



Berglind Hafsteinsdóttir
President
Flugfreyjufélagi Íslands (FFÍ)

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Brussels, 31 July 2020

Dear Berglind,

Solidarity with Icelandair Cabin Crew Members

As the representatives of five million European transport workers, including 370,000 aviation workers working in airlines, at airports and in air traffic management, the European Transport Workers' Federation closely follows developments concerning cabin crew at Icelandair.

In our solidarity message from May 2020, we deplored the attitude of the management whose only interest was to make the company as attractive as possible for new investors as opposed to a desire to engage in genuine collective dialogue with its workers. We also understood that the company is using union busting practices to hinder the legitimate resistance of the cabin crew against a new contract with significantly worse working conditions.

Unfortunately, since then, the situation has further deteriorated. We understand that after the majority of the cabin crew refused to accept the terms of the new contract, the management declared that they did not see the possibility of an agreement and consequently laid off all of their cabin crew and replaced them with pilots.

Though the situation was avoided by a last-minute deal between your union and Icelandair, we deplore this unprecedented attack on the legitimate rights of workers and their union and this flagrant breach of safety obligations by Icelandair.

The ETF Pilot community would like to share with you and your colleagues the attached solidarity statement, which supports your actions and demonstrates genuine solidarity between pilots and cabin crew. At the ETF, we are a big family representing all aviation workers across the aviation value chain. For us, one category of workers should never be used to undermine the position of others.

In solidarity,

Oliver Richardson
Chair of the
ETF Civil Aviation Section

Josef Maurer
ETF Head of Aviation
and Operations

ETF Pilots offer solidarity to Icelandair Cabin Crew Members

It is with great concern that the ETF Pilots learned from the Icelandic cabin crew union Flugfreyjufélagi Íslands (FFÍ) about the intention of Icelandair to lay off all of its cabin crew and replace them with pilots. Luckily, a last-minute agreement reached between the company and the union prevented this situation.

On behalf of ETF Pilots from all over Europe, we hereby strongly condemn both the behaviour of the company - offensive both towards cabin crew and pilots - as well as the actions of the pilots. Indeed, the pilots did not reject the call of the company and instead made themselves available to undermine the position of the cabin crew and thereby put the professional image of pilots as well as safety standards at risk. Moreover, morality and solidarity are fundamental if workers are to be successful in defending their rights. We, the ETF Pilots, believe that no group of workers shall ever voluntarily engage in actions which could undermine the working conditions of other groups of workers. Such actions are detrimental to us all in the long run.

The ETF Pilots express their heartfelt solidarity with the Icelandic cabin crew colleagues involved in this deplorable situation. We acknowledge the professionalism of cabin crew and their role in ensuring the overall safety of the passengers on board.

Brussels, 31 July 2020