On 5 March 2014 20 European Dockworkers’ Unions affiliated to ETF and IDC, representing dockworkers in 16 European countries have met in Lisbon in the framework of the European Dockworkers’ Conference to discuss ongoing conflicts in European ports.

Having been informed that Dockworkers in Norway are at the moment under heavy pressure from the employers’ association and port terminal operators and that in a number of Ports, including Risavika Terminal, Drammen and Oslo employers are trying to evade the application of the national collective agreement and not to apply the preferential right to be given to registered dockworkers to perform dock work;

The unions participating in the European Dockworkers’ Conference:

Condemned the attempts of the employers, which are in breach of ILO Convention 137 that has been ratified by Norway;

Urged the employers to stop using non-unionised and non-registered workers in the ports where industrial actions are being taken;

Expressed their solidarity to Norwegian Dockers and in particular with those Dockers who are in strike and confirmed their intention to support them through any lawful means.