



Brussels, 26 May 2016

To the national administrations of EU Member States

Dear Madam/Sir,

We are writing to you in relation to the social partners' agreement (SPA) on the implementation into EU legislation of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (C188), which is currently being discussed by the Council's working party on social questions.

We are aware of the willingness of the Dutch Presidency to finalise the Council's work on the text before the end of its mandate, which receives our full support.

As you are aware, our agreement aims at implementing C188 into EU legislation. The Convention has been adopted also thanks for the vote of all EU member states, back in 2007 for the purpose of giving fishers decent working and living conditions on board their vessels and improve safety of life and properties at sea in fishing.

Next, the representative social partners in the industry, ETF and Europêche, after extensive deliberations, have decided to negotiate the agreement as they think this would be beneficial to the industry. The agreement that you are discussing today is the result of very detailed negotiations which involved representatives of employers and employees from several EU member states.

What is more, our agreement has been first been analysed from a legal point of view, by the Commission's legal services and has therefore proved to be legally fit for being implemented into EU legislation.

Then it has been the object of a very extensive cost/benefit analysis carried out by an external consultant on behalf of the Commission, which confirmed that the benefits of having the agreement implemented would be higher than the costs to implement it.

For all the reasons outlined above, we call for your commitment to have the discussions within the working party finalised as soon as possible so as to have the text presented before the Social Affair Council on the 16th of June.

Yours faithfully,

Flemming Smidt
SSDC-F Vice-chair/ETF Spokesperson in the SSDC-F

Ment van der Zwan
Europêche Spokesperson in the SSDC-F

[Europêche](#) represents the catching sector in Europe. In the context of the Social Dialogue, the Association comprises 14 national organisations of fishing enterprises from Iceland and the following 9 EU Member States: DE, DK, ES, FR, IT, MT, NL, PL and UK.

The [European Transport Workers' Federation](#) (ETF) represents more than 3.5 million transport workers from more than 230 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.