



May Day:

## Searching for Union unity

UGT carries unity in its name and in its actions in favor of the Brazilian working class, practicing an ethical, innovative and towards the citizens unionism. Our actions are focused on modernity, through the organization of workers and society.

This is something that the unions and associations that are affiliated with UGT do not give up.

With the May Day 2011, we made progress to consolidate the union unity on real life, in defense of the interests of the working class.



That is why, this is an important date for us to make progress in the fight for more rights.

- **Reduction of working hours for shift work without a reduction in salaries**
- **End of the social security factor and valorization of pension funds**
- **Valorization of minimum wage**
- **Decent work**
- **Equality between men and women**
- **Valorization of the public servant and the public service**
- **Agrarian reform**
- **Professional education and qualification**
- **Reduction of the interest rate**

### "Highest real interest rate of the world"

#### UGT criticizes increase in the Selic rate and demands measures against inflation

UGT is extremely concerned about another increase in the Selic rate, this time in 0,25%, increasing the rate up to 12,0% per year, since, even with an increase of the basic interest rate for the third time in a row during the Dilma Rousseff government, inflation is about to burst the 6,5% inflation cap per year.

The numbers prove that the presence of the highest real interest rate of the world will not allow the fight against inflation, and most definitely it will not stimulate the economic growth. If the current scenario of a high interest rate and an increasing inflation is kept, workers will be the most damaged ones, and we cannot agree with such thing.

Such high interest rates doubly damage workers: with the credit contraction and a decline of the economic growth. As for the inflation, it erodes, day by day, the purchasing power of wage earners.

That is why UGT demands effective measures against inflation and financial speculation from the government economic staff, stimulating the real economy.

**Ricardo Patah**

**National President of UGT**



#### Union centrals protest against rates

The trade union centrals UGT, CGBT, CTB, NCST and Força Sindical made a protest on April 20 in front of the Central Bank, at the Paulista Avenue, in Sao Paulo, against the increase of the basic interest rate, called Selic rate.

### Union committees in companies

UGT agrees with the creation of a law to establish union committees in workplaces. The practice is used in 89 factories in the ABC region and should be converted into a law project, through a Labor Relationships Committee (CRT, linked to the Labor Ministry), by the end of this month.

Speeding up the process of solving the internal problems is an enormous allurements in the opinion of **Ricardo Patah, president of UGT**. "Every factory that has a committee has a really good management. Many businessmen are against it because they are not familiar with the possibility that a committee might even help out the company. It seems contradictory, but these are the facts", he said to the Brasil Atual Network.

Among the issues that the committees could help solving, are the issues related to the workers health, working hours and participation in results. "Many times, this helps the union to obtain results that might help them in the negotiation of a future collective bargaining. Adding all the benefits that were individually achieved in companies, we might reach a global pattern", Patah ends.

28 April 2011

## World Day for Safety and Health at Work

The 2011 World Day for Safety and Health at Work focuses on the implementation of an Occupational Safety and Health Management System (OSHMS) as a tool for continual improvement in the prevention of workplace incidents and accidents.

The ILO has prepared a report to serve as a background to this theme, a poster and other promotional materials for the occasion and invites you to join us in promoting this important day.

This year the World Day for Safety and Health at Work focuses on a systems' approach for the prevention of workplace accidents and the management of OSH with a logical and useful tool for the promotion of the continual improvement of OSH performance at the organization's level.

As every year, a **report** - [[pdf 1822 KB](#)] has been prepared to serve as a background to this theme. This year, it discusses the application of an Occupational Safety and Health Management System (OSHMS) for the effective management of hazards and risks in the workplace. A **poster** - [[pdf 582 KB](#)] and other promotional materials for the occasion can also be found on this page.

We invite you to join us in promoting this important date and the theme for this year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work: **Occupational Safety and Health Management System: A tool for continual improvement**

The essence of occupational safety and health (OSH) is the management of occupational risks. An OSHMS is a preventive method to implement safety and health measures which consists of four steps and incorporates the principle of continual improvement. Its principles are based on the PDCA Cycle: PLAN, DO, CHECK, ACT. Its purpose is to establish a comprehensive and structured mechanism for joint action of management and workers in the implementation of safety and health measures. A system's approach allows for the assessment and improvement of performance in the implementation of preventive and control measures. OSHMS can be an effective tool for the management of hazards specific to a given industry, process or organization. Its application can be adapted to a range of situations, from the simple needs of a small scale enterprise to the multiple needs of hazardous and complex industries such as mining, chemical manufacturing or construction.

It is expected that more and more countries integrate OSHMS in national OSH programmes as a means to strategically promote the development of sustainable mechanisms for OSH improvements in the organizations.



International Labour Organization  
Organisation internationale du Travail  
Organización Internacional del Trabajo

**OSH Management System:**  
A tool for continual improvement

**Système de gestion de la SST:**  
un outil pour une amélioration continue

**Sistema de gestión de la SST:**  
una herramienta para la mejora continua



**WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK**

28 April 2011  
[www.ilo.org/safeday](http://www.ilo.org/safeday)

**TUCA: On 28th April, the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), in partnership with ILO-ACTRAV will organise events in Central America to present the Latin American Strategy for Health and Safety at Work and demand that governments ratify and implement it, along with the ILO Convention 155.**

### Meeting marks the opening of UGT's new head office

About to celebrate its four year anniversary and on the way to its second National Congress, UGT is currently on a new head office, a measure that became necessary due to its exponential growth since its foundation back in 2007.

Now UGT is on a seven stories building, which was completely renovated to host all departments in one single place.

A preparatory meeting of UGT's 2nd National Congress marked the beginning of the activities on the new national head office, now at rua Aguiar de Barros, 144, Bela Vista, Sao Paulo.



### Vivian Bertoldi reelected in Santa Catarina



The **Union of Textile Factories Workers (Sintrafite)**, largest union institution of the class in Latin America, reelected, on April 13, **Vivian Bertoldi** to preside this institution.

Through a stiff competition, the Slate 1, directed by the reelected president, won by 47,50% of the votes.

The inauguration, that takes place on February 08, 2012, also represents that women are ahead of this class.

There's a lot to do. Women are a majority among workers in the textile sector, representing 65% of the class, but there's still a lot of machismo. "Still, the representation of women is a lot hard in this region. In this area, there are a lot more male directors than female", she emphasized.

### Mercosur Consulting Forum at UGT

Through a meeting that took place at UGT's head office, on April 19, the members of the **Brazilian section of Mercosur Social-Economic Forum (FCES)** discussed the preparation and the agenda for the next plenary session meeting of FCES, that will take place in June, in Paraguay, besides general issues regarding the Mercosur.

The main proposal of the group is speeding up the process of sending invitations for ministers, ambassadors and other political authorities and get them to participate more actively in the Mercosur negotiations. The members also defined, during the meeting, the Brazilian delegation that will participate in the Eurolat meeting, in May.

**Valdir Vicente de Barros**, secretary of UGT's Public Policies Department, **Mônica da Costa Mata Roma**, adjunct secretary of UGT's Department of Integration to the Americas participated in the meeting, besides representatives from the National Confederation of Industry (CNI), National Confederation of Commerce (CNC) and CUT.

"The General Union of Workers (UGT) reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just. "  
Ricardo Patah – UGT's President

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