge to the Chair is supported by at least two thirds of the delegates present..
- 8.8 Save as provided herein, the business of the Conference shall be conducted in accordance with the normal rules of debate as laid down by Walter Citrine in the ABC of Chairmanship.

8.9 In the event of an equality of votes, the proposition before the conference shall not be carried.

**9) Smoking/Alcohol/mobile phones**

9.1 There shall be no smoking or consumption of alcohol allowed at the Conference.

9.2 All mobile phones should be switched off at all times during conference.

## Hilton Brighton Floor Plan

