



PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION

FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES TRAVAILLEURS DES TRANSPORTS

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BIG VICTORY FOR THE GROUND HANDLING WORKERS

The EP has not adopted the Ground Handling proposal

Today, the European Parliament (EP) sent the Commission proposal for a Regulation on ground handling services in the EU airports back to the EP's specialised committees which should prepare a new report on the Commission's proposal. This is the outcome of the good and extensive work done by trade unions all over the EU in the past year. This victory shows the EP understood the clear message sent by the workers who have been claiming for a socially balanced and experience-based proposal, which is satisfactory for all stakeholders.

On Tuesday 11 December, the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) has organised a demonstration gathering 3,000 ground handlers in front of the EP in Strasbourg. Further deregulation and liberalisation of the ground handling market would bring many job losses and further degradation of workers' social rights. A wider opening of the market combined with more subcontractors and a vague legal framework would open the path for service providers in European airports that are much less concerned about safety levels and working conditions.

The workers came to Strasbourg to ask the EP not to adopt the current proposal full of market-oriented provisions, without any added value for both passengers and the industry as a whole, and with little care shown towards the social needs voiced out by the workers' representatives during these last years.

François Ballestero, ETF Political Secretary: *"The EP has listened to the concerns of the workers and sent back to the Committees the draft which only serves the predatory greed of the airlines. The ETF thanks the MEPs who did support the workers' claims from the very beginning. The ETF now asks the EP to deeply improve the text and turn it into a socially balanced proposal."*

Ingo Kronsfoth, ETF Ground Staff Committee Chair, commented: *"The non-adoption of this proposal by the EP must be followed quickly by an EP Opinion, which prevents the further deregulation of the market, protects all workers in case of call for tenders and/or partial loss of activities and ensures that companies are only allowed to provide services if they apply a representative collective agreement"*.

For further information, please contact ETF Political Secretary for Civil Aviation, François Ballestero, Tel: +32 474916979; e-mail: 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.