



**INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORT
WORKERS'
FEDERATION**

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Dear Sisters, Brothers, Comrades

On behalf of nearly 500,000 dockers globally, the ITF Dockers Section sends our unconditional solidarity and support to all Finnish port and dockworkers and other transport workers participating in strike action against the Government who are seeking to implement the greatest regression of workers' rights and social policies in Finland in decades, if not ever.

We understand and acknowledge that your two-week strike commencing 11 March 2024 across all Finnish ports will impact the lives of your members as well as the broader community, but that it is critical to stand up and fight back when it is necessary to do so. The Finnish labour movement and the Finnish Transport Workers' Union (AKT) have played an extraordinary role in the protection and advancement of workers' rights, of strengthening trade unionism, and defending the rights and interests of your members and their communities, as well as the international community that we are all a part of.

The ITF Dockers' Section is aware of the significant threat to workers' rights and social protections that have characterised the last twelve months of industrial relations in Finland. We are aware of the historical role the Finnish trade union movement, and in particular the AKT have played in ensuring that Finnish workers have some of the strongest outcomes of workers anywhere in the world, including many strikes and demonstrations in recent months.

The Government must listen when workers speak up. For many months now, Finnish workers have been requesting the Government to refrain from sweeping changes to social programs as well as attacks on the trade union movement, social dialogue, and the right to strike. The Government has ignored those requests.

When the Government doesn't listen, unions must stand up to defend and advance the just claims of the working class. We are aware of the extraordinary steps that Finnish transport workers, port and dockworkers are prepared to make to support the future that previous generations have built. We are aware of the significance of a two-week strike, as well as the significant support the strike has amongst

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your courageous membership.

Not only is AKT living up to its proud history, but it is reflecting the bravery and courage of generations of fighting transport workers, who continue to advocate for a fair and just society. The ITF Dockers' Section is proud of our affiliate AKT, as well as the thousands of Finnish dockers and transport workers who are striking against injustice.

At the core of the Finnish model is fairness. Through powerful social programs, Finland has one of the world's lowest inequality measures, this is something that the welfare state, collective bargaining, the tripartite system and other policies have achieved by bringing people together, workers and their unions, the employers and government. This system is now at stake. This not only impacts workers, but also students and other members of the community who have joined a huge resistance effort against these reforms.

The ITF Dockers' Section calls upon the Government to listen to the people, to listen to AKT and the Finnish trade union movement and stop attacking the rights and interests of workers, the unemployed, students and others affected by these reactionary reforms.

The ITF Dockers' Section looks forward to continued updates from our affiliate AKT and looks forward to a victory for the port and dock workers, and their union, as well as the entire Finnish trade union movement.

Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to support your struggle.

In Solidarity,



Paddy Crumlin
ITF President & Dockers' Section Chair



Enrico Tortolano
ITF Dockers' Coordinator