

European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)  
Confédération européenne des syndicats (CES)



Brussels, 31 August 2012

**To the European Parliament EMPL Committee members**

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

**Re: Groundhandling services at Union airports**

We are writing to you today as a direct result of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) backed European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) campaign, which started in January 2011 with the intention of raising awareness among decision makers about the need to provide a social shape to potential new legislation governing groundhandling at European airports. Our letter directly refers to procedure reference 2011/0397(COD) regarding Groundhandling services at Union airports, to which the Employment and Social Affairs Committee was nominated as an associated committee following Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure.

For the ETUC and the ETF, any future legislation for groundhandling services must aim to counterbalance the negative social impact of current policies. Enhanced competition must be accompanied by an associated protection for affected employees. It is entirely our view that more fair and stable competition exists if there is some degree of market regulation. Compulsory transfer of staff after a call for tenders or when a significant loss of activity takes place during the licence's concession period is the key element to achieve a stable and advanced groundhandling market in the EU, along with the application of a representative collective agreement.

That is why the ETUC and the ETF believe that European-wide regulations that guarantee employee protection and competition based on quality are the only logical way forward in the construction of a modern, social Europe.

The EMPL Committee is due to vote next September on the rapporteur draft opinion and on the amendments tabled by some of the Committee members. The ETF, which has been closely following this file for the last two years as the European Social Partner representing the voice of groundhandling

workers in Europe, wants to express its support to some of the rapporteur amendments and some of the amendments tabled by other EMPL members. In the attached document you can see them all highlighted in yellow. The ETUC and the ETF support the following amendments:

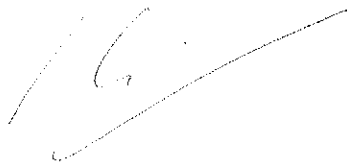
Amendments proposed by the Rapporteur: 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 22 and 23

Amendments tabled by other EMPL members: 26, 34, 37, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 50, 51, 54, 56, 57-59, 60-62, 63-64, 66-67, 68, 69, 70, 72, 78, 80, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92 and 93


Therefore, we ask you to support the above mentioned amendments when the vote on this dossier takes place, during the EMPL Committee meeting fixed on 17th&18th September.

We would like to note our appreciation of the progressive approach taken to the inclusion of a strong social dimension on this dossier. We believe that this will not only benefit workers but also enhance the quality of service in the EU groundhandling sector.

Yours faithfully,



Bernadette Ségol  
ETUC General Secretary



Eduardo Chagas  
ETF General Secretary