

Mr László ANDOR
European Commissioner for Employment,
Social Affairs and Inclusion
European Commission
B-1049
Brussels

Brussels, 25 February 2011

Dear Commissioner,

Re: Establishment of a Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee in the Port Sector

In conformity with Article 154 of the Treaty on the functioning of the EU and with reference to Commission Decision of 20 May 1998 (98/500/EC), ETF, IDC-E, ESPO and FEPORT express their intention to formalize their dialogue in the framework of a Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Ports (SSDCP).

ETF and IDC-E represent trade unions in the port sector throughout Europe and declare having signed a cooperation agreement to form a single delegation to represent workers within the SSDCP.

ESPO, representing port authorities in the EU and FEPORT, the Federation of maritime terminal operators and stevedoring companies in Europe, have also agreed to establish a delegation representing employers.

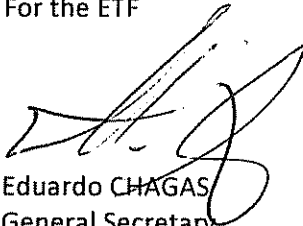
The four above-mentioned organizations declare having the adequate structures, capacity and mandate to ensure their effective participation in the SSDCP. They also commit to do their best for the competitiveness of the EU port sector and the interest of its employees, in a constructive way and according to the founding principles of the EU.

ETF, IDC-E, ESPO and FEPORT further declare that that they will dialogue on matters that are in their capacity of European social partners and that fall within the scope of the mandate coming from their national members. An informal dialogue between the four organizations is already in place, and some of the issues the SSDCP will deal with have already been identified.

In the light of what stated above, we therefore request the European Commission that the SSDCP be established as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

For the ETF



Eduardo CHAGAS
General Secretary

For IDC-E



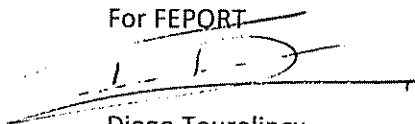
Peter Shaw
European Coordinator

For ESPO



Patrick Verhoeven
Secretary General

For FEPORT



Diego Teurelincx
Secretary General

Cc: Commissioner Siim Kallas, Mr Koos Richelle, Mr Matthias Reute, Mr Armindo Silva, Mr Fotis Karamitsos