



PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION

FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES TRAVAILLEURS DES TRANSPORTS

Brussels, 19 April 2010

ETF calls on Commission to organise a stakeholders meeting
to minimise consequences of volcano ashes

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE NECESSARY TO PREVENT FURTHERING AIR TRANSPORT CRISIS

With reference to the Icelandic volcano eruption and the continued closure of the majority of the Northern European airspace, the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) calls the Commission to organise a stakeholders meeting with the civil aviation industry. The current situation causes tremendous financial pressure on the industry and will shortly move to layoff thousands of civil aviation workers, which the ETF rejects. The public authorities have the responsibility to assist the industry during this emergency period and discuss possible solutions to avoid job losses in the sector.

The ETF is seriously concerned by the current situation in the civil aviation and the paralysing of the European and global industry. The ETF supports and promotes air safety and recognises the necessity of sensible measures in order to guarantee the air passengers' safety. However, the ETF is of the opinion that the far-reaching consequences of the Icelandic volcano eruption must not influence unduly on the civil aviation workers.

The ETF stresses the urgent need to assist travellers within Europe and around the globe.

Governments and public authorities must recognise that the sector will not be able to carry the financial costs of this natural disaster and that assistance of the EU and national governments is required. An emergency meeting between the Commission and the aviation industry stakeholders is therefore essential in order to determine adequate support actions and measures.

For further information, please contact ETF Political Secretary for Civil Aviation, François Ballesterio (Tel: +32 474 916979; f.ballesterio@etf-europe.org)

The ETF represents more than 2.5 million transport workers from 225 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.