

15 September 2020

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**PRESS RELEASE BY FNV**

Dear Members,

Below is the press release sent by FNV to the media this morning regarding the start of collective bargaining.

**FNV: Supermarkets must stop allowing employment conditions to deteriorate, and grant the 5% wage demand**

**In the run-up to the collective bargaining rounds relating to the supermarket sector, which will start on 17 September 2020, the FNV conducted a survey among 1,900 members and non-members who work in supermarkets. Three-quarters of the respondents are not union members. Mari Martens, trade union official for FNV Handel, said: 'The survey shows that almost 90% of the respondents support the 5% wage demand. They want the FNV at the negotiating table.'**

Supermarket workers feel an urgent need to finally arrive at a sound collective agreement on terms and conditions of employment (CAO). Martens: 'As shown by the survey, 55% of the respondents are prepared to take some kind of action in order to arrive at a mature CAO, even before negotiations have actually started.'

**No reduced bonuses**

The 1,900 supermarket workers also stated that they do not want a reduction in any of their bonuses. Martens: 'This applies not only to shop workers but specifically also to those who work in the distribution centres. So if employers continue to act as if they are shopping for groceries, this trade union will gradually step up its actions in the interests of employees. The employers are hardly budging, if at all, but the significant profits that have been made in no way justify this attitude. Their workers rightly no longer want to put up with this.'

**Cutting back on the youngest staff members**

The supermarket bosses have responded to the FNV's letter of focal points for the kick-off of collective bargaining on 17 September. Martens: 'Employers actually do not want to give the youngest workers in the 16 to 18 age bracket a penny more, and they are even cutting back on the youngest ones. They are only prepared to grant a minor raise with regard to the starting salary of 20- and 21-year-olds, which means that everybody who has been employed longer will be disadvantaged. All in all, it is a useless proposal that we definitely

cannot agree to. We are requesting a very reasonable pay rise for all supermarket workers, and this does not even come near it.'

**Reduce work-related stress**

The FNV had already conducted a short survey among 2,100 supermarket workers just before the outbreak of the corona (COVID-19) virus. The most important results included the 5% wage demand, as well as no cuts in bonuses and a reduction in work-related stress (68% of the respondents were in support of both items).

Please visit our website at [fnv.nl/supermarkten](https://fnv.nl/supermarkten), or like our [SupermarktFNV](#) page on Facebook if you wish to be kept informed about the negotiations.

With kind regards,  
FNV Supermarkets Team