



Employees of EDS OS Germany
c/o IG Metall Darmstadt
Rheinstraße 50
D-64283 Darmstadt

Petition

To the President of the
United States of America

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Ruesselsheim, June 22, 2009

Dear Mr. President,

As employees of the US company Electronic Data Systems (EDS) at the German daughter company, we wish to present the following petition to you on behalf of all local employees.

As we are sure you are aware, our company was bought by the US global corporation Hewlett Packard (HP) in 2008. As of November 2008, around 25,000 employees were planned to be sacked worldwide, most of them in the US, with about 1,700 in Germany, which would amount to around 30% of the total local workforce.

Economically, HP is doing very well worldwide, and EDS did not suffer any losses in 2008; on the contrary, EDS turnover had a stabilizing effect on HP's profits in the first quarter of 2009. The real reason behind the proposed mass dismissals is the desire to boost Non-GAAP operating margin above their current level of around 10%.

HP CEO Mark Hurd (Business Week: Best Manager of the Year 2008) earned 42.8 million USD in 2008 which is a 68% increase compared to 2007. Six of the top executives at HP earned 142 million USD in 2008. Because HP profit was not as high as expected, not only did the average employees not receive any raises but in February 2009 Mr. Hurd asked the HP employees to take a permanent 5% pay cut and this was followed by the next announcement of an additional 6,400 job cuts. In times of worldwide depression, how can it be allowed that profitable companies can massively dismiss employees, adding to the further misery of a country, just to satisfy their greedy desire for higher profit margins?

EDS employees are determined on fighting these proposed mass dismissals, the threat of which has prompted many employees to become members of Germany's biggest labor unions over the past months. The EDS employees have launched a campaign under the slogan "Yes to HP but for us all" and have had a series of strikes in order to have a collective bargaining agreement. We therefore hope and trust, Sir, that you will find the time to read our petition and intervene in our favor, since you yourself commented on the looming economic crisis with the words "Labor unions are part of the solution, not part of the problem" on January 30.

The company's image as a whole will suffer considerable damage as a result of so many dismissals since apart from the loss of jobs involved, existing customer relations will be undermined too. Those employees who remain will no longer be able to do business as before (especially the important services) so that, one way or the other, all employees will be deprived of their economic livelihood in the not-too-distant future.

We ask ourselves, who will buy HP products or enlist their services, if so many qualified jobs are lost and companies are prepared to reduce their economic resources to an absolute minimum? We think, that this is exactly the same malfunctioning policy which led to the deep economic crisis we suffer today around

