



ITF House
49 - 60 Borough Road
London SE1 1DR

Telephone +44 (0)20 7403 2733
Fax +44 (0)20 7357 7871

International Transport Workers' Federation
Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte
Fédération internationale des ouvriers du transport
Internationella Transportarbetarefederationen
Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation
Международная федерация транспортников
التنظيم عالمياً، النضال من أجل حقوقنا

Solidarity Declaration with Tug Workers on the Panama Canal

The ITF/ETF Tug Conference meeting in London on 23rd and 24th September 2015 has learnt with great concern of the planned unilateral introduction of unproven working practices and the general poor maintenance condition of the tugs in the expanded Panama Canal and its locks.

Changes in a potentially dangerous working environment under new conditions, i.e. significantly larger vessels operating in new locks should only be realised in close co-operation with the workers concerned and their representatives.

The representatives present at the conference:

- **Welcome** the initiative of the ITF to commission a simulator project to assess the operations of the new locks;
- **Stress** the fact that the Panama Canal Authorities have to comply with all relevant and applicable international conventions;
- **Urge** the Panama government to take up its responsibility to make sure that the appropriate international standards and conventions are respected and upheld;
- **Deplore** the lack of willingness of the Panama Canal Authority to engage in meaningful consultation with the tug crews and their unions;
- **Express** their concern that an introduction of untried practices in the new environment could pose not only a danger to the health and safety of the crews but also to the safety of the vital traffic through the canal;
- **Call** on the Panama Canal Authority to postpone the introduction of new working practices until the ITF study can present its conclusions and then only subject to an agreement with the crews and their unions;
- **Express** their solidarity with the crews and their unions and salutes their determination in defending their safety and dignity.

London, 24th September 2015

Chair, ITF Inland Navigation Section

For the participating unions:

MUA, Australia

BTB, Belgium

CGT Equipage, France

FOMM UGICT CGT, France

FIT CISL, Italy

UCOC, Panama

FSC-CC.OO, Spain

Nautilus International, Switzerland

Nautilus International, Netherlands

Unite, United Kingdom

ACV Transcom, Belgium

3F, Denmark

FGTE-CFDT, France

Ver.di, Germany

UIL, Italy

UIM, Panama

SMC-UGT, Spain

FNV Havens, Netherlands

Nautilus International, United Kingdom