



Name: **Jean-François Renucci**

Name of Union: **CFDT/FCE [French Democratic Confederation of Labour/Chemical Energy Federation]**

Provence/Country: **France**

Job/Title: **Secretary General**

Can you tell us something interesting about your city of origin?

I am originally from Corsica, from the village of Piaggiola which is in the mountains. But I grew up in Paris, where I began my career with Électricité de France.

What type of work do your members do?

Our Union has eight branches, or sectors, i.e. chemical, energy (which includes electricity and gas), petroleum (refining), glass, paperboard, rubber, plastic processing, and pharmaceuticals. Our members work in plants, customer service or offices. The Federation has 50,000 members.

What are the key challenges facing workers in your country today?

The two major issues are the absence of economic growth and rising unemployment. The rate of unemployment in France is more than 11%, and it is estimated that another 10% of the country's workforce is under-employed. This has led us to reflect on the possibility of establishing a responsibility pact under which companies that create a certain number of new jobs would see reductions in the social charges imposed on them by the government. In fact, an agreement

of this type already exists in the chemical sector. We are promoting a growth model that is focused on the economy of the future, green manufacturing, nanotechnologies, and high-technology products.

What do you hope to accomplish during the Steelworkers' Constitutional Convention?

We are here, at the invitation of the Steelworkers, to demonstrate our solidarity and learn about the social history of the union movement. With globalization, it is important, now more than ever, that we build international solidarity networks. At meetings like these, we can create links with trade unionists from companies that share common ground. In fact, I'll also be attending meetings of unionists with transnational corporations such as Rio Tinto. We believe that our union activity now extends beyond France's borders, at least to Europe as a whole, and increasingly at a global level.

What do you think of Las Vegas?

This is a city to discover. An extravagant city, in the middle of the desert. A city focused on gaming. It's like a mirage.