Today Fellesforbundet broke off the voluntary mediation in this year’s collective bargaining for our industrial sectors (the frontrunner model). 26 000 members at 800 workplaces will be directly affected by a possible conflict. The voluntary mediation has been going on for ten days.

The breakup of voluntary mediation means that we enter into a period of four days of forced mediation, starting tomorrow, Wednesday 30th March. The national mediator now has four days to reach an agreement between the parties, Fellesforbundet and Norsk Industri. If no agreement is reached by midnight, Saturday 2nd April 26 000 members will be out on strike from 06.00 on Sunday 3rd April.

Fellesforbundet has notified the 800 workplaces which are affiliated to Norsk Industri and some workplaces where we have direct agreements, that a strike will be the consequence of failed mediation.

This year’s collective bargaining is particularly difficult because pensions is a central element. The employers have refused to even discuss the possibility of making them part of the negotiations. The employers have also refused to accept any wage increases. Fellesforbundet’s demands on behalf of all workers in Norway is that we need a wage increase that upholds our purchasing power. The 3rd major demand centers around social dumping. We need more clarification in the collective agreement on restrictions for temporary workers and also on rights for temporary workers and workers not based near the work site.