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Galerie Agora,  
Rue du Marché aux Herbes 105, Bte 11  
B-1000 Brussels  
Telephone +32 2 285 46 60  
Fax +32 2 280 08 17  
Email: [etf@etf-europe.org](mailto:etf@etf-europe.org)  
[www.etf-europe.org](http://www.etf-europe.org)

European Transport Workers' Federation  
Fédération Européenne des Travailleurs des Transports  
Europäische Transportarbeiter-Föderation  
Federación Europea de los Trabajadores del Transporte

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## **ETF Executive Committee resolution on Spanish dockers' dispute**

During its meeting held in Brussels on 2-3 March 2017, the ETF Executive Committee (EC) has been informed of the ongoing dispute in the Spanish port sector by its affiliates FeSMC-UGT and FSC-CCOO.

Having noted that

- The conflict originates from the fact that Spanish government, disregarding social dialogue, has decided to present a unilateral reform of the port labour scheme;
- The dispute is a European issue, because it was instigated by the European Commission through an infringement procedure with the intention to liberalise port labour after failing twice to do so through legislation;
- The proposed reform goes well beyond the requirements for putting the Spanish legislation in line with EU law and that it would open the doors to social dumping and to more precarious work in Spanish ports;
- The ETF Dockers' Section has decided to put the EU social dialogue on hold until a shared solution is found on the Spanish dispute;

The ETF Executive Committee:

- Expresses its solidarity and that of the 3.5 million workers the ETF represents, to the Spanish Dockers and to its affiliates FeSMC-UGT and FSC-CCOO in view of the series of strikes that will start on 6 March;
- Calls on all affiliated union to support through any lawful means the struggle of the Spanish Dockers as requested by FeSMC-UGT and FSC-CCOO;
- Calls on the members of the Spanish Congress to reject the draft Royal Decree, and to initiate new and meaningful negotiations with the full involvement of social partners, so as to find a shared way to reform port labour;
- Calls on the European Commissioners for Transport and Employment to use their good offices to push for a negotiated settlement to the dispute instead of an archaic Royal Decree.