



## IF Metall is one of twelve Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO) federations that are together in wage negotiations

– “It is good that we twelve federations have decided to coordinate ourselves within LO. One important issue is low wages,” says IF Metall’s federation chair Marie Nilsson.

This model for dealing with low wages was used for the first time in wage negotiations in 2017.

– “We have already seen that this initiative has raised pay for those on low wages, primarily women, in the Technical Agreement, our largest agreement area,” said Marie Nilsson at LO’s press conference.

The coordinated demands include a number of important areas, such as pensions, rehabilitation, protection against sexual harassment and the industry’s competitiveness.

– “We must have the strength to work and here it is very important to set requirements for functional rehabilitation. It’s not working today,” says Marie Nilsson.

### Requirement for getting pensions into order

Getting our occupational pensions into good order is also important.

– “Some employers have quite simply not paid in the pension money that they should do for their employees.

That’s something we need to get sorted out,” says IF Metall’s agreement secretary Veli-Pekka Säikkälä.

Another requirement is that pension money should be set aside throughout working life, and not just from the age of 25 as it is today.

Many of LO’s members start work much earlier than the age of 25.

– “It is self-evident that provisions for pensions should begin earlier,” says Veli-Pekka Säikkälä.

### Agreement that industry sets the mark

The twelve federations are also in agreement that wage rises should occur at a pace that the country’s competitiveness can handle. That is to say, agreements should put more money in people’s pockets but at the same time be in balance with what Swedish industry can manage in competition with the rest of the world.

– “This is also the main point of our LO coordination, that we stay together in agreement that competitiveness holds,” says Marie Nilsson.

### Facts:

- The press conference was held on the occasion of the meeting of the LO secretariat on 23 October at which the 14 LO federations discussed and decided on the joint requirements for new agreements in 2020.
- The two LO federations that chose to remain outside the coordination are the Swedish Municipal Workers’ Union and the Swedish Paper Workers’ Union.
- On 6 December, the twelve coordinated federations will decide their claims for wage increases.