



Latvijas Ūdens transporta arodbiedrību federācija Water Transport Unions' Federation of Latvia

Arodbiedrības registrācijas apliecība Nr. 40008043811
29/31 Bruņinieku iela, Rīga, LV-1001, Latvija
☎ +371 67035930, fakss: +371 67035928
E-pasts: utaf@utaf.lbas.lv

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To the Ambassador of Portugal to Latvia

Dear Ambassador,

Over the last years the European Dockworkers' unions affiliated to the ETF and the IDC have been following the process of port reform implemented in Portugal since 2012 and the progressive deterioration of the labour conditions at the Portuguese ports, and in particular at the port of Lisbon.

During the last eleven months the bargaining negotiation process established at the new Port Labour Law has been deliberately frozen by the employers' associations, and a new labour pool have been created with the sole purpose of employing an alternative low-income non-union workforce with a clear intention of replacing the existing professional dockworkers.

In the port of Lisbon 47 dockworkers have been dismissed with not rightful motives, with the employers' goal to replace them by these alternative workers employed at substandard conditions.

The Portuguese port reform is a direct consequences of the liberalisation imposed by the Troika and accepted by the Portuguese government as a condition to obtain financial assistance, which the European Dockworkers' unions have repeatedly condemned.

As already denounced by the workers' unions, The Portuguese port law is in breach of the principles expressed by the ILO Convention 137 on Dock Work, which has been ratified by Portugal.

The European dockworkers urge the Portuguese Government to promote a meaningful dialogue between the unions and the port employers.

The most urgent demands of the workers' unions are

- To extend the deadline for the negotiations of a comprehensive collective bargaining agreement in the port of Lisbon until September 2014 and engage into a meaningful dialogue with the union;
- To immediately reinstate the 47 dismissed dockworkers under a permanent contract;
- To cancel the training of new dockworkers for the planned alternative pool while the negotiations for the new CBA are in place;
- To put an end to all the union-busting tactics currently being implemented;
- To organise an urgent meeting between the SETC (Dockworkers' union) and the government.

The European dockworkers will keep supporting the Portuguese unions, and unless a significant shift in the strategies developed by the employers over the last months takes place, they will promote and coordinate all lawful measures of international solidarity in support of the demands of their Portuguese fellow workers.

Yours faithfully,

A. Holodņuks
ŪTAF President