

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION



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Ms. Ana Pastor
Minister of Public Works and Transport
Government of Spain

Please receive our greetings on behalf of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union organization that represents more than 40,000 port workers and is a member of the International Dockworkers Council (IDC).

We would like to convey our deepest concern at the news coming from Spain that would mean a serious attack on the job security of the Spanish dockworkers and, ultimately, an attack on a port labor system that has demonstrated its full validity and effect. The disappearance of the SAGEPs – the stevedoring companies that organize port labor, tantamount to the deregulation of one of the most competitive sectors of the Spanish economy, resulting in precarious jobs and an increase in workplace accidents, causing devastating effects on Spanish ports and, as a consequence, in the European economy.

As members of our umbrella organization with more than 100,000 members worldwide, we have always given support to those legal frameworks that ensure job security and at the same time, offer the possibility for employers and governments to develop their expansion plans and growth in a climate of consensus and social peace. This is the stance that the Spanish government has abandoned if the intention to abolish the SAGEPs and bypass the trained and qualified port workers.

We ask that the two parties resume dialogue and come to a just and fair agreement. As a fellow union committed to the labor rights of all workers, the ILWU will continue to stand in solidarity with the Spanish dockworkers as they fight for a fair contract and ensure the stability of the Spanish port system.

Sincerely,

Robert McEllrath
International President

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