

# CITIES OF LONDON & WESTMINSTER TRADES COUNCIL

## NEWS AND EVENTS JUNE 2008



### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Opening the first day of PCS's 2008 national conference, president Janice Godrich told delegates that the union's achievements over our first ten years were a cause for celebration. With a roll call of our successes, Janice talked of our:

- national agreement to protect PCS members' jobs against compulsory redundancy;
- increasing our membership density from 56% to over 62%;
- a raft of new recognition deals and
- a vibrant, growing network for young members.

"We have come a long way," said Janice. "When Gordon Brown started attacking our members he underestimated our dedication to protecting them and our will to win."

Condemning the growing gap between rich and poor and the financial suffering of working families, Janice described Gordon Brown as "a Robin Hood in reverse".

"But there is still time to address the needs of ordinary people," said Janice. "This should be their focus rather than those of the super rich."



Photo: Jess Hurd.

General Secretary, Mark Serwotka, thanked our workplace reps for their fantastic hard work without whom we wouldn't be able to achieve anything.

We are at the forefront of the trade union movement. Our strengths are solidarity, unity and independence from the political establishment.

"We learnt from the joint resistance over public sector pensions that we are strongest when we act together. Our 24 April action on pay gave us a taste of what joint resistance over pay would be like. We must continue to work for that unity.

"Our Make Your Vote Count campaign had identified hundreds of local councillors and candidates who have given us their backing," said Mark, "and countered the poisonous growth of the British National Party."

Mark went on to talk about some of the improvements we have secured in members' services including: improved access to legal support and winning over £1.2 million in compensation for members.

"This union has a clear and unequivocal answer to those who say that if we criticise the government we are letting in the Tories," said Mark.

"Our loyalty - first, second and third - is to our members, not a political party and we have the right to defend ourselves from Tory policies whoever is implementing them."

Mark Serwotka kicked off a general debate on the way ahead for our national pay and jobs campaign by moving emergency national executive motion EM1.

Condemning the government's pay cap Mark said: "At a time when the Labour government is at its least popular it is further alienating its own workforce with a policy of pay freezes and pay cuts in real terms.

"Pay in the civil service is among the lowest in the public sector with a quarter earning less £16,000 and thousands on the minimum wage. The resolve of our members is clear as is our commitment to work with other public sector unions who are facing the same attacks on pay."

The motion was seconded by Jane Aitchison, Department for Work and Pensions Leeds who said she had been "tremendously proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with other public service workers on 24 April. It gave our pay campaign a massive boost."

from [www.pcs.org.uk](http://www.pcs.org.uk)



## RMT to ballot Network Rail station staff

*Publication Date: May 28 2008*

**MORE THAN 230 RMT members working at 19 major rail stations (list below) managed by Network Rail are being balloted for industrial action in a dispute over harmonisation of pay and conditions arising from a reorganisation.**

The ballot, which is being co-ordinated with sister union TSSA, opening today and closing on June 11, follows Network Rail's failure to guarantee that there will be no compulsory redundancies, failure to commit to harmonisation of terms and conditions for all NR station staff, and a breach of bargaining procedures.

"Rather than negotiate the company is seeking to force through changes by by-passing bargaining procedures and under the threat of redundancy," RMT general secretary Bob Crow said today.

"Our reps are quite rightly seeking a guarantee that there will be no compulsory job losses, and there is no earthly reason why a company the size of Network Rail should not be able to give that undertaking.

"We have told Network Rail that we want a joint working party to negotiate a unified set of terms and conditions for all NR-managed station employees, and that there is no logic or point in having separate but parallel discussions for some.

"The company's response has been to seek to impose the reclassification at local level when the national consultation has not yet been concluded, in breach of bargaining procedures.

"We remain ready for talks to resolve the issue involved, but our members on NR stations are telling us that they have had enough of being treated with contempt," Bob Crow said.

The stations involved in the dispute are: Birmingham New Street, **Canon Street**, **Charing Cross**, Ebbsfleet, Edinburgh Waverley, Euston, Fenchurch Street, Gatwick, Glasgow Central, Kings Cross, Leeds, Liverpool Lime Street, **Liverpool Street**, London Bridge, Manchester Picadilly, **Paddington**, St Pancras, Stratford International, **Victoria** and Waterloo.

from [www.rmt.org.uk](http://www.rmt.org.uk)



## TSSA Ballot Members at Managed Stations

28 May 2008

Managers at some of the biggest railway stations in Britain are to be balloted for strikes in a row over pay and conditions, it was announced today.

Leaders of the Transport Salaried Staffs Association said if the 100 employees at 17 stations support industrial action it could cause "widespread disruption" during the summer holiday season.

The decision to hold a strike vote among the Network Rail staff followed the breakdown of talks over harmonising pay and conditions following a reorganisation of staff at all of Network Rail's stations.

Manuel Cortes, the union's assistant general secretary accused the company of refusing to guarantee that there will be no compulsory job losses during the reorganisation.

"We are acutely aware that the entire network could grind to a halt without our members overseeing safety and security for the travelling public at these key stations and we are anxious to avoid that situation if we possibly can.

"But Network Rail must sensibly address our concerns about a common set of pay and conditions for all our members. They must also lift the threat hanging over them of compulsory redundancies."

The staff involved in the dispute work at stations including Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and London's Paddington, Euston and Kings Cross.

From [www.tssa.org.uk](http://www.tssa.org.uk)



## Tube cleaners to ballot on strike action for a living wage

*Publication Date: May 23 2008*

**MORE THAN 700 RMT Tube cleaners working for four private contractors are to be balloted for strike action to win the London living wage and decent working conditions, including 28 days' holiday, sick pay, decent pensions and travel facilities.**

The union is also demanding an end to the barbaric practice of 'third-party sackings' in which cleaners can be dismissed, with no disciplinary hearing or right of appeal, at the behest parties other than the employer - a device used to get rid of union activists.

The ballot, of RMT members at ISS, ITS, ICS and GBM, is planned to open on May 29 and close on June 19.

"In 21<sup>st</sup> century London, when a living wage is reckoned to be at least £7.20 an hour, we have members who are being paid at rock-bottom minimum-wage rates little more than £5.50 an hour, and the abuse has to stop," RMT general secretary Bob Crow said today.

"The people who keep one of the world's most prestigious metro systems clean have the right to be paid a wage on which they can afford to live in the city. Sick pay, adequate holidays and a decent pension scheme are not optional luxuries, they are basic decent employment standards.

"Tube cleaners should be getting the same free travel that all other Tube workers get, but our members even have to fork out Tube fares from station to station while they are working and claim it back later, and that is just plain wrong. The previous mayor promised that cleaners on Metronet contracts would receive the London living wage as soon as they passed into TfL control, and if Boris Johnson wants to be seen as a mayor for all Londoners he will honour that pledge.

"Tubelines bosses know that paying cleaners the London living wage would barely dent their £1 million-a-week profits, and it is time they stopped hiding behind their contractors and lived up to their professed aim of 'treating others as we would like to be treated. It is nonsense that cleaning contractors who make millions cannot afford to pay a living wage to the people who do some of the dirtiest and most difficult jobs on the Tube, and the time has come to start bringing cleaning back in-house," Bob Crow said.

from [www.rmt.org.uk](http://www.rmt.org.uk)



**Speak up for public services campaign**

**Get ready for the June 9th rally**

*Speak up for public services rally and lobby - Monday 9th June*

Unite is calling on members in public services to join the Unite/TUC rally and lobby of parliament in protest against the reduction in living standards for hundreds of thousands of people working in the public sector.



With workers feeling undervalued, morale among public sector employees is low. Unite members are angry that there has been no meaningful consultation over widespread

reforms of public services and this has been made worse by the government's failure to increase pay in line with inflation.

If we want the government to listen, we must make sure our voice is heard. It is vital that Unite has a strong presence on the day. We need Unite activists and members on the ground to attend the rally and lobby their MPs. The rally starts at 13:00 at Central Hall, Westminster while the lobbying of MPs will start from 15:30.

Speakers at the rally will include general secretaries and senior officials from the 26 TUC-affiliated unions with members in the public sector, as well employees from across the health service, local government, central government and the prison service. Assistant general secretaries Len McCluskey and Gail Cartmail will be speaking on behalf of Unite. So put the date in your diary and contact your regional office for more information on transport on the day.



## **Unite's reaction to the announcement that Metronet will be taken over by Transport for London**

*23 May 2008*

Unite regional secretary, Steve Hart said: "This is brilliant news for our members at Metronet and it's exactly what we have been campaigning for.

"We believe this is a good legacy left from the previous mayoral administration and we are committed to working with TfL to ensure we have a world class underground system for a world class city."

from [www.tgwu.org.uk](http://www.tgwu.org.uk)



## **GMB & Unison Host 4 Polish Bands At Glastonbury Left Field Stage To Step Up Campaign To Stop Exploitation Of Migrant Workers**

*22 May 2008*

GMB, UNISON and the Polish Cultural Institute have linked up to bring Polish artists to the Left Field Stage at the Glastonbury Festival 2008 as part of the campaign to win trade union rights for migrant workers in the UK.

Paul Kenny, GMB General Secretary, Keith Sonnet, UNISON Deputy General Secretary, Michael Eavis from Glastonbury Festival and Vice Consul Maciej Mazurek of the Polish Embassy will attend a press launch to give details of this initiative and answer questions. The launch will be held at-

2 P.M. ON THURSDAY 29TH MAY 2007

POLISH CONSULATE 34 PORTLAND PLACE

LONDON W1B 1HQ

The four Polish bands are Alex and the Drummer, Flykillers, Cars on Fire, and Tofu Love Frogs will play Glastonbury Festival 2008 Left Field stage on Saturday 28th June 2008.

In the last year GMB and UNISON have signed recognition agreements with employers with large Polish workforces. These include Pratt's Bananas in Luton, World Flowers in Basingstoke, Bakkavor in West London and NCP Enfield amongst others. Details will be given at the launch.

## **GMB CALLS FOR ENQUIRY IF £50BILLION BAIL OUT FOR BANKS IS FUNDING £12.6 BILLION CITY BONUSES AND SPECULATION IN OIL MARKET**

25 May 2008

Governor of Bank of England and Chancellor must stop rip-off of taxpayers and consumers

Paul Kenny, GMB General Secretary, today responded to official figures showing that City bonuses in the first three months of 2008 amounted to a record £12.6 billion. He said, *"There can no longer be any doubt that the multi-millionaire elite who run the City and the financial sector are out of control and divorced from economic realities facing their fellow citizens.*

*GMB want an urgent enquiry as to whether the £50 billion bail out to banks from the taxpayer is being used to fund these bonuses which defy economic gravity. The Governor and the Chancellor must also look at speculative manipulation in the oil market and the extent to which it is driving prices up. We need to know why oil futures contracts now amount to level of additional demand for oil from China and how this speculation is impacting on prices.*

*We need the Labour Government to stand up for the taxpayer and consumers against these elite. There should be a higher tax band for these elite and if they don't like it we are better off without them. Those profiting from higher oil prices and speculators in the oil market must face a windfall tax which can be used to reduce fuel taxes at the forecourt.*

*The Tories will not follow the Government on this since the elite are their mates. They have just appointed Tim Parker, the private equity buccaneer, who took out £30m from AA as he saddled it with £4.8 billion of debt as number two to the Mayor of London".*

from [www.gmb.org.uk](http://www.gmb.org.uk)



## **£3million for Crozier "outrageous" says CWU**

23 May 2008

In response to Royal Mail's full financial results, which show a package of pay, pension and bonuses worth £3million for Chief Executive Adam Crozier, the CWU has reacted with this statement:

**Billy Hayes**, general secretary, said: "Royal Mail has just claimed that it is in financial crisis, that employees are over paid and is trying to reduce the pension benefits of its staff. At the same time as this, Executive pay is completely out of control. This is an outrageous use of public money at a time when post offices and other Royal Mail offices are closing and postal services are being cut back. Adam Crozier is again being rewarded for managing decline instead of improvement in the company. This is massive insult to Royal Mail employees and the public."

**Dave Ward**, deputy general secretary, said: "The actions, wages and misjudgements of Royal Mail management demand closer scrutiny. They've got a business plan that's in crisis, they're always shifting the blame and yet they reward themselves with obscene amounts of money.

"Crozier should take a leaf out of Willy Walsh's book and forego his bonus in a year when the company has been in financial and operational difficulties. Rewarding the misjudgements of Executives like this is a public scandal that they should not be allowed to get away with."

from [www.cwu.org.uk](http://www.cwu.org.uk)



## Local government strike ballot approved

15/05/08

UNISON members working in local government in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have been given the green light for a ballot on industrial action after rejecting the pay offer from employers.

The offer is for a 2.45% increase on all grades from scale point 7, with an additional £100 flat rate increase on scale points 4, 5 and 6, giving workers on those points a 3.3% rise.

Employers also want agreement that the National Joint Council, the negotiating body, will seek to conclude a review of 'Green Book' terms and conditions, started as part of the 2007-8 settlement, by the end of this year, and 'seek to' agree pay rises of 2009-10 and 2010-11 by 31 December also.

The offer is below the current inflation rate of 4.2% and less than the increase in average earnings across the economy.

If members vote Yes to industrial action, that is likely to start with a two-day all-out strike in early July, and be followed by a sustained campaign of escalating action, involving strikes of more than two days.

Asking members to vote for action, the union is making it clear that the employers' offer is final, and "solid and sustained" industrial action will be needed to convince the employers to reopen negotiations.

In **Scotland**, an 80% rejection result in UNISON's local government pay consultation is also likely to lead to a campaign and an industrial action ballot.

Scotland's local government committee has agreed to try and build a united campaign for industrial action with the other unions on the Scottish negotiating body.

The offer from the Scottish employers, hasn't been improved in recent discussions despite recent increases in inflation. It stays at 2.5% each year for three years, with no weighting for the low paid, and no chance to reopen negotiations should inflation continue to increase over that period.

Scotland's local government policy forum discussed the pay dispute and the results of the consultation exercise in some detail at their recent seminar and agreed to hold further discussions with colleagues from GMB and UNITE (T&G) at the next joint union side on 22 May.

A Scottish local government conference has been called for 29 May, where a full report

on the current position will be made, and a campaign is planned during June, aiming to build toward an industrial action ballot in the summer.

from [www.unison.org.uk](http://www.unison.org.uk)



## **Strike call carried by government professionals**

19/05/2008

*Professional public servants will take industrial action against below inflation pay offers of less than 2 per cent.*

At the Prospect union conference in Torquay, delegates representing 40,000 of the government's most qualified staff carried an emergency motion committing their union to a ballot on industrial action in the event of 'minus 2%' pay offers.

Dai Hudd, assistant general secretary of Prospect, the union for professionals, called 2008 "a crunch pay round for public sector professionals after years of restraint". He urged the union's 44 civil service branches to campaign among members for industrial action and to lobby MPs in marginal seats to put pressure on ministers.

The government's arguments for discriminating against the pay of its own specialist staff were threadbare, he said. "Inflation has just jumped to 3% on the government's preferred measure for reasons that have nothing to do with the pay of civil servants.

"To pretend that pay rises of more than 2% will send inflation through the roof is a lie and an insult to the intelligence of every public servant."

Hudd warned ministers that the government would soon pay a heavy price for its public sector pay policy in terms of recruitment and retention and staff support for its own programme of work.

Speakers from Ordnance Survey, Environment Agency, Met Office, the Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory, Valuation Office Agency, Health and Safety Executive and Defra backed his call. They accused the government of making public servants the scapegoats for the economic ills facing the country.

Industrial action by government specialists would involve vets and animal health officers, forensic scientists, surveyors, vehicle inspectors, health and safety inspectors, defence scientists and logistics staff, museum curators and conservators, highways officers and other key professionals working for government.

from [www.prospect.org.uk](http://www.prospect.org.uk)

## New Zealand takes rail back into public hands

15 May 2008

**'The news that the New Zealand government is to repurchase its national rail and ferry operations is not only good news for passengers in that country – it is also a clear proof that the same could – and can – be done in this country,' says ASLEF's Keith Norman. 'All it needs is the political will – and for the UK government to begin seeking solutions rather than excuses.'**

The New Zealand transport union RMTU is delighted at the news, which was announced earlier this month.

'Railway workers are celebrating the news of the government's repurchase of the national rail and ferry operations,' said its leader Wayne Butson. 'The RMTU campaigned long and hard to get the Labour-led Government to buy back the rail tracks but we always knew that in order to have the rail industry deliver what this country needs that they couldn't stop there. We have all been urging the government to go the final step to renationalize the network.'

Wayne says that from the day that the National government sold the industry to a US-led consortium, its direction has been 'all down hill'. He accuses the private owners of 'extracting the cash, replacing it with debt and doing just enough to keep it going'. He added, 'The RMTU is keen to be a part of the rejuvenation of the NZ rail industry so that it can deliver the safe sustainable transport option demanded by global warming and escalating fuel prices, and we call upon the Government to make strong early statements of investment in new locomotives and wagons.'

'We know that there will be those who will condemn the Government buy back as a return to the 'bad old days'. To them we say, 'Look at the record of the public industry from 1987 to 1993, which turned it into a profitable enterprise.' Hopefully this is the closing chapter of the rail saga that goes back to the right-wing political cabal who stripped New Zealand's assets and sold them to their mates during the 1980s and 1990s.'

Finance Minister Michael Cullen pointed out that, 'The government's buy back of the rail system is a long-term investment in our economy.'

'A modern rail system will contribute to a more sustainable transport network. And if we can get more freight off roads and onto rail, we can expect significant savings on road maintenance as well.'

'It is music to my ears,' says ASLEF's Keith Norman. 'If only the UK government was not deaf to sensible argument on the issue.'

from [www.aslef.org.uk](http://www.aslef.org.uk)



## Hypocrisy? You Bet!

Wednesday May 28 2008

News that Members of Parliament are demanding an increase in their annual pay from £62,000 to just under £100,000, inclusive of their expenses has not gone down well with teachers' unions. NUT Cymru is in the midst of the largest pay campaign on behalf of its members for decades which recently saw a day of action coordinated with other public sector unions. Wales Secretary of the NUT, David Evans said:-

"These demands clearly demonstrate how out of touch with reality the current government is. They pronounce a 2.45% pay deal for teachers and seek a 60% rise for themselves. They argue that any higher award within the public sector would drive up inflation but do not apply the same rules for themselves. They justify their claim using comparators from the private sector but deny teachers the same facility. Hypocrisy is rife with every pronouncement. It is little wonder that the public sector is up in arms."

from [www.nut.org.uk](http://www.nut.org.uk)



## College lecturers will strike in London - unless pay offer improves

21 May 2008

College lecturers in London will take strike action on Monday 9 June unless their employers improve a pay offer of 2.5% for 2008-09. And lecturers throughout England are stepping up industrial action, which may be intensified at the start of term in the autumn.

This will be a hot topic at the national UCU Congress in Manchester next week (28-30 May). Delegates will consider a motion which 'condemns attempts by the government to impose pay limits on the public sector'. The motion if passed commits the union to 'joint campaigning with other public sector unions to resist a public sector pay freeze or pay limits.'

The lecturers are seeking a 6% pay increase to compensate for a below-inflation settlement last year and to bridge a pay gap with school teachers who earn on average 6% more. UCU members in England were on strike on 24 April, as were school teachers and civil servants.

Along with five other unions representing staff in further education colleges, UCU rejected a 2.5% offer by employers on 1 May. Unions are set to meet employers again on Thursday 5 June.

UCU will organise lunchtime protests in colleges throughout England on Wednesday 4 June, ahead of the pay talks. Lecturers will highlight the fairness of their pay claim by drawing attention to their long hours and excessive workloads. They plan to reclaim their lunch break - lost to many of them - and 'invoice' college managers for unpaid overtime. The actions are being organised jointly with other college staff unions: UNISON, Unite, GMB and ATL.

The strike in London on Monday 9 June coincides with a national rally, 'Speak up for public services' organised by the TUC. Lecturers, teachers, health workers, probation officers, social workers, civil servants, childcare workers and firefighters will be among public service workers representing the six million public sector workers in the UK. They will lobby MPs over the future of public services and call for fair pay.

Sally Hunt, general secretary of UCU said: 'College lecturers are serious in their demand for equal pay with schoolteachers and UCU's forthcoming annual congress will be developing a strategy for continued action.'

'The current 2.5% offer is another below-inflation attempt to cut salaries and it has been roundly rejected. If talented young people are to be attracted to teaching in colleges, the rot in pay must be stopped. Employers must come up with something better on 5 June, or college departments in London will be closed on 9 June and colleges can expect widespread action in the autumn.'

from [www.ucu.org.uk](http://www.ucu.org.uk)



## **TALE OF TWO CITIES**

### **Is Gordon Brown really the friend of the poor?**

He not only abolished the IOp tax rate, but he treats emergency loans to very rich banks in the City rather differently to the way he treats emergency loans to very poor people in the inner cities.

Since December the Bank of England has offered British banks £15bn in low-rate three month loans and recently became even more generous, advertising £50bn in loans for banks.

Meanwhile the Department for Work and Pensions helps the poor keep their heads above water with loans from the "Social Fund". Last year it awarded more than 2.6m individual loans worth a total of £688m, but the applicants had to work for their money.

When the work and pensions select committee looked at the Social Fund it found crisis loan applicants whose "fingers ached from pressing the redial button" when asking for money by phone. Those turned down for loans could appeal to the Social Fund commissioner, and when they did, inspectors changed 58 percent of crisis loan decisions. But not all applicants could appeal. Many are refused a loan verbally without a formal decision being made and no record is kept of the refusal.

When the Citizen's Advice Bureau briefed parliament on its caseload it included such Dickensian incidents as a disabled man who went without food for six days because he was unable to get a reply from the phone number and a client and her disabled son who had to sleep rough as their adviser continually got the engaged tone.

The CAB also told how "a man was left with no money over the Christmas period because bank charges following unauthorised direct debits by his gas supplier ate up all his Jobseeker's Allowance. He tried to apply for a crisis loan but was unable to get through ~ despite trying for two hours in a freezing public phone box."

If only he'd lost billions by reckless investment in the US sub-prime market, Gordon would have seen him all right

*Private Eye 2-15 May 08*

## **PORTER'S REVENGE**

.....London has fallen under the control of an even more sinister sect: the Tories of westminster city council, who revere the memory of their disgraced ex-leader, Dame Shirley Porter.

Boris Johnson has effectively handed over City Hall to the control of three senior Westminster Tory councillors. Nicholas Boles, former director of the Tory think-tank Policy Exchange, becomes his interim chief-of-staff; Kit Malthouse, notorious for leading Westminster's negotiations with Dame Shirley which resulted in her paying just £12.3m of the nearly £49m she owed taxpayers for her gerrymandering corruption is a deputy mayor; and last but not least Sir Simon Milton, who is stepping down as leader of Westminster council next month to become Boris's lead adviser on planning and housing.

Milton was a member of porter's housing committee that voted in February 1989 to house homeless people in asbestos-ridden tower blocks \_ an act described by Westminster's former chief executive Rodney Brooke as "simply criminal". Who better to help Boris increase and improve London's stock of social housing?

Meanwhile Westminster's chief executive, Peter Rogers (the man who distinguished himself by his sloth-like "pursuit" of Shirley's millions, sending an urgent letter to porter in Israel with a 2nd class, 19p stamp, so it took 68 days to reach her by surface mail), becomes interim boss of the London Development Agency. Just the man to clear up the

mess left by Ken's LDA boss Manny Lewis, "General" Lee Jasper and his legion of honey-glazed lovelies!

The Boris victory has proved sublime revenge for Milton. His predecessor, Ken's chief housing adviser, was Neale Coleman, who was Labour's housing spokesman on Westminster council in the 1980s and the driving force in exposing the corruption of Milton's "old friend and colleague", porter. Coleman's wife, Elinor Young, was Ken's planning adviser. Milton now has both their jobs. Young entered her office on Tuesday 6 May to find a Milton flunky at her desk. After a subsequent encounter in the lift with the new mayor - who didn't know who she was - Young threw up. So that's what they mean by "the Boris effect"!

*Private Eye 16-29 May 08*

**At our last TC Meeting Dan Ingreji of PCS brought the following to our attention. the EDM was signed by 49 MPs.**

### **Early Day Motion**

**EDM 1438**

**TRADE UNION CASE FOR WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENTAL**

28.04.2008

**REPRESENTATIVES**

Salter, Martin

That this House notes the warnings set out in the Stern Report about the potential economic, social and environmental effects of climate change; strongly welcomes the fact that the Climate Change Bill, if enacted, will bring in measures to reduce carbon emissions by 60 per cent. by 2050; believes that trades unions are ideally placed to promote and implement best environmental practice in the workplace amongst their 6.7 million members; supports the negotiation of sustainable workplace agreements with employers; praises those employers who are developing environmental and sustainable workplace policies; commends those local authorities which have already recognised trades union environmental workplace representatives; and urges the Government to respond positively to the campaigns for trades union environmental representatives to be given the same rights at work as other trades union representatives active in health and safety and lifelong learning.