

Agreement NEWS

One month left until the first agreements expire on 31 March. The industry's mediators, the impartial chairmen, are now coming in and assisting the negotiations. The aim is to be done on time.

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One month left - power issues in focus

Last week, the employers made an offer in the agreement negotiations. They had, however, already communicated the contents of it. A maximum of 1.5 per cent in wage increases and extensive demands for worse conditions.

"Going out and saying the same thing again won't lead the negotiations forward," says IF Metall's Association Chairman Anders Ferbe.

IF Metall and the other industrial unions therefore immediately rejected the offer.

A few of the employers' significant demands for worse conditions for IF Metall's members are:

- •a demand to have the right to also set ordinary holiday to the months of May and September without negotiations.
- •to be able to *also* set ordinary working hours to Saturdays and Sundays, in other words a six- or sevenday week.
- •an expanded right to order overtime, with more hours than today.
- •an expanded right to vary the ordinary working hours.

Negotiations are now intensifying

"We are now increasing the pace of the negotiations," says Anders Ferbe. What's important is that the members get more money in their wallet and more allocations to part-time pensions.

Industry's special mediators coming in

The negotiations between the unions and employers are being coordinated by the impartial chairmen in the month of March. Among other things, they will make sure that the negotiations are carried out constructively.

The impartial chairmen are responsible for:

- the parties reaching an agreement in time
- coordinating the association negotiations
- the unions and employers clarifying their demands
- submitting their own suggestions on solutions
- submitting a final agreement proposal
- when necessary postponing industrial actions.

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