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GPM&IT SECTOR

27 January 2021

To: Jan Schulze-Husmann, Ver.di

Colleagues

**Funke Media Group**

The undersigned, representing Unite the Union trade union in the United Kingdom, wish to show their solidarity with the workers of Funke Druckzentrum Erfurt in Thuringia, Germany, their representatives and the trade union Ver.di, in the face of the announcement of the closure of the Erfurt site and the transfer of its production to the Braunschweig site.

We would like to express our deepest rejection of this measure, which has been proposed without any clear justification based on the company's results, nor has any assessment been made of the alternatives put forward by the workers' representatives to maintain the operations under profitable conditions.

We would also like to kindly request the involvement of the Thuringia Regional Government to mediate in order to find a solution that will allow the continuity of the productive activity, because of its contribution to the generation of wealth and employment. Regional cohesion, of which employment is a fundamental aspect, is one of the pillars on which our European principles are based and it must be in the interest of us all (but especially of the administrations with the capacity to play a determining role) to protect this cohesion. Likewise, we appeal the Government of Thuringia to assess the long-term damage that the closure of its local printshop could cause to the dissemination of reliable and quality news, consistent with the sensitivity and values of the local population and is also relevant in matters concerning this population.



Louisa Bull  
**National Officer**  
Graphical Paper Media and IT Sector  
+447950700858  
[Louisa.Bull@unitetheunion.org](mailto:Louisa.Bull@unitetheunion.org)