



To: ETF Dockers' affiliates campaigning to win back lashing

To: ITF Inspectors supporting affiliates in the Lashing Campaign

To: ITF/ETF Lashing Steering Group

21 October 2016

Dear Friends,

Re: Update on lashing

We write to provide you with a short update on our lashing work so far, invite you to provide important information and hear from you on future actions your unions is planning to take.

Background

Following a number of actions and discussions within ITF and ETF, a number of ETF affiliates actively campaigning on lashing within their own countries called for a greater coordination of campaign work. A Lashing Steering Group was convened in 2015 and some research was undertaken in respect of the current situation and the challenges we face. ITF Inspectors were involved in the preparation and development phases of this work. Earlier this year ITF Inspectors helped us to pilot a new approach, based upon target particular shipping lines and vessels and this has provided us with practical first-hand experience of this approach.

The Lashing Steering Group met in May this year and agreed the following points:

- The role of ITF/ETF and the Steering Group is to co-ordinate the different lashing campaign activities being undertaken by affiliates in home countries. The ITF/ETF and Steering Group cannot deliver the campaign on the ground. This is the responsibility of affiliates wishing to be involved in the campaign.
- There is not enough information about activities being undertaken by affiliates on this issue. To win on this issue, greater participation is required.
- There is a need for better communication. The Steering Group will issue communication regarding the campaign, but also affiliates are required to submit information detailing the work they are undertaking on this issue.
- The main focus area of this phase of the campaign will be: Finland, Germany, Poland, The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.
- It was agreed that Unifeeder would be a primary target for the campaign due to their frequent refusals to hire lashing crews.



- To use the Baltic Week of Action, in September, to start to target Unifeeder vessels, with a view towards holding a demonstration at their offices.
- Produce targeted publicity with affiliates to educate Seafarers and Dockers about the issue.
- Organise country workshops with affiliates to bring together all involved to map out strategy and communication channels.
- Continue investigations into P&I clubs, insurances and safety-related mechanisms.

Progress, next steps and required actions from affiliates

1. All affiliates are requested to **keep ITF and ETF updated** regarding lashing campaign activity within their countries. Please send latest information on progress in your country to: dockers@itf.org.uk.

The **first Lashing workshop** was held in Germany in May. It provided an excellent opportunity for members of the Lashing Steering Group, ITF Inspectors, Ver.di leaders and German Dockers to discuss why this campaign is important, what should be done and how it should be done in Germany. In addition, we were able to discuss how this will relate to campaigns in other countries and how establish clear lines of communication between Ver.di and the Steering Group.

The next national lashing workshops will take place in Copenhagen with 3F on **1st December 2016** and in Rotterdam on **18 January 2017** with FNV Havens.

2. All affiliates within the focus area are encouraged to consider **holding a lashing workshop in their countries as soon as possible**. This would bring together Dockers, Inspectors, ITF/ETF Steering Committee members and union leaders to look at the aims of the campaign, the delivery possibilities and communication processes. This will include design of materials. The ETF and ITF Secretariat are available to assist affiliates to coordinate their workshop along an approach consistent with those already arranged.

Baltic Week of Action

ITF Inspectors helped us target Unifeeder vessels during the **Baltic Week of Action** in September. During this week approximately 20 Inspectors conducted around 59 inspections, distributing 1100 leaflets and 9 vessels were delayed. It was agreed to postpone the Unifeeder demonstration. Actions taken during this week also allowed us to identify challenges in the various countries.

A **leaflet** asking Seafarers to leave lashing to Dockers - *Calling all Seafarers* - has been produced. It is currently available only in English, but Russian and Tagalog versions will be available very soon. As a result of the seminar in Germany, **posters** in German have also been produced for German Dockers and we are working with Ver.di to have dedicated shared webpages on the campaign. We are hoping to use the webpage www.ReclaimLashing.org to direct visitors onto their home union pages.



Demonstration

3. **The Unifeeder demonstration will take place in Aarhus on Friday 2nd December.** Plans are being developed in conjunction with 3F. The demonstration will kick off more dedicated activity on the feeder line that will continue into 2017 or until an agreement is reached. **All affiliates are encouraged to support the Unifeeder demonstration by sending noisy supporters and union banners.** Please let us know via email to Dockers@itf.org.uk how many supporters you can send by **no later than midday on Monday 14 November.**

ITF and ETF will communicate further information on the Unifeeder campaign through usual channels once plans have been finalised. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions, wish to make any suggestions or require clarification.

In solidarity,

Livia Spera
ETF Political Secretary for Dockers

Nigel Venes
ITF Dockers' Section Lead Organiser