Multinationals, what kind of transparency?
Filcams starts up the Observatory for checking the multinationals’ conduct

The Oxfam report shows that the 62 richest billionaires own as much wealth as the poorer half of the world’s population, that means that they are richer than 3.6 billion people. They are supermanagers, mostly men (only 9 are women), at top positions of big corporations. A picture of strong inequality, in an economic context where the crisis costs impact only the weak rings of the production and supply chain. The scissors between rich and poor have increased in the last years quickly, also due to the multinationals' tax evasion and avoidance.

With a view to measuring the multinationals' transparency, Filcams-CGIL has launched a new European project, presented in Rome on the 18th and 19th January.

That is a project aimed at the creation of tools to enable workers and their representatives to exercise an effective control on the conduct of their own multinationals, given that transparency is the conditio sine qua non to access a flow of information useful to collective bargaining and participation.

The project will develop an innovative Observatory for ranking multinationals according to their levels of financial and political transparency, respect of diversity and human dignity, accessibility as attention to people with disabilities and special needs and access to information and discussion tables.

This system intends to unmask multinationals who hide behind a “cosmetic” probity, formed of codes of conduct and corporate social responsibility policies (often disregarded), a not-really virtuous conduct towards employees, local communities and territories where they have economic activities.

Furthermore, the Observatory will allow to recognise the quality of those multinationals who take action (not only enunciations) to improve working conditions as well as social and environmental sustainability of their production and supply chain.

The project takes advantage of the European Trade Union Federations EFFAT and UNI-EUROPA, National Trade Union Federations from France, Italy and Bulgaria; three Research Institutes (Italian IRES-CGIL Emilia Romagna; Hungarian SZGTI and Bulgarian ISTUR-CITUB); several European Works Councils (like ADECCO, CLUB MED, AUTOGRILL, UNICREDIT); OPENPOLIS (no-profit association for transparency) as well as experts on environment (WWF RP); accessibility for all (TATA); diversity (avv. La Tegola); union and legal issues (avv. Verrecchia).