

Pillars of the Sea 4 (PILLARS4)

Project Number: 101262519



With the financial support
Of the European Union

CALL FOR TENDER

External Expert for Drafting a proposal for a Directive on Control and Enforcement of 2017/159 and ILO C188

1. General Information

The [European Transport Workers' Federation \(ETF\)](#) is a pan-European trade union organisation which embraces transport trade unions from the European Union, the European Economic Area and Central and Eastern European countries. The ETF represents more than 5 million transport workers from more than 200 transport unions and 41 European countries.

[Europêche](#) represents employers in the European Social Dialogue Committee for Sea Fisheries. Europêche will be the partner organization in this project. Europêche will contribute to the achievement of the project objectives. Its members will be involved in the Steering Committee and in the development of the three pillars.

ETF and Europêche are social partners in the European Social Dialogue Committee for Sea Fisheries.

2. Background and Context of the Project

The ETF, in partnership with Europêche, has been awarded a grant by the European Commission for the project "**Pillars of the Sea 4** (PILLARS4) - **101262519**". This project is part of the European Social Dialogue for the Sea Fisheries sector. Its main objective is to improve social sustainability in the industry through three main pillars:

1. **Occupational Health and Safety (OHS):** Developing guidelines to support the implementation of ILO Convention 188.
2. **Attractiveness:** Researching aimed at identifying barriers that prevent young workers to enter in the fisheries sector.
3. **Enforcement of Directive 2017/159:** Drafting a legislative proposal to ensure compliance with social standards of ILO C188.

This call for tender specifically concerns **Pillar 3**, focusing on the drafting of **proposal for a Directive on Control and Enforcement of 2017/159 and ILO C188**.

3. Purpose of the tender

The Social Partners Agreement signed in 2012 aimed at transposing at EU level most of the provisions of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (C188). The EU transposed the agreement into EU law through Directive 2017/159.

Although Directive 2017/159 has entered into force, the Sea Fisheries Social Partners have

emphasized that control and enforcement mechanisms are uneven across Member States. The purpose of this tender is to select an external expert (individual or organisation) to **draft a proposal for a new EU Directive** aimed at improving and harmonising the control and enforcement of the ILO C188 provisions within the EU fleet. This new legal instrument would help ensure better protection for fishers, harmonise enforcement of minimum standards (inspections, sanctions) across Member States, and align with recent EU legislation such as the Forced Labour Regulation.

The critical need for efficient control and enforcement mechanisms was highlighted during [the European Social Partners' webinar on ILO C188 held on 20 November 2020](#), organised in collaboration with the ILO, the European Commission, and key fishing nations. The event, attended by over 200 participants worldwide, underscored strong political and stakeholder support for advancing ratification and implementation of C188 and its EU equivalent. Governmental and sector representatives shared valuable lessons and challenges, demonstrating the urgent necessity of coordinated controls and enforcement at the EU level to protect fishers' rights and working conditions. Building on this momentum, Pillar 3 will translate these insights into concrete legislative proposals to ensure the effective application of social standards throughout the EU fishing fleet.

4. Tasks and Deliverables

The selected expert will be responsible for the following tasks:

- **Definition of Scope:** Propose to the Project Steering Committee (SC) a structure of the draft legislative proposal. Collect SC feedback and integrate.
- **Desk Research / Mapping:** Map the transposition of ILO C188 and Directive 2017/159 in EU Member States, identifying enforcement mechanisms, competent authorities, sanctions, and gaps.
- **Drafting:** Develop a draft proposal for a Directive that includes harmonised systems of social inspections, clear responsibilities for national authorities/vessel owners, and practical enforcement instruments, taking as a reference Directive 2013/54/EU concerning certain flag State responsibilities for compliance with and enforcement of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.
- **Consultation of Steering Committee:** Present legal analysis and draft texts at Steering Committee meetings (approx. 5 meetings, one online, four in-person) and integrate feedback.
- **Finalisation:** Deliver the final legislative proposal and oversee the layout.
- **Presentation:** Presentation of the final proposal at the final conference to be held in Q4 2027 in Brussels.

Deliverables (in English):

- Report on the mapping of Directive 2017/159 transposition and enforcement gaps.
- Draft text of the Directive proposal.
- Final "Proposal for a Directive on Control and Enforcement" (drafted in a legal language ready for submission/distribution to policy makers).

5. Methodology

The expert is expected to work in close cooperation with the ETF Project Manager and the joint

ETF-Europêche Steering Committee. The work is highly technical and legal. The expert will need to review existing legislation and draft new provisions that are legally sound and compatible with the National and EU enforcement and legislative processes.

6. Expertise required

The tenderer must demonstrate:

- **Legal Expertise:** Advanced knowledge of the EU legislative process and EU law.
- **Sectoral Knowledge:** Expertise in the fisheries and/or maritime sectors, specifically regarding Directive 2017/159 and ILO C188.
- **Drafting Skills:** Proven experience in legal drafting (e.g. statutes, directives, regulations) in English (C1/C2).
- **Social Dialogue:** Understanding of the dynamics between trade unions and employers at national and EU level.

7. Time schedule and reporting

The project runs for 24 months (starting 1 February 2026). The expert's work is expected to cover approximately **20 months**.

- **Start of work:** 1 April 2026
- **Interim Report:** 1 April 2027
- **Final Deliverable:** 1 September 2027
- **Final Dissemination conference:** Q4 2027

The expert will report directly to the ETF Project Manager.

8. Payment

The maximum budget available for this expertise is **€33,000** (VAT included). This amount covers the expert's fees and administrative costs. Travel and subsistence expenses for attending Steering Committee meetings will be reimbursed separately by the project, subject to the European Union and the ETF travel rules and provision of original receipts.

Payment schedule:

- 30% upon signature of the contract.
- 30% upon approval of the interim report.
- 40% upon approval of the final deliverable.

9. Selection criteria

The selection will be done by ETF and Europêche and will be based on the principle of **best value for money**, using the following criteria:

- **Expertise and Experience (40%):** Legal background, drafting skills, and EU law knowledge.
- **Methodology (30%):** Analytical approach and understanding of the legislative gaps.
- **Financial Offer (30%):** Competitiveness of the price in relation to the quality of service.

10. Privacy statement

Personal data will be processed in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Data will only be processed for the purpose of the evaluation of this tender.

11. Application procedure

Interested candidates are invited to send their application by **15 March 2026** to:
a.albertazzi@etf-europe.org

The application must include:

1. **CV** of the expert(s) involved.
2. **Technical Proposal** (max 3 pages) outlining the methodology and understanding of the assignment.
3. **Financial Proposal** (indicating daily rate and total number of days).

Brussels