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RNR/ls

6th November 2006

Bob Crow
General Secretary
R.M.T.
Union Headquarters
Unity House
39 Chalton Street
LONDON
NW1 1JD

**SENT BY E-MAIL
AND BY 1ST CLASS MAIL**

Dear Bob

RE: E.W.S. - Engineering

I refer to "EWS NEWS" issued by RMT October 2006, and in particular the EWS Round up section entitled "Engineers".

This article states RMT "will have pro rate recognition for engineering staff with the CSEU Confederation".

I must remind you that this was not the position described to you at the meeting held 28th November 2005 and chaired by Frances O'Grady (TUC Assistant General Secretary). A meeting that was also attended by the General Secretaries of CSEU, ASLEF & TSSA.

For clarity I will restate the CSEU position:-

The 2005 Engineering Procedural Agreement between CSEU and EWS will not be unpicked in order to recreate any form of joint representation with RMT at EWS.

The 2005 procedure for representing members is operating well and there is neither a need nor desire from the CSEU to move away from it.

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In respect of other issues highlighted in the article the fact that EWS Management “unilaterally withdrew RMT Recognition for Engineering Staff some time ago” is regrettable. However, whatever the background against which the article was written it is not acceptable to the CSEU for RMT to refer in derogatory terms to “deals negotiated by other Unions”, especially in light of the fact that the RMT’s dispute with EWS centres on a letter from RMT to EWS dated 12th December 2005 which accepted a procedural agreement for ground staff which included a no strike clause.

For the record this clause was rejected by CSEU, ASLEF and TSSA.

The CSEU and its affiliated unions would wish to maintain good relations with RMT. This aim would be assisted if in the future, RMT newsletters, press statements etc. are factually correct in respect of CSEU related matters.

Yours fraternally

R.N. RIXHAM
Chairman CSEU Railway Sub-Committee

c.c. John Wall – General Secretary - C.S.E.U.
Derek Simpson – General Secretary - Amicus
Tony Woodley – General Secretary - TGWU
Paul Kenny – General Secretary - GMB
Keith Norman – General Secretary - ASLEF
Gerry Doherty – General Secretary - TSSA
Brendan Barber – General Secretary - TUC
Francis O’Grady – Assistant General Secretary -TUC
John Rowse – TGWU
Keith Hazelwood – GMB
Dave Chalkly - TSSA