



EP TAKES SOCIAL PARTNERS' AGREEMENT FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT ON BOARD

Seafarers' right to protection, information and consultation and fair and just working conditions endorsed by the European Parliament's plenary session

Today 8 July 2015, the European Parliament's (EP) Plenary session adopted the agreement reached in triadogue with the Council of the EU last May, on the European Commission's proposal for a Directive on seafarers. This adoption marks the end of a very long process, which started some eight years ago and which had opposed shipowners to trade unions for many years.

However, in October last year, the Social Partners for Maritime Transport¹, the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) and the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA), managed to reach an agreement that aimed at amending the Commission's original proposal on several essential points.

The joint ECSA/ETF agreement was presented both to the European Parliament and the Council of the EU and both institutions commended the social partners for having reached such agreement on an important matter for the shipping industry in general and its seafarers in particular. Hence, the agreement was fully taken onboard in the subsequent positions adopted by both EU Institutions.

Following this adoption, the following four EU Directives will soon also apply to the shipping industry, notably:

- Directive 2002/14/EC on information and consultation of employees in the EU
- Directive 2009/38/EC on the establishment of European Works' Councils for the purposes of informing and consulting employees,
- Directive 98/59/EC on collective redundancies, and
- Directive 2001/23 on the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of a transfer of undertakings.

ECSA and ETF very much welcome today's adoption of the triadogue agreement by the European Parliament's Plenary session and both social partners for maritime transport take this opportunity to express their thanks to all key players in the European Parliament as well as the Council of the EU for their acceptance of the work carried out by ECSA and ETF last year, as expressed in their joint agreement that amended the Commission's original proposal substantially.

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¹ **The ETF** represents more than 3.5 million transport workers from more than 230 transport unions and 41 European countries, in the following sectors: railways, road transport and logistics, maritime transport, inland waterways, civil aviation, ports & docks, tourism and fisheries.

ECSA is the trade association representing the national shipowners' associations of the EU and Norway (close to 99% of the EEA fleet or about 20% of the world fleet).