

31 May 2010

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EW/HK

To
IUF and EFFAT

Rights for berry pickers in Sweden

Dear colleagues,

As the Swedish Municipal Workers' Union – Kommunal organise workers in the agriculture sector, we also organise the workers picking wild berries. Due to problems in the berry picking sector concerning the rights for migrant temporary workers and unclear employment contracts etc, the Swedish Board of Migration has decided upon a decree regarding minimum levels for migrant temporary workers. The minimum levels, which are statutory, shall correspond to the collective agreements in the agriculture sector or staff recruiting agencies depending on the employment contract. The change in regulation means that the conditions in the berry picking sector now are at the same level as for the rest of the Swedish labour market.

Kommunal have compiled a brochure with information regarding those minimum levels which include working hours, salary, and health and safety regulations. It also contains a presentation of Kommunal and some general information regarding the Swedish labour market. Naturally, we explain the advantages of collective agreements and that temporary workers can join Kommunal.

The collective bargaining is still in progress, but we think it is urgent to inform about these new conditions prior to the berry picking season starts. We will, of course, keep the information updated.

Kommunal kindly ask IUF and EFFAT to help us to disseminate this information material via your web-sites and other channels. The brochure is available in 8 languages; English, Estonian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Swedish, Thai and Ukrainian.

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Yours sincerely,
Swedish Municipal Workers' Union – Kommunal



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Head of Secretariat

Enclosures: *Working in Sweden* in eight languages