



PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION

FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES TRAVAILLEURS DES TRANSPORTS

Brussels, 30 April 2013

“STOP JEOPARDIZING JOBS IN EUROPEAN SKY”

ETF organises European Action Day on 12 June to demand a social dimension inside the Single European Sky

Today, Tuesday 30 April 2013, the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) announced that Air Traffic Management (ATM) employees are mobilising for a European Action Day on 12 June 2013 to demand the establishment of a fair, cooperative and social Single European Sky (SES). Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) and the entire ATM staff will hold parallel walkouts, rallies, meetings and strikes across Europe calling on the European Commission to stop a never ending process of liberalisation, deregulation and cost cutting in the ATM industry.

In the course of next summer, the Commission intends to propose a new package called SES2+ based on market principles, top-down approach and cost reductions, which would jeopardize safety and the number and quality of jobs.

François Ballestero, ETF Political Secretary states: *“The ATM staff is suffering from a performance scheme dominated by a never-ending cost reduction and in which safety is not considered to be the first priority. The Commission intends to unbundle what they call ‘ancillary services’, which are sometimes the core of the industry, with the risk of creating a new fragmentation of the European sky. ETF rejects this dogmatic approach, which doesn’t take into account the public service role of the ATM sector.”*

Initially, the ETF supported the idea of the Single European Sky (SES) and has taken various initiatives, including via social dialogue, to make it work. However, today the pressure put on workers is becoming unacceptably high and the ETF will oppose any new package in which the social aspects of the SES are not properly addressed.

“If we oppose a unique model of Functional Airspace Blocks (FABs), it is because we believe that the FABs must be based on strong cooperation and a bottom-up approach”, says **Riccardo Rubini**, Chair of the ETF ATM Committee. *“We also ask the Commission to make the ‘human factor pillar’ binding in the future legislation. We are in favour of a SES that respects the jobs, the working conditions and the existing collective agreements. The ETF calls all ATM workers in Europe to join the Action Day on 12 June 2013”.*

For further information, please contact François Ballestero, ETF Political Secretary: f.ballestero@etf-europe.org – tel: +32 474916979

The ETF represents more than 2.5 million transport workers from 243 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.