



## SAS-pilots deliver notice of industrial action

The pilots are faced with demands of 30% reduction in already competitive terms and conditions, while their jobs are transferred to staffing agencies.

SAS management has exploited the pandemic by terminating almost half of the pilots in the airline. All of these pilots have a five year right of re-employment, before SAS can take on new hires. Under considerable protest from the employees, SAS management has established two subsidiary companies using staffing agencies; Connect and Link. Routes and aircraft previously operated på SAS are now transferred into these companies, still painted in SAS colors.

76 years of collective experience on the demanding Scandinavian route network is now being replaced by new hires from all over the world, on lower terms and conditions in these staffing agencies, while 450 fired SAS-pilots are still unemployed.

The collective agreements between SPG and SAS expired 31 March, and the negotiations were terminated 29 March when extensive demands of 30% reductions in terms were unacceptable to SPG.

Parallell to the CBA negotiations, SPG has tried to find a solution in dialouge with management. SPG has offered significant cost reductions, in return for a guarantee that all SAS pilots are subject to the same collective agreements. SAS management has rejected these offers, and SPG sees no other option than to deliver notice of industrial action.

SPG President Martin Lindgren comments:

- *«SAS management has created a corporate structure that violates the Scandinavian labor model. If SAS can establish staffing agencies to circumvent existing agreements with their employees, why can't other businesses do the same? For that reason, this struggle is important for all workers in Scandinavia.»*
- *«SAS management must now elect co-operation instead of conflict with their employees, that is the only way to survive the financial crisis which the pandemic has put the airline in. The pilots have always shown willingness to help the company pull through critical situations before, and they are ready to show responsibility once again. But who would consider investing in a company which is trying hard to get rid of you?»*

Mediators from three countries will now try to assist the parties in reaching an agreement. If this effort does not succeed, a strike can be in effect 29 June.

- *«The responsibility to avoid a strike rests heavily on SAS management. They have used considerable resources to attack both the Scandinavian labor model and their own employees. We have been faced with impossible ultimatums which now forces our hand in this matter. The pilots have no other demands than that SAS management respects our agreements and the labor model in our countries», Lindgren finishes.*



For more information, see contact details [here](#)