

NO QUALITY JOBS WITHOUT FAIR SUBCONTRACTING

ETF ROAD SECTION

ETF affiliates in the road transport sector from 13 different unions across Europe gathered in Liverpool today to call for decisive action to end abusive subcontracting in road transport. There is clear evidence that quality jobs cannot exist where complex subcontracting chains obscure responsibility, enable social dumping, and leave workers vulnerable to exploitation.

ETF and its affiliates stand united in demanding EU rules that put workers' rights first. In the upcoming European Commission's Quality Jobs Act, we call for a strong EU directive on subcontracting to close the loopholes that allow exploitation to continue, bring transparency to supply chains and ensure that the price of cheap transport is never paid by workers through lower wages, insecurity and poor working conditions. EU rules set the floor but our national governments decide whether that floor holds.

ETF calls on the European Commission and the national governments in and outside of the EU to take urgent action by:

1. **Limiting subcontracting chains to a maximum of two levels.** Endless chains serve no legitimate business purpose. They exist primarily to obscure responsibility and reduce costs at the expense of workers.
2. **Introducing joint and several liability across the entire subcontracting chain,** ensuring all entities (client, contractors and subcontractors) are accountable. This should cover a range of issues including remuneration, social security contributions, taxes, health and safety, and collective bargaining rights.
3. **Establishing strong EU rules for labour intermediaries** to ensure transparency¹, accountability and equal treatment.

The forthcoming Quality Jobs Act must put workers' rights before business models often designed and used to circumvent social and labour rights. Europe needs enforceable rules that guarantee decent work, fair competition and effective enforcement across the road transport sector.

ETF and its affiliates will continue to organise, campaign and mobilise until abusive subcontracting is brought to an end. Together, we will fight for quality jobs, equal treatment and dignity for every transport worker.

¹ Ensure enhanced transparency on the identity of the main contractor and the various subcontractors involved in the chain. Workers must be better informed about the nature of their employment relationship, and inspectorates must be equipped with better tools to understand these relationships. Workers and their trade unions must be able to effectively defend and enforce their rights (ETF, EFBWW, EFFAT on "Subcontracting chains and intermediaries – Stop exploitation", page 7)