



# PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION

FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES TRAVAILLEURS DES TRANSPORTS

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## STOP ABUSES IN THE GROUND HANDLING SECTOR!

On 6th April 2006, Mr Barrot, Commissioner of Transports, organised a consultation meeting on airport issues with European stakeholders.

The European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF), which organises more than 200,000 workers in the civil aviation industry, was represented by Serge Gentili, President of the Ground Staff Committee and by Enrique Carmona from Spain.

The key issues of this high level meeting were the revision of the ground handling directive, airports charges and capacities.

Mr Barrot said that he wanted to have a better understanding on the complex situation on ground handling issues, and not to decide against stakeholders. He insisted that no final decision was taken, that social dialogue was necessary, and that civil aviation needs a strong chain. He also said that the Commission wants more competition without a deterioration of quality of services and of the social conditions.

The ETF representatives stated that ETF is against the revision of the Ground Handling Directive, refuses a possible legal separation for airports and airlines and is opposed to thousands of jobs lost and/or outsourced. They also rejected any new phase of deregulation of the market.

They insisted on the need for job security, quality jobs and social protection for workers. Transfer of staff due to calls for tenders, partial loss of activity or in case of self-handling should also be regulated at EU level. European standards on qualifications, skills and training should ensure a good quality of services, safety and security. Finally, for ETF, job losses and wage cuts should be avoided through negotiations between employers and unions, and agreements should be respected at all levels.

**Serge Gentili** said: "It is unfair and unacceptable that our colleagues should lose their jobs just because there is a call for tender! If the Commission does not listen to the workers, the ETF will take its responsibilities and will act!"

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The ETF represents 2.5 million transport workers from 215 transport unions and 40 European countries, in the following sectors: railways, road transport, maritime transport, inland navigation, civil aviation, ports & docks, tourism and fisheries.