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European Transport Workers' Federation
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Europäische Transportarbeiter-Föderation
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Svitzer workers strike in The Netherlands – their fight is our fight!

Despite the actions undertaken in the recent days, the Svitzer workers from The Netherlands are forced to strike today since the company refuses to have meaningful negotiations on legitime pay rise and better conditions for tug workers.

The whole European tug sector is trying to decrease towage costs as much as possible to offer better prices to the shipping companies and to satisfy the greed of shareholders. But once again all this, in the management intentions, has to be paid by the ones who concretely perform the towage operations: the workers.

This downward spiral has to stop in The Netherlands and everywhere else in Europe and beyond! The tug workers from all over Europe stand together to oppose this race to the bottom that eventually will risk to jeopardise safe towage operations in a dangerous and delicate environments such as ports.

All our support and solidarity goes to the Dutch tug workers and to their just fight for their jobs, their rights and their working conditions!

Jacques Kerkhof
President ETF Tug Committee

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