



Europêche and the ETF, EU-level social partners in fisheries and members of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Fisheries (SSDC-F) take the opportunity of the 32nd Session of the COFI, which will take place in Rome from 11 to 15 July 2016 to raise FAO members awareness on the urgent need to promote decent work and safety of life and property at sea in the fishing sector

Europêche and ETF believe that the ratification of relevant international instruments such as the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (C188), the Cape Town Agreement on safety of fishing vessels, 2012, the STCW-F is key to reach these objectives.

Further to this, tools like the Law of the Sea's Flag State duties (art. 94), Port State Control and the ILO Conventions on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work are also important for making the fisheries sector socially sustainable.

In the framework of the Code of Conduct on responsible fishing, Social partners emphasise the need to mainstream safety concerns into national and international fishing policies, as highlighted by the FAO Fisheries Circular N.966 and more recently by the Circular 1073, adopted in 2016.

The work that is being done by the ILO to deter forced labour is particularly important for the fisheries sector, and should therefore be supported by all competent institutions, at national and international level.

Finally, Europêche and ETF stress that, in order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, interdepartmental cooperation on safety at sea should be promoted.

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