



## Let Germans watch World Cup at work: employers' chief 德國僱主協會：讓員工上班時間看世足

Germans should be allowed to watch the football World Cup on television at work without getting into trouble with their **superiors**, the head of the national employers' association said.

Dieter Hundt, often called the "boss of the bosses," called on companies to **cut their staff a little slack** when footballmania strikes over the next month.

"I am confident that employers, while considering the needs of their businesses, will react flexibly and, together with their workforces, develop their own policies," he told the daily *Berliner Zeitung*.

Every company needs to decide for itself "to what extent it can strike a balance with the broadcast of World Cup games and working hours."

Hundt's counterpart at the German Federation of Trade

Unions, Michael Sommer, welcomed the employers' pledge of **tolerance** when asked by the *Berliner Zeitung*.

Watching soccer together encourages "team **cohesion** and staff motivation," he argued.

He noted that several of the World Cup matches in South Africa were taking place in the early afternoon, including the second match featuring the German side, against Serbia on June 18.

(AFP)

德國僱主協會會長表示，世足賽期間，公司主管應該通融一點，允許員工上班時收看電視轉播。

常被稱為「老闆中的老闆」的戴特·洪德呼籲各公司行號，在世足熱席捲全世界的這一個月，多通融員工一點。

他向《柏林日報》表示：「我相信僱主們在考慮工作需要的同時，也會靈活應變、衡量人力，想出適合自己的方針。」

每個公司須自行取決「員工工時和看球時間的平衡點」。

德國工會聯合會會長麥可·索摩爾在接受《柏林日報》採訪時表示，欣然接納僱主承諾包容的決定。

他表示，讓員工一起看世足賽不但可「增強團隊凝聚力，還能激勵員工」。

他特別指出，南非世足賽有好幾場比賽都是在午後舉行，包括六月十八日德國對塞爾維亞的第二戰。

(法新社/翻譯：林倩如)

German football fans Clara, left and Lisa pose with German flags and a German scarf in the English Garden in the southern German city of Munich on June 10, 2010.

PHOTO: AFP

德國球迷克拉拉(左)與麗莎六月十日在南部大城慕尼黑的英國花園裡，手舉德國國旗和印有該國字樣的圍巾留影。

照片：法新社

### TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

#### 1. superior /su'piəriə/ n.

上司 (shang4 si1)

例：Max has spoken to his superiors about changing the company logo. (麥克斯已和上司們談過修改公司商標的事。)

#### 2. tolerance /'tolərəns/ n.

容忍 (rong2 ren3)

例：We have to encourage tolerance for people of other cultures and religions. (我們要鼓勵大家包容其他文化與宗教的人。)

#### 3. cohesion /ko'hizən/ n.

凝聚力 (ning2 ju4 li4)

例：The military has lacked cohesion for several years. (多年來，軍方一直欠缺凝聚力。)

### LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

#### cut someone some slack 放某人一馬

If you **cut someone some slack**, you let them do something they aren't normally allowed to do. According to the article, Dieter Hundt thinks German companies should **cut their employees some slack** and let them watch the World Cup during work hours.

「cut someone some slack」表示讓某人去做原本不准做的事。上文中提到，戴特·洪德認為德國的公司行號應該通融一點，讓員工上班時可以收看世界杯足球賽。