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Re: The Labour Court

Application to vary the REA for the Electrical Contracting Industry

AECI have been a party to the Electrical REA since its inception and have supported the concept of collective bargaining over that period. We are convinced that our Industry and our country need stability at this crucial time of economic depression. We have continually opposed any attempt to increase wage rates at the ENJIC, the L.R.C. and any other forum at which we have a voice. This policy will continue at the upcoming Labour Court Hearing on the 27th of November 2009.

Our members are being bombarded with demands from customers to decrease charge out rates. It is difficult to survive in the Electrical Contracting Industry under the current wage rates, but any further increase in costs will result in Members being put out of business and massive job losses. The only people to gain from a wage increase at this time would be the droves of Electrical Contractors, from out of State, who are getting all the work at present and with whom our local Electrical Contractors cannot compete.

Surely someone in Government must see that something must be done to improve our competitiveness and that the haemorrhaging of funds from the Industry and the State coffers (PAYE, PRSI, Pension funds, VAT on materials, Duty on fuels etc.) must be stopped without delay.