ETF PRESENTATION

DIALOGUE EC GROUND HANDLING

6 APRIL 2006

The broad outline of directive 96-67 EC

- The opening up to compulsory competition
- The presence of at least one operator independent of the airport and the dominant airline. (threshold)
- The unbundling of the operators', especially airports', accounts
- "grandfather rights" for airports, as historical operators



The principles of the directive

- 11 activities which do not correspond to IATA definition (AH MANUAL-IATA)
- A very wide field which overlaps with other industries: mechanics, catering, fueling
- A dichotomy between ramp activities and the supervision of flights
- Possibility for states and airports to limit only airside operators
- At least one "independent" operator in each major airport in the EU

Trade unions takes stock of the directive

- Job losses in airports and airlines, not compensated for by jobs created in handling companies
- The lowering of standards of qualification and training
- Instability of markets and job insecurity, (job losses in case of change of operator)
- An economic failure for many operators
- No real provision exists in the 96 Directive on transfers of staff. A problem for our industry
- Some states took provisions but were attacked succesfully by the Commission (Italy and Germany)
- The « 2001 directive on safeguard of employees rights in the event of transfer of undertakings » does not protect workers in case of call for tenders and partial transfers



2001:The revision of the directive

- Five years of liberalization: revision is planned by the Commission in 2001
- Method used: the consultant and the consultation of "stakeholders" achieved in 2003
- The consultant SH E did not recommend a necessary revision of the directive and further liberalization





ETF refuses a possible revision of the directive if:

- Airports are prohibited to operate directly, (outsourcing through subsidiaries becoming compulsory)
- Airlines, whenever they are third part suppliers, must outsource through subsidiaries too
- Airports may be kicked out of the playing field by airlines since they lose the grandfather's right, and users committees are controlled by airlines
- Increase in the number of operators, three or four independant handlers instead of one today (three thresholds)
- No social protection for workers in case of transfers of activities, (total or partial)
- Massive outsourcing by the airlines

ETF demands

No revision of the directive

- No compulsory legal separation for airports and airlines
- Job security, quality jobs and social protection for workers
- European standards on qualifications, skills and training to ensure a good quality of services, safety and security
- Job losses and wage cuts should be avoided through negotiations between employers and unions, and agreements should be respected by all
- 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



- ETF needs real social provisions
- ETF wants to relaunch the working group within social dialogue on training and qualifications
- ETF demands negotiations on transfer of staff at European level

ETF will take its responsabilties and act accordingly