



## ITF/ETF Tug Conference declaration

ETF/ITF affiliates representing workers in tug and towage operations met in London on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Representatives of 20 member organisations from 11 countries discussed the impact of global maritime business model shifts.

From the exchanges during the conference, it was concluded that global players are consolidating in order to increase profits by imposing unfair tariffs and demands on local tug operators to do likewise.

### Therefore the unions present at the conference:

- **PLEDGE** solidarity to one another and commit that in case of any industrial dispute, action or strike, none of their membership will break the action/strike by relocating their tugs to the port or hub concerned.
- **DEMAND** that tariffs be fully transparent and discounts be published before they come into force.
- **RECOGNISE** the results achieved by the ETF in improving the text of the draft Port Service Regulation. The unions in the tug sector renew their continued support to the ETF to make sure that those improvements will be kept on-board by the legislators. They further reiterate their strong concerns over a possible future generalisation of the flags of convenience in the tug sector that could be triggered by EU market access rules.
- **DEMAND** that tariffs and discounts allocated to tug clients are calculated and established in such a way that they duly reflect and take into account the full labour cost. Working below cost should be declared unlawful.
- **DEMAND** that a tariffs and discounts calculation tool is developed and made publicly available so that all concerned can see the effects on employment and the service rendered.
- **DEMAND** that the European Commission to start an investigation to examine the systems and various business models put in place by large tug operators in order to apply for State Aid and by doing so undercut fair competition.
- **CALL UPON** the ITF to permanently update the research on international tug operations and put up an information provision tool open to affiliates.

London, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### 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