



PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION

FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES TRAVAILLEURS DES TRANSPORTS

Brussels, 5 November 2012

2,000 GROUND HANDLING WORKERS DEMONSTRATE FOR A SOCIAL EUROPEAN REGULATION

ETF demands a socially balanced Ground Handling Regulation in European airports

Today, Monday 5 November 2012, up to 2,000 ground handling workers from more than 10 European countries demonstrate in front of the European Parliament in Brussels at Place du Luxembourg to demand a socially balanced European Regulation on ground handling services in European airports. The Transport Committee of the European Parliament will vote on this dossier on 6 November 2012. The European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) organises this demonstration to put pressure on MEPs to include a strong social provision in any new Ground Handling Regulation.

The ETF demonstration aims to put a halt on deregulation in the ground handling industry. The EU does not need more ground handling operators at airports.

Don't mess with ground handling jobs!

"We oppose any further opening of the ground handling market, which will only serve the airlines' predatory greed", says François Ballestero, Political Secretary of the ETF Civil Aviation Section. "By organising this demonstration, the ETF wants to stress the importance of a social dimension in any revision of the Ground Handling Regulation, which is up to today still missing in the proposals made by the European Commission", François Ballestero continues.

The ETF is of the opinion that a binding social provision on transfer of staff, which guarantees the stability of jobs, the wages and the working conditions, is essential to ensure the sustainability of the sector.

Ingo Kronsfoth, Chair of the ETF Ground Staff Committee, adds: *"We want to stop wage dumping via a legal provision that obliges service providing companies in European airports to apply a representative collective agreement of the concerned European region."*

Enrique Carmona, President of the ETF Civil Aviation Section, concludes: *"Ground handling workers will keep claiming better quality jobs and social rights since it ensures the best quality services for passengers. This demonstration is a big success and the ETF will support any future legal action taken by its affiliates to defend a social Ground Handling Regulation!"*

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

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.