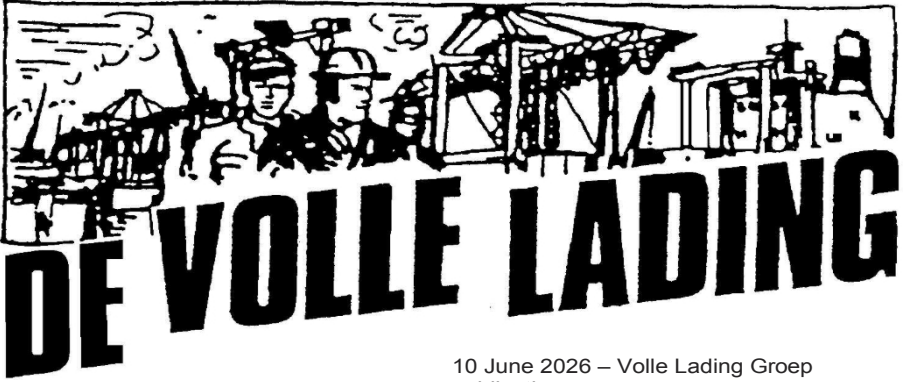


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10 June 2026 – Volle Lading Groep  
publication

**port  
unions**



**again  
st war**



**the  
real  
elite**



**Anger  
towards the  
government is  
growing  
the  
action  
too**

There is widespread dissatisfaction with the new government. Confidence is at an all-time low. Everyone is angry about the cuts to healthcare (10 billion) and benefits

(over 6 billion).

Many are also angry about the 'freedom contribution' (3.4 billion), which is effectively a war tax. These attacks come on top of





## **Continued - Anger over government grows - action too**

the cuts and tax increases of the previous government.

Add those figures together and you have exactly the amount by which military spending is being increased. This increase in spending began under the previous government – it agreed to the NATO standard of 5% of gross domestic product. These preparations for war serve the interests of big business: they want access to raw materials, markets, cheap labour and strategic areas.

Competition between big business is intensifying; military resources are becoming decisive. Europe, the US, Russia and China are preparing for such a war.

That war is against the interests of working people: workers should not be shooting at workers. The struggle must be directed against the rulers in our own country.

There is also anger because the government is continuing the previous government's inhumane asylum policy. Anger because, just like the previous government, it is doing nothing to build affordable housing and because, just like the previous government, it subsidises polluters instead of tackling environmental destruction.

The struggle against the government is beginning to gain momentum. Workers at Schiphol are rising up

22 June: action. Public transport will be on strike during the morning rush hour on 24 June. During the same week, trade union demonstrations against the government will be held in a number of major cities: Amsterdam on 23 June, Groningen and Utrecht on 25 June, Eindhoven

26 June, Rotterdam and Nijmegen

27 June. There will also be a demonstration in Nijmegen. Information on the exact locations and times can be found here:

[www.fnv.nl/acties/de-toekomst-is-van-ons/](http://www.fnv.nl/acties/de-toekomst-is-van-ons/).

### **Port: from words to action**

On 31 March, the port workers decided to go on strike for five days against the government. At the time, there were some doubts: would other sectors follow suit? It is now clear that other sectors are following. Public transport workers and those at Schiphol Airport are the first to take action. To further develop the struggle, it is important that the port also plays its part, for example on 24 June when public transport is also on strike. A massive turnout of port workers at the unions' demonstrations also helps the cause. From words to deeds.

# **Workers' struggle against the government is a struggle against capitalism**

The policies of the new and previous governments bear a striking resemblance to one another. In both governments, the hard-right VVD agenda prevails: cutting back on the hard-won gains and rights of ordinary people, subsidies for big business, profit over the environment, ramping up the war budget, and using asylum as a lightning rod.

Anyone looking for an alternative cannot turn to the right-wing. From fascists to the far right to the VVD: no right-wing party rejects the profit-seeking of big business as the cause of our woes. Yet it is this very profit-seeking that secures subsidies for big business, that leads to cuts in social security and healthcare, and that leads to war and environmental destruction.

And it is that profit-seeking that leads to the rise of fascist groups, hatred of asylum seekers and the erosion of the democratic rights we still have. There is no conclusion other than that these big corporations must be stripped of their power and that capitalism has had its day.

It is essential to wage the trade union struggle

against the government with clear, offensive demands and an anti-capitalist direction. Solidarity, workers' interests first, a society in which everyone can play their part, socialism!

- Lower the retirement age, not raise it
- Hands off healthcare and social services
- Minimum hourly wage of 18 euros
- Tax the rich and big business
- Stop the billions in subsidies for the big capitalists
- Abolish the excess in healthcare
- Free home care and nursing homes for those needs it
- Lower housing costs Build affordable homes
- Stop preparations for war Stop the militarisation of society Workers do not shoot at workers
- For peace and friendship between peoples



# The **dismissal** of our colleague **Ciccio Colina**

On 26 May, Ciccio Colina was dismissed. He is an active member of the Si Cobas trade union and worked at Logiport (part of the Grimaldi Group) in the port of Salerno. A colleague who had been subjected to disciplinary measures had sought his help. This colleague had challenged the sanctions against him at the labour inspectorate in Salerno. This colleague also told him that management had pressured him to resign from Si Cobas. In exchange, he would receive money and the disciplinary measures against him would be withdrawn. Ciccio made this information public. The colleague was pressured by management, withdrew his complaint to the labour inspectorate and also stated that he had never been pressured to resign from Si Cobas.

## **The background**

Management subsequently accused Ciccio of spreading falsehoods,

suspended him and dismissed him. The case has not yet been settled in Salerno. There was a two-hour strike against the suspension, a protest rally was held at the gates, and the matter was also raised during a major trade union action. On 10 June, a day of action is being organised in the ports by a broad coalition of left-wing groups against the dismissal of Ciccio and two other active members of Si Cobas in the port of Naples.

## **The real reason**

Ciccio was always at the forefront when it came to defending workers' rights. Over the past two years, he has led strikes and protests against arms supplies to Israel and against the genocide in Palestine. Another factor in the background is that his union, Si Cobas, received numerous complaints about unsafe working conditions. Si Cobas had investigated the complaints thoroughly and compiled a report. That was no easy task,

as Logi-

# in Salerno must be **withdrawn!**

port is trying to suppress those complaints. Logiport relies heavily on temporary agency workers, who are easy to manipulate because they have no rights. Si Cobas sent the report to the authorities, who are supposed to investigate this.

## **Meloni**

The Italian government, led by the far-right Meloni, is creating a climate in which democratic rights – particularly trade union rights – are being increasingly curtailed. Companies are supporting this and taking advantage of the leeway they are being given. The fight against these redundancies is also a fight against rising fascism.

## **International solidarity**

The International Dockworkers' Conference and De Volle Lading have sent messages of solidarity. Solidarity from Dutch ports is also welcome. De Volle Lading is helping to ensure the statements reach the right people.



## Principles of De Volle Lading

1. We champion the interests of dockworkers and the young people who will be working in the port 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.

## Support De Volle Lading

Use this QR code to make a donation. Thank you in advance!



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**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 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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## **Conference of dockworkers' unions announces anti-war actions in October**

Anti-war actions took place on 6 February this year. On 18 and 19 May, a number of port unions met in Istanbul. Together, they represented more than 35 ports. They decided to hold another day of action in October. Below is an excerpt from the statement:

“The strike and international day of action we organised on 6 February across seven countries and 20 ports was a historic milestone. Dockworkers sent a powerful signal that they will not work for the wars of the imperialists. They proved that coordination is not just a slogan. It can become action. It can stretch from Piraeus to Genoa, Marseille, Tangier, Mersin, Bilbao, Pasaia, Trieste and to every port where workers rise up.”

These developments demand that we press on resolutely with what we have begun. The imperialist war in the Middle East is escalating. The genocide against the Palestinian people by the murderous state of Israel continues with the support of the US, NATO and the EU. The US-Israeli attack on Iran, the attacks on ships, the blockades, the militarisation of

maritime passages, all show that peoples and workers are being pushed deeper into the abyss of war.

Our ports themselves are on the front line. They want our hands to load weapons and serve their armies. They want the infrastructure built with the sweat of workers to form the basis for interventions, blockades, genocides and attacks on peoples. Governments speak of ‘security’, ‘stability’ and ‘freedom of navigation’. But behind these words lies rivalry over control of energy routes, trade routes, ports, raw materials and markets.

- Dockworkers will not make sacrifices for their profits and their wars
- We do not work for death
- We do not transport bullets, bombs and missiles so that children can be killed
- We will not accept our ports being turned into military bases
- Workers will not pay for the war economy, inflation, armament and the profits of the monopolies!

We call on all port unions to discuss this statement and organise joint actions to strengthen the bonds of solidarity between ports.”

# **Deltalinqs**

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## **bringing together the real elite**

Deltalinqs – the club of major companies in Rotterdam – held its 22nd annual dinner on 15 May.

If you want to know how the Netherlands is governed, a visit there is enough.

In attendance were the managers of Rotterdam's major companies, the press, aldermen, Mayor Schouten and Ministers Harbers (Infrastructure and Water Management) and Van Weel (Justice and Security).

advisory board of the UWV and

### **The new chairman**

At the dinner, it was announced who would become the new chairman of Delta-linqs as of 1 September: Jacco Vonhof. He served as chairman of MKB-Nederland (small and medium-sized enterprises) for eight years. He was also a member of the executive committee of the SER and the Labour Foundation, a board member of the Bank Council of De Nederlandsche Bank, a member of the national

other roles where the Dutch business and political elite meet.

### **Simons and Siemons**

Outgoing port alderman Siemons was showered with praise by Siemons (CEO of the Port of Rotterdam Authority).

While he was at it, he also praised director Ruys of ECT and Moone of Vopak. It's all about your friends. Het Nieuwsblad Transport reported that Mayor Schouten had stated she was campaigning for a third Maasvlakte and for lower energy costs for businesses. So now we know where her priorities lie.

Some say we are governed by a left-wing elite, but they clearly haven't been to the Deltalinqs annual dinner.

