



ITF/ETF Tug Conference declaration

ETF/ITF affiliates representing workers in tug and towage operations met in London on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th 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, 24th 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