



Fighting Transport Unions

Nationalisation not Privatisation

On January 31 2011 transport trade unions gathered in London to discuss the need for transport workers to build resistance to European Union policies, which promote privatisation, fragmentation, social dumping, outsourcing and attacks on collective employment conditions and workers' rights.

Continuing EU attacks on publicly owned networks and transport workers confirm this analysis and include:

1. On 28 March the European Commission published its Transport White Paper ('Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area') demanding 'market opening' in all areas of transport;
2. On 14 November the European parliament rubberstamped a 'recast' of its 1st rail liberalisation package, imposing the EU's rail privatisation model – fragmentation, separation, competition – establishing a 'single European railway area' as a market for monopoly finance capital and to attack rail workers' national collective agreements and social rights;
3. Continuing catastrophic decline in maritime employment conditions and lifeline ferry services as a result of EU liberalisation of 'cabotage', EU Treaties governing 'freedom of establishment' and continuing disastrous consequences from 'flags of convenience';
4. Enforced privatisation of urban transport networks under the EU Regulation (2007) on public service obligations in local public transport by road and rail;
5. Abandonment of 'socialised transport' in favour of services run in the interests of corporate monopoly capital, where profit becomes the only criteria;

6. More expensive, less efficient public transport for citizens and users, where greed, the domination of financial interests and profit are allowed to destroy jobs, public transport services and communities.

Since our last meeting the intensifying political and economic crisis in the EU has not stemmed the drive towards privatisation of transport networks, or the flow of EU legislation demanding it.

In fact privatisation of transport and other national assets is a central demand of the IMF/EU/ECB troika to impose austerity and a mass privatisation programme on Greece and Portugal and to transfer assets to British, French and German banks.

As the crisis of European banks and the 'Euro' intensifies other workers will suffer similar attacks on their fundamental democratic rights. European Court of Justice decisions target trade union rights and freedoms and promote the rights of capital and business in the EU, while austerity measures of national governments and EU institutions target the social gains of previous generations.

Unless the EU and the corporate power that stands behind it are challenged by trade unions fighting for nationalised, publicly accountable, public services, attacks on workers through privatisation and social dumping will continue and be assisted by recent judgments in the European Court of Justice.

Therefore we call for a united demonstration in Brussels on the first anniversary of the publication of European Commission Transport White Paper on Wednesday, 28 March, 2012 and Europe-wide national action by trade unions representing transport workers, during the week 26-31 March, 2012 to:

- Defend their critical national infrastructure as a key component of national sovereignty and democracy.
- Target protests against EU institutions (European Commission offices, EU regulatory agencies, EU financial and political institutions, etc), which facilitate and enforce privatisation and liberalisation of rail, light rail, bus and ferry services (e.g. SeaFrance).
- Coordinate solidarity protests with transport workers and their trade unions where they are engaged in a struggles to oppose the effects of EU social dumping and call for defence of workers' and trade union rights and national collective bargaining.
- Demand that national transport infrastructure and services are owned, managed and maintained by sovereign national bodies accountable to citizens of those states.

Lisbon, 28 November 2011

This statement has been agreed by the following transport trades unions, which are affiliated through national trade union centres either to the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) / European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF), to the World Federation of Trades Unions (WFTU) / Transport TUI, or to no international body at all. Our agreement is based not on a common political affiliation, but on democratic militant perspectives that recognise the need for transport workers to struggle against EU privatisation and attacks on democratic and workers' rights.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Spain</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Sindicato Federal Ferroviario de la Confederación Nacional del Trabajo de España</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Portugal</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Federacao dos Sindicatos de Transportes e Comunicacoes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Britain</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">National Union of Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cyprus</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">SEG DAMELIN - PEO</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>France</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Union syndicale Solidaires</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Italy</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Unione Sindacale di Base</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Britain</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Unite the Union</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Turkey</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">National Port and Land Stevedores Union of Turkey</p>

Hungary



Trade Union of Hungarian Railwaymen

France



Front Syndical de Classe

Britain



Associated Society of Locomotive Steam
Enginemen and Firemen

Basque Country



Lab Sindikatua

Ireland



Technical, Engineering & Electrical Union

Italy



ORGANIZZAZIONE SINDACATI AUTONOMI E DI BASE

Organizzazione Sindacati Autonomi e di Base

Ireland



Services Industrial Professional and Technical
Union

Turkey

International



**United Trade Union of Transport Employees,
BTS**



Trade Unions International - Transport