



**EFFAT**

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM TRADE UNIONS

Brussels, 03 August 2007

**- To all member organisations**

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**Unilever Announce 20 000 Job Cuts & Don't Tell EWC**

**EFFAT Coordination Meeting Planned for End September**

During the question and answers session following a quarterly profits announcement yesterday, Unilever Chief Executive Patrick Cescau told journalists and fund managers that the company plans to shed 20,000 jobs. The cuts are planned to be mainly in Europe and to take place over four years. The CEO said that Unilever would close or streamline about 50 of its 300 manufacturing sites, reduce its regional centers from about 100 to about 25 and shed 11 percent of its workforce in a drive to save €1.5 billion a year by 2010.

The European works council has not yet been officially informed or consulted about these plans. Gunter Balthes, the EWC Chair, has issued a statement (attached) which points out that the company is now showing good figures and that "the workers representatives cannot support this path. We regard it quite simply as wrong." The EWC select committee is due to meet with management on 4 September. We will be convening a Unilever EFFAT Coordination Meeting for affiliates to discuss European trade union responses to the restructuring. This meeting will be held here in Brussels towards the end of September. We will forward more information and possible dates as soon as possible.

This circular is being translated into other EFFAT languages. They will be posted next week.

Yours sincerely

Simon Cox  
TNC/EWC Coordinator