

Till NTF, ETF, ITF, EPSU, PSI

Kommunal's bus drivers are striking!

Kommunal has been negotiating for drivers in the urban public bus sector during the spring. But the negotiations have broken down – Kommunal is on strike from 19 June 2013.

15 years at the same job and still employed on a probationary basis. Scheduling down to seconds and hundredths, and 13 hour working days. Change of contractor for public transport – then you must re-apply for your own job. That is what the reality looks like for many of those employed in the public transport sector in Sweden. The employer refuses to meet Kommunal's demands for improved conditions and that is why the public transport employees are striking.

"Most public transport employees love their job; they are engaged in work that is important to the community and they feel very proud about what they do. But the employer needs to give them better conditions and, since we cannot see that they are taking our demands seriously, we are now having to give notice of industrial action," says Lenita Granlund, Kommunal's National Negotiations Secretary.

One of Kommunal's demands is that employees shall be able to transfer to the employer who gains the public transport procurement contract without having to re-apply with regard to their services.

Kommunal also wants employees in the public transport sector to have the opportunity to influence their own timetables and working hours. The employer often fine-tunes the scheduling down to seconds and hundredths with divided workdays and 13 hour working days.

"The human factor is currently planned out of existence in the bus-driving profession. Change and improvement are an absolute must. Whatever the cost," says Lenita Granlund.

We also demand wage increases for the public transport sector employees in line with the rest of the labour market. Kommunal's demand is thus a minimum of SEK 1740 over three years.

In its first phase the strike takes place at two of the garages in Stockholm, and in the towns of Södertälje south of Stockholm, and Umeå in northern Sweden.

Photos on Kommunal's Facebook:

www.facebook.com/facketkommunal?fref=ts#/media/set/?set=a.675675152449307.1073741824.179931025357058&type=1



Translation below of this poster:

Public transport delays due to a completely average MD

It is not good enough that bus-drivers have to work under conditions that fly in the face of the human factor, or be forced to re-apply for their jobs in the wake of each procurement.

We therefore demand an agreement that does not treat bus-drivers like machines. Since neither the politicians, who have the power to exert influence, nor the bus employers accept their responsibility, the negotiations regarding a new collective agreement for the bus-drivers have broken down, with strike action as a result. We realise that this can involve problems for you. But we are still going ahead. In order that your drivers shall have the right to be just as much human beings as you are.