

## **8. WORKING TIME REDUCTION**

*SJD-Die Falken, SJÖ Austia, Jusos Germany*

The YES-congress may decide:

The YES member organisations stand up for the reduction of weekly working time up to 30 hours in their countries and mother parties. At the same time, the wages and staffing-levels should remain constant.

### **Statement:**

The fight for shorter working hours remains to be of public interest. Because of technological progress, the time needed to produce necessary goods has declined drastically in the last century. Also, the productivity of labour increased. Because working hours needed to produce a certain good decreased, keeping the overall level of hours worked constant will result in decreased need of workers in the production process. This leads to an increase in unemployment which especially affects those easily replaced in the capitalistic production process.

The time spent by every individual on producing goods will be reduced. This leads companies to hiring new workers to even out the shortening of working hours which will then lead to reduced unemployment and thus to lower social benefits paid by the state.

Because we don't live to work but rather work to live there is a second advantage: Less time spent on work means more time to live! Apart from the insight that working too much makes workers sick, there is a positive impact on the reconciliation of work and family life. The reduction of working hours also promotes gender equality: Although the employment of women rose in Europe, women are more likely to work part-time to care for their children and the household while men still work full-time. This leads to an unfair distribution of care-work which remains to not be accepted as "work" per se, leading to lower pension entitlements for women. The reduction of working hours leads to a fairer distribution of every type of labour and the wages paid for it.

People will have more time to actively engage in society. Right now, especially unemployed persons suffer from stigma, isolation and the loss of daily structure and are stopped from engaging in politics and society because of that. We will put an end to that by reducing time spent at work and creating new employment possibilities.

Together, we can achieve our goal of reducing working hours. But we have to do that in many countries at once so that it not leads to competitive disadvantages between countries.

**Minority statement:** DSU Denmark, SSU Sweden, SONK and SDY Finland do not agree with the resolution. We believe that the question of working hours is not a matter of European legislation but a matter of well functioning negotiations between labor unions and employers as seen in the Nordic models