



Sectoral Policies Department

International Labour Office
4, route des Morillons
CH-1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland
Tel : +41 22 799 7501
Fax : +41 22 799 7050
Email : sector@ilo.org

Brussels, 30th August 2016

Re: European Social Partners in the Fishing Sector request for a Questions and Answers document on ILO C188

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, 2007 (C188), which is currently being discussed at the European Council's Working Party on Social Affairs. The representative social partners in the sector, ETF and Europêche, after extensive deliberations, decided back in 2010 to negotiate the agreement aimed to systematise the social acquis in the fishing sector and stimulate governments of ILO member states to ratify the Convention. The agreement is the result of very detailed negotiations which involved representatives of employers and employees from several EU member states.

Thanks to the promotion of the ratification of said Convention by the Social Partners in the Fishing Sector the interest on the C188 in Europe has grown. In fact, you may be aware of the willingness of the European Union's institutions to finalise the legal adoption of the text by the end of this year, which receives our full support. However, many Member States are posing questions to the European Commission on the implementation of the Convention that might be better answered, subject to their mandate, by the competent representatives of ILO.

In this context, in order to facilitate better understanding of the Convention, we believe that the International Labour Office should prepare an online electronic database of answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ), the same way such FAQ was produced for the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC). We would be very pleased to help identifying the most common concerns and challenges to produce such a database.

For all the reasons outlined above, we call on the International Labour Office to urgently produce a “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) on the implementation of the C188 to facilitate discussions in the European Union so as solve common doubts from EU Member States concerning the text, accelerate the adoption of this EU proposal for a Directive¹ and promote the ratification of the Convention at international level.

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.

¹ COM/2016/0235 final