



Ports Package II – Unbalanced approach

EUCDW welcomes decision of the European Parliament to reject again the proposal of the European Commission

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The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) welcomes the decision of the European Parliament to confirm its position from 20 November 2003 and to reject by a large majority also the new report on the “liberalisation of port services” (ports package II). The EUCDW criticizes the once again unbalanced approach by the European Commission which threatens to demolish by a competition between unequal parties the structure of enterprises in European Harbours.

The EUCDW stresses the critical attitude of the European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO):

“The remarkable outcome of the vote in the Transport Committee on 22 November demonstrates that there is no stable political basis for the Directive. The risk of obtaining an incoherent and counterproductive legal instrument is now very high.”

Given this background, the EUCDW supports the position of the European Transport Workers Federation:

“In November 2005, the report by Mr. Jarzembowski (Germany, PPE) failed to be adopted by the Transport Committee, with the result that the text MEPs are called to vote on Wednesday 18 January is the one originally issued by the Commission. As a reminder, it is worth mentioning that both EP IMCO and EMPL Committees rejected the proposed Directive on 14 and 15 September 2005 respectively. The rejection of Mr. Jarzembowski’s report showed that the text is unworkable and the only possible solution is its withdrawal without any further delay!

In case this Directive would be adopted, this could dramatically affect European port operators and investments in the sector. No one can ignore the impact that deregulatory proposals will have on jobs, working conditions, health and safety and the quality of port services in Europe. The adoption of such a Directive could also threaten European port workers’ working conditions and even lead them to loose their jobs.”

The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) is made up of 22 workers’ organisations from 16 countries and is an association of the European People’s Party (EPP). Officially responsible for the EUCDW is Christoph Weisskirchen, the General Secretary. Tel 0032 2 285 4164, fax 0032 2 285 4141, e-mail: euclidw@epp.eu website: www.euclidw.org