

*Paid for out of our own pockets – all support is welcome*



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**HPH**  
**delta**  
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**invisible?**

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**No  
sailors  
in**

**war zone!**

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**Get rid of  
new government  
her and her plans!**

**31 March  
meeting  
FNV Havens: a**

**Make the union  
fighting organisation!**

Even before the new government has well and truly begun it has managed to arouse the anger the Netherlands. The of all working officials of the FNV and

VCP refuse to negotiate with the CNV and to keep them talking as

to benefits (Unemployment Benefit, WIA

and state pension) have not been withdrawn.

The FNV Havens sector council is going a step further. It is calling all members to a meeting on 31 March. The proposal

to go on strike in the port from mid-at least five days in the port to demand that the cuts to benefits be withdrawn



. The members will certainly embrace that proposal. Everyone is raring to go.

### **Government of the big capitalists**

Big business and the wealthy are delighted with this government; the government's programme reflects their list of demands: cutting back on the hard-won rights of working people (particularly benefits and healthcare), channelling billions into war preparations, an extra billion in fossil fuel subsidies, further dismantling of environmental measures, and using refugees as scapegoats.

### **Without the workers, the country grinds to a halt**

Workers can bring the whole country to a standstill. Without the workers, nothing moves. Then the companies make no profit. Then it becomes clear that the country does not run on the empty talk of those in boardrooms and ministries, but that it runs on the labour of ordinary people.

Strikes against the government in the ports are sure to generate great enthusiasm in other sectors, and many will join in.

### **We want a better life, peace and a society based on solidarity**

Why limit the struggle to cuts to unemployment benefits, disability benefits and state pensions? Working people are also being hit hard by cuts to healthcare.

Excesses are reaching record levels, care homes are closing, medicines are being removed from the insured package, and disabled and chronically ill people are particularly hard hit. This is leading to a society where everyone is left to fend for themselves. If you have no money, you're out of luck.

The big capitalists are steering us towards a society without solidarity; the labour movement cannot let this happen.

### **Stop the preparations for war**

Six billion is being cut from benefits and ten billion from healthcare. The 'freedom tax' is expected to raise 3.4 billion (a war tax of almost 200 euros per resident!). This is intended to increase the war budget by an additional 19 billion euros. Is that not the most alarming aspect of the entire coalition agreement?

The Netherlands and the other European countries are spending many billions to assert themselves militarily on the world stage. This involves rare



metals and other raw materials, for markets, for cheap labour, for fertile land and to thwart competitors from the US, China and so on. Our resources are being sacrificed for this; for this, our young people will soon have to lay down their lives in military uniform on the front line. Participation in imperialist interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan has brought nothing but misery, yet this is child's play compared to what ordinary people worldwide face if the imperialists are not stopped.

**The labour movement is strong enough not to limit itself to fighting cuts to benefits.**

**We want a better life, a life of solidarity.**

**Hands off healthcare and social services**

**Lower the retirement age, not raise it**

**Tax the rich and big business**

**For the right to asylum, never having to flee again, welcome everywhere**

**Lower housing costs, build affordable housing**

**Stop preparations for war, for peace and friendship between peoples!**

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## **Samskip is selling off its assets to CLdN**

Samskip is selling its services between Rotterdam and the United Kingdom/Ireland to CLdN. At RST (which handles most Samskip ships in Rotterdam), there had been rumours for some time that Samskip was in financial difficulty. The sale is therefore unlikely to be a luxury move. Samskip's management is acting as if nothing is wrong: *"This will allow us to concentrate on the most important strategic markets of the future"*. Whether Samskip's container ships will remain with RST has not been announced. In 2024, Samskip became a co-owner of Matrans Rotterdam Terminal. Eventually, Samskip's ships were due to move there. But that too is now uncertain.

# All rights reserved for the colleagues of **HP Delta II**

Hutchison and MSC have decided to build a new automated terminal on the site currently occupied by Delta II and DDN. Hutchison and MSC state that no decision has yet been made as to which company will own the terminal. If the terminal is not owned by HP Delta II, what will happen to the staff at HP Delta II? Will they remain employed by HP Delta II, a company with no operations? There is considerable concern about this. If the colleagues at Delta II have to transfer to a new company, this could be at the expense of their pension rights, the works council writes in a letter dated 6 March.

FNV Havens has decided not to participate in a pilot scheme on staff exchanges between ECT and HP Delta II until a satisfactory response is provided. The works council wants the right to be consulted on the matter, but management has no intention of seeking its advice. That is why the works council is taking the matter to court. So far, this pressure has been insufficient to force Hutchison and MSC to provide clarity.

Waiting in uncertainty is not a pleasant prospect. Our colleagues at Delta II know how to take action. That experience can always be put to use!



# The far right and fascists They promise a lot (but **NEVER** keep their word)

When the Volle La-ding was being handed out, it turned out that almost every dockworker wants to take on the government. A colleague said: 'I voted for one of the parties that wants to do things differently', referring to the parties to the right of the VVD: the far right and fascists. But you can't judge those parties on what they promise. You have to look at what they do. Chief fascist Trump also promised not to wage war, and look what's happening. War abroad and the oppression of citizens at home – that is the essence of fascism.

## **Collaborating in the dismantling of benefits and the ramping up of the war budget**

When the PVV supported the Rutte I government in 2010, it supported (contrary to its election promise) the raising of the retirement age to 66 and its subsequent further increase by the number of months that life expectancy would rise (which it now opposes). When the PVV and BBB joined

in the Schoof government, they agreed to reduce the maximum duration of unemployment benefit from two to 1.5 years. Now that the new government is continuing along those lines, they are up in arms. As governing parties, the PVV and BBB also agreed to the increase in the 'NATO standard' from 2% of GDP in 2025 to 5% in 2035. In line with this, they agreed to the additional increase in the defence budget in 2026 of 3.4 billion. Ja21 had the CPB calculate the cost of its programme, which included a plan to raise the retirement age in line with life expectancy – now they suddenly say they are against it.

## **Unity is strength**

The far right promises everything, but you cannot take those promises seriously. If you want to be part of the government, you must be prepared to implement the agenda of big business. Because it is big business – and not the voters – that determines government policy.

Karl Marx put it this way: 'You can choose who represents you and who tramples on you'.

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## Principles of De Volle Lading

1. We champion the interests of dockworkers and young people entering the port workforce through proactive demands.
2. We help organise the struggle for these interests, among other things through the fortnightly publication of De Volle Lading.
3. We operate democratically. Everyone can have their say. Friends who support the dockworkers' struggle are welcome.
4. We campaign for trade unions that fight for workers' interests in a militant and democratic manner.
5. We are independent, including financially. We only accept financial contributions if they are given without conditions.
6. We are open to ideas about a different society without the exploitation and oppression of working people – this guides our struggle.
7. We are working to strengthen international solidarity among dockworkers.

**De Volle Lading** is a publication of the De Volle Lading group – by colleagues for colleagues in the port. At De Volle Lading, you can learn to fight against injustice and against the root cause of injustice: capitalism. And please feel free to put some money in the pot to support us. De Volle Lading operates without subsidies – because we want to remain independent.

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## Support De Volle Lading

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NL54INGB0004428359, quoting 'DVL'

This also applies to the far right and fascists.

The far right and fascists play a special role for the big capitalists: they pit workers against one another – on the basis of race, culture or religion. Divide and rule. They make workers believe that the problems faced by working

The problems people face are not caused by capitalism. Unity is strength: that is what drives the labour movement forward. Unity in the struggle for our immediate interests and for a society in which those big corporations no longer call the shots.

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## **ZIM is trying to become invisible**

Hapag Lloyd is taking over ZIM for four billion dollars. Hapag Lloyd is the world's fifth-largest container shipping company, with a market share of 7.1%. ZIM ranks tenth with 2.1%. The merging and takeover of shipping companies is a constant phenomenon. Only a few super-monopolies remain, which sometimes cooperate and sometimes fight each other tooth and nail.

There are some unusual aspects to this takeover. ZIM carried out special transport operations for the Israeli government, particularly in the military sphere. The Israeli state therefore had a decisive say in ZIM's management via a 'golden share'. Due to the genocide in Gaza, ZIM became a target for the solidarity movement with Gaza. Are they trying to wriggle out of this by ensuring that it is no longer ZIM on the ships, but Hapag-Lloyd?

FIMI – one of Israel's largest private equity firms – is set to acquire a fleet of 16 vessels that will operate on a number of strategically important routes for ZIM. It will do so in partnership with Hapag-Lloyd. In this way, the interests of the State of Israel are safeguarded.

The takeover also reflects the close ties between Israeli and German big business. After the US, Germany is Israel's largest arms supplier. And when it comes to measures against Israel over the war on Gaza, the German government always puts the brakes on.

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# **Greek** seafarers take action for colleagues in a war zone

On 5 March, seafarers operating between the Greek mainland and the islands went on strike for a day. They demonstrated outside the Ministry of Shipping and the Greek Shipowners' Association building. The strike was directed against the Greek government, because it sent two frigates equipped with Patriot missiles to Cyprus, thereby becoming involved in the war being waged by the US and Israel against Iran. The Greek government also sent 120 'military experts' to Gaza and 120 soldiers to Saudi Arabia to guard oil fields. PENEN (the Greek seafarers' union) has a tradition of fighting for peace.

The strike was also directed against the shipowners who send seafarers to war zones. PENEN stated in a declaration: *"Ships have been hit and there*

*are dead and wounded sailors. On these ships are our colleagues, our brothers, our sons, our fathers, our friends and acquaintances. The shipowners sent them there, even though they knew full well that the region was heading for war. They sent them there because some profit from the war and others suffer from it."*

PENEN demands that seafarers are not sent to war zones and that they are repatriated swiftly. This is how we act to ensure the safety of our colleagues: not through armament, but by distancing ourselves from the war. On the very same day, PENEN reached an agreement with the shipowners that any seafarer who wishes to do so will be repatriated and receive compensation equivalent to two months' salary.

