



LISBON DOCKWORKERS ENDORSE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE NEXT SIX YEARS

- *The direct intervention of Jordi Aragunde, IDC General Coordinator, was crucial in the establishment of an agreement.*
- *The Portuguese government pledges to sign the new collective agreement within the next two weeks.*

IDC, May 31, 2016. 31. Barcelona/Lisbon. The dockworkers members of SETC (Lisbon and Southern Portugal dockworkers union) and the International Dockworkers Council (IDC), have formed an agreement with Portuguese port employers' associations. The meeting was held early Friday to Saturday, and marks the end of a strike that lasted several weeks at the port of Lisbon. The agreement was passed yesterday evening at the union general assembly.

After 15 hours of negotiation- and with the key intervention of IDC General Coordinator Jordi Aragunde - workers achieved a compromise that will, following the signing of a new agreement in the coming days, be valid for the next six years.

Among the main points of this agreement is the promise of port companies to dismantle alternative labour pools at the port of Lisbon, and to abandon the establishment of direct and precarious contracts. All existing workers, within a maximum period of two years, will join the existing labour pool. Further, port companies have committed the reinstatement of workers dismissed last year, and the reimbursement of their salaries.

The new agreement will also reflect the existence of a mixed system of automatic promotions for dock workers. These promotions will be determined by the amount of time spent working on four upper work levels, and on mixed progression at the two lower levels - judged according to objective criteria which is to be outlined in the Convention (absenteeism, punctuality, discipline, use of safety equipment, control of alcohol and drugs). In addition, there will be ten pay scale levels, including two additional levels- one minimum and one intermediate- which apply to new employees.

The agreed minimum wage will be 850 euros per month and the agreed maximum wage will be 2,326.06 euros per month. Priority will be given to dockworkers who exercise the tasks of "ship planning" and "yard planning."

Antonio Mariano, SETC President, said that "it is a balanced agreement, a result of discussions held, and very positive from the union perspective, taking into account the important interests at stake and the dramatic circumstances in which it has been carried out". In addition, the union has announced it will not halt the demonstration organised on June 16. The union wants to state how conditions in Lisbon should be a

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Press release



reference for all Portuguese ports, as well as collaborate with civil society mobilisations against precarious employment. *

* *“Manifestação contra a Precariedade”* - June 16 at 6pm, at Cais do Sodré and São Bento St.

About the International Dockworkers Council

The International Dockworkers Council (IDC) is a global trade union confederation, formally founded in Santa Cruz de Tenerife in 2000. It currently brings together more than 85,000 dockworkers on five continents, and works to defend workers and their jobs through training and continuous improvement of their working conditions.

Headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, the IDC is organized into six areas (Europe, Africa, Western North America and Pacific Coast, East Coast of North America, Oceania and Latin America), each with its Coordinator appointed Assembly.

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