



Dutch ALPA

Vereinigung Cockpit e.V./German Airline Pilots' Association
Captain I. Schulz
Main Airport Centre
D-60549 FRANKFURT/MAIN
GERMANY

PO Box 192
1170 AD Badhoevedorp
The Netherlands

Dellaertlaan 61
1171 KZ Badhoevedorp
T +3120 449 8585
www.vnv.nl

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Subject: **Lufthansa pilots**
Page: 1 of 1

Dear Mr. Schulz,

The Lufthansa pilots have decided to go on strike for three days. It's the ultimate step which is never taken without due consideration. We do realise how hard it is to finally come to the decision to go on strike. Every day we do the utmost to provide our passengers with the highest safety and comfort level in combination with the best possible service. It is highly frustrating that this is apparently not satisfactory to the management of the company. As president of VNV-Dutch ALPA, I would like to send you our sincere sympathy and full support for the industrial actions on behalf of our 5000 members.

The companies attempt to water down our collective labour agreements with the lighthearted excuse that it is necessary in order to reduce the unit cost level. This should be stopped. Management should first start to really manage the company by looking for possibilities for higher revenues and by lowering cost level through innovation, instead of taking the effortless decision of requiring extra efforts from their loyal employees.

The pilots pension schemes are the most recent target of the airline managements. In The Netherlands we face the same threat. The pressure is mounting to deteriorate our pension schemes. Fact is that pension is postponed salary, which therefore should never be touched by the airline/company, unless in agreement with the representative pilot union.

I would like to express my grave concern regarding these developments. The attack on pilot labour conditions in general and those of the Lufthansa pilots in particular. I wish you and your fellow pilots success in your campaign in defending your terms and conditions and I am confident that Vereinigung Cockpit is strong enough to withstand the pressure of the Lufthansa management. Do not hesitate to ask for our help in whatever way.

With solidary regards from The Netherlands,

best regards,

Captain. S.P.B. Verhagen
President