

International Transport Workers' Federation

Dockers' Section Meeting

Perth, 10-11 May 2015

Motion 4: European Dock Workers

The meeting of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Dockers Section, held in Perth on 10-11 May 2015

NOTES:

- With concern the ongoing attempts by governments, shipping lines, shippers and port employers to erode dockworkers' job security, collective bargaining rights and union power in Europe, particularly in the northern range ports;
- The Global Network Terminal Operator, DP World operates terminals in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and United Kingdom;
- DP World is the largest shareholder in the automated Rotterdam World Gateway Terminal that has yet to sign a collective bargaining agreement with the national dockworkers' union for its employees;
- The increasing participation of shipping lines in terminal operations;
- Automation can negatively affect union power in collective bargaining;
- In a context of increasing automation it is crucial to ensure that lashing is performed by dockers;
- Affirms the position on Automation and New Technology adopted by the ITF Dockers' Section Conference in Sofia in August 2014, as set out in Annex 2 of the Congress Theme Document;
- Recognises that the ability of the ITF and its affiliates to protect seafarers' rights is impaired without strong dockworker unions' support for the FOC Campaign; and
- Recognises that automation introduced to weaken dockers' unions also has negative impacts on seafarers.

RESOLVES to establish a sub-committee made up of dockworker and seafarer unions to:

1. Develop joint strategies to organise workers in key terminals, especially new terminals, and establish minimum standards on labour rights, working with the ITF inspectorate where appropriate;
2. Develop model clauses relating to the automation of ports that should be promoted and implemented by the ITF and its member unions; and
3. Develop a campaign on lashing including an effective communications strategy which has to take into account: the occupational health and safety dimension including its legal and regulatory implications; promote the use of the existing DPI database amongst seafarers and dockers' unions; explore ways on how to make better use of the IBF and TCC processes to deal with breaches of the dockers' clause; enhance the role of the inspectors in the POC campaign.

Submitted by: European Transport Workers' Federation