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European Transport Workers' Federation
Fédération Européenne des Travailleurs des Transports
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Federación Europea de los Trabajadores del Transporte

**ETF CONDEMNS THE DISMISSAL OF DALIBOR PETROVIC
ETF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DEMANDS IMMEDIATE REINSTATEMENT
OF DALIBOR PETROVIC**

The ETF Executive Committee, meeting on 20 May 2016 in Brussels, firmly condemns the outrageous dismissal of Dalibor Petrovic, Vice-President of the ETF affiliated Railroad Engineer Trade Union of Croatia.

Dalibor received notice of his dismissal on the grounds of “loss of confidence” by his employer, the Croatian rail passenger transport company HZPP, while he was solely executing his trade union duty. Dalibor asked from three managers to respect railway safety legislation and denounced counterfeiting of working time attendance of train drivers in the company. After being ignored by the managers he reported the illegal behaviour to the General Manager. Instead of preventing violation of safety rules, the General Manager responded by firing Dalibor, accusing him of “violating the dignity of managers”. While the court of first instance confirmed the illegal dismissal and agreed that Dalibor was executing his trade union duty, the company HZPP appealed after which the court of second instance reversed the judgement following an extreme short procedural way, not taking into account the arguments of the trade union representative and offering a ridiculous short justification of the decision.

The ETF Executive Committee is particularly shocked by the company’s behaviour considering that the recently adopted new Railway Safe Directive within the 4th Railway Package, also confirmed by the Croatian Transport Minister, introduces the obligation to develop just culture in the rail sector. Commissioner for transport Violeta Bulc requested the European Railway Agency to swiftly develop in cooperation with the rail stakeholders a system of occurrence reporting. It is the European Union’s objective to guarantee a safety culture in the railway sector that encourages employees to report safety problems without risk for blame and legal prosecution.

One of the basic duties of trade union representatives is to guarantee respect of collective bargaining agreements and to prevent harm of workers. The dismissal of Dalibor is a violation of fundamental trade union rights assured by the ILO and by European legislation. The ETF Executive Committee strongly condemns the dismissal and demands immediate reinstatement and compensation of Dalibor Petrovic.

ETF Executive Committee, Brussels, 20 May 2016



President Lars Lindgren

General Secretary Eduardo Chagas

Vice Presidents Alexander Kirchner
Ekaterina Yordanova

