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

Brussels, 21st June 2018

To the Tug Workers on the Panama Canal

Dear Colleagues, Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first meeting of the ETF Tug Steering Committee took place today in Brussels, Belgium, with representatives from France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

It discussed the situation facing you, our colleagues in the Union de Capitanes y Oficiales de Cubierta (UCOC), as you continue to defend the principles of safe working practices guaranteed by safe manning levels and whilst the integrity of your union is under increasing pressure from the authorities.

We fully support the declarations of support recently made by the ITF, and express our deep worries about the unilateral actions of the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) and totally endorse your concerns about the threat to the health and safety of those working on or passing through the Canal.

On behalf of the ETF Tug Steering Committee we call on the ACP to withdraw its measure, to cease its attacks on UCOC and to return to the principle of meaningful social dialogue with UCOC and the other unions representing crews working on the Canal.

We wish you success and a speedy resolution to this dispute.

Yours fraternally,

Jacques Kerkhof

Chair ETF Tug Steering Committee

Joris Kerkhofs

President, ETF Inland Waterways Section

Nick Bramley

Chair ITF Inland Navigation Section

On behalf of the participating unions:

ACV-Transcom, Belgium

BTB, Belgium

CGT, France

FIT-CISL, Italy

FNV Havens, Netherlands

Nautilus International

Unite the Union, United Kingdom

ver.di, Germany



President Frank Moreels

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