

(Extract from a text/dialogue about a meeting between Peer Fekt, chairman of the works council, his colleague Klara Fall, and two new colleagues from abroad who have been invited to this meeting.)

PEER FEKT

Well, shall we get down to business?

I suppose you were a little surprised
vermute

when you got our invitation. Have you ever been in touch with a works council or staff representation?

JUSTIN TIME

Actually I have not, and to get in touch with the union
Gewerkschaft

would be more than unusual at home.
ungewöhnlich

RAMSO GUPTA

Not really, no, there are not many companies where the management recognized a union. But we have heard
die Geschäftsführung anerkannte Gewerkschaft

that in Germany there is a special system, and also one of the ladies in HR mentioned that
erwähnte

there is a culture of co-determination here.
Mitbestimmung



JUSTIN TIME

Actually when you wrote in the email with your invitation that it is among the responsibilities of the union
es gehört zu Verantwortlichkeiten

to examine our employment, and then to signal consent
prüfen Beschäftigung Zustimmung

or denial, all according to legal regulations,
Ablehnung entsprechend gesetzlich Vorschriften

I admit this was new to me.
gebe zu

Something like this would be impossible in the US.

DENIED

APPROVED

KLARA FALL
(smiling)

And probably the HR department informed you
wahrscheinlich

that your employment contract is only effective with our approval?
Arbeitsvertrag wirksam Billigung

JUSTIN TIME

They did indeed. But it was also interesting to read in your mail
about the achievements of the union resp. some details
Errungenschaft *bzw*
of the collective agreement. I mean, it is nice
Tarifvertrag
that we are entitled to so many benefits as a result
Anspruch *Vergünstigungen* *Ergebnisse*
of collective bargaining.
Tarifverhandlungen

PEER FEKT

Well, then let me give you an overview
of what we would like to talk about today.
First of all, we would like to help you understand your payslip
Gehaltszettel
and our remuneration system, so that you get an idea
Entgelt
of where you are placed within the system.
platziert
Then we can give you some information on
our company pension scheme and how it works.
Betriebsrentenprogramm
Furthermore working time is an issue,
Arbeitsvertrag *Thema*
in particular our working time accounts.
insbesondere *Arbeitszeitkonten*
Have I forgotten anything, Klara?



KLARA FALL

That seems to be quite a bit already,
ziemlich viel
but of course we want to tell you also who we are
respectively what a works council is, what we are in charge of,
bzw
our rights and responsibilities, because you are affected by this.
Verantwortlichkeiten *sind betroffen davon*
Last but not least we are going to inform you about the role
nicht zuletzt
that our union plays for our work and for you as an employee
in our branch of industry.
Branche

RAMSO GUPTA

This sounds a lot, but also very interesting, don't you think Justin?

JUSTIN TIME

It really does, but may I ask something?

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