

ITF Action Week achievements

1997

ITF affiliates in Bangladesh win a new law stipulating that two drivers must be on duty for shifts that exceed eight hours of driving time.

1998

Legislation in line with ILO Convention 153 (concerning hours of work and rest periods) is enacted in Bulgaria.

SINAMEQUIPH in Honduras wins an increased rest period for drivers working with an oil multinational company.

In Paraguay, USTT wins legislation to cancel the operating licences of companies that breach regulations.

In the European Union, concerted actions by the affiliates has a considerable influence in advancing the political debate on an EU Directive regarding the limitation on the working time of professional drivers. A set of proposals is put forward by the European Commission two months later.

1999

Nepal Yatayat Mazdoor Sangh (NYMS) scores a major victory in December, winning most of the 15 demands it had submitted to the government on the action day. The Minister of Transport promises to enact a new law within the next three months to regulate the road transport industry. It is also agreed to improve accident insurance for road transport workers. The leaders of the union had been arrested by the police while taking part in a peaceful demonstration. They were released after the ITF protested to the government.

The Finnish Presidency of the Council of Transport Ministers, who initially refused to meet with the ITF/ETF delegation, is forced to receive them in the end. European activity opens up dialogue with the EU Transport Ministers to discuss the Directive.

2000

As a result of joint cross-border action in Bitou, Burkina Faso, unions address cross-border issues to the West African Economic Group, ECOWAS.

The number of bus workers booking annual leave increases dramatically following the action day in Côte d'Ivoire.

2001

The Lithuanian government agrees to demands put forward by the Motor Transport Workers' Federation to improve drivers' working conditions and border-crossing procedures.

FENASICOCH, Chile, wins government support for new legislation to reduce the retirement age for truck drivers.

The Transport and General Workers' Union in Zimbabwe sets the deadline for negotiations with a large trucking firm on the action day and subsequently secures its demands for improved working conditions.

2002

Continuous and concerted pressure exerted by the road transport workers' unions in Europe finally bears fruit when the Working Time Directive for mobile road transport workers is adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of Transport Ministers in February 2002. Every year, the unions in Europe have led the ITF campaign by unfolding powerful and well-coordinated actions, demanding an EU regulation on professional drivers' working hours. Perhaps slowly but surely, the industrial muscle of the unions, together with their tireless lobbying efforts, have "cleared the first hurdle of this long race".

FENASICOCH, Chile secures a new legislation for road transport workers.

In Thailand, TRAN-U secures legislation limiting working hours to eight per day, with rest time after four hours.

The Transport Workers' Union in Malaysia successfully commemorates the signing of the first memorandum of understanding on occupational health and safety with a major bus operator on the action day itself.

2003

The Labour Ministry in Honduras publicly announces that the working hours of professional drivers will be regulated, thanks to pressure by ITF affiliate SINAMEQUIPH, which has been ramming home the message that fatigue costs lives. If regulations are enforced, drivers will be limited to an eight-hour working day.

2004

In Lithuania, the employers' association, receives trade union and local employers' delegations for discussion following protest action by the Lithuanian Transport Workers' Federation on the Action Day demanding to start negotiations on branch agreements.

The tanker drivers of the oil and petrochemical workers' union successfully reaches an agreement with the Jordan Refinery Company on the existing health insurance system and implementation of the 2002 collective agreement on overtime payment, annual increments and rest time.

The Transport Workers' Union in Malaysia successfully commemorates the signing of a second memorandum of understanding on occupational health and safety with a major logistics company on the action day itself.

2005

In its working paper on "The issues of fatigue and working time in the road transport sector" produced in September, the ILO acknowledges the on-going campaign by the ITF and its affiliates on "fatigue kills" and expresses its support to the International Action Week.

Following pressure from the British union the Transport and General Workers Union (now UNITE), the Harbour Master at the UK port of Folkestone announces the opening of a women's toilet - where previously only men had been catered for. Women members of the union had used the Action Week to launch the campaign to improve toilet facilities for drivers and in particular to provide toilet access on bus routes.

2006

Norsk Transportarbeiderforbund mobilises the majority of its branches in a recruitment campaign where the union successfully registers more than 150 new members.

2007

A meeting organised by the Transport & Communications Workers' Trade Unions Industrial Federation in Ethiopia, together with the Heavy Truck Drivers Association and the Federal Transport Authority (FTA) agrees a memorandum of understanding between the unions and the FTA to resolve cross-border problems and issues for long-distance drivers mainly on the Ethiopia-Djibouti corridor.

As a result of activities organised by the Transport & Dock Workers' Union focusing on two ports in Mumbai and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, 140 workers join the union. Furthermore the union wins the reinstatement of five dismissed workers at Gateway Terminals India Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of the global operator, Maersk.

Following a meeting of 1,000 minibus drivers organised by the Mongolian Transport, Communication and Petroleum Workers' Union to encourage them to form a joint union, the self-employed drivers are now union members and connected to the MTCPU.

2008

As a result of a poster campaign organised by the Kowloon Canton Railway Workers' Union at MTR (Mass Transit Railway) stations and workshop notice boards, 50 workers including bus drivers, train drivers and maintenance technicians join the union.

Following a national campaign by the Transport Workers' Union in Australia on "Drive for Safe Rates", the National Transport Commission recommends the government adopt all of the union's recommendations for safe systems of payment for transport workers.

2009

Spanish union, CC.OO is successful in getting working groups established with the Traffic, Labour and Transport authorities to look at accidents for vehicles under 3.5 tonnes for professional transport workers and other groups of workers.

2010

The European Parliament rejects outright the introduction of longer working hours for self-employed drivers. This follows an 18-month ETF campaign for safer roads for European citizens and better jobs for professional drivers, which included an ETF trucker convoy demonstration which passed through six European countries over a six-day journey.

2012

ETTA signs a collective bargaining agreement with the Union of Estonian Automobile Enterprises, a freight employers' association.

The Oslo branch of the Norsk Transportarbeiderforbund recruited new members at a medical supplier Medic's warehouse during the Action Week.

The Finnish Transport Workers' Union AKT union organises around 600 drivers in two days by visiting port facilities and park areas.

Bus crews sign union membership forms after TGWU Zimbabwe visits bus terminals and talks to drivers about their working hours and fatigue.

More than 60 drivers (bus and public transport) join SNTT Colombia during the union's five-day campaign.

2013

The Trade Union of Railway Workers and Transport Constructors of Ukraine wins benefits for groups of railway workers following a labour inspection during the action week.

The Federation of Mongolian Railway Workers' Trade Union gets agreement for provision of appropriate working clothes for cold weather and coal for heating living accommodation for railway workers.

Truck drivers in informal employment seek to join a union after joint activities in Mombasa by the Kenya Long Distance Truck Drivers and ATGWU Uganda.

2014

Following a national campaign on "Building Union and Reducing Accidents", the Independent Transport Workers' Association of Nepal organises 670 new members.

USLM in Romania reaches a new collective bargaining agreement for metro workers after a 13-month dispute with Metrorex Administration.

The Kenya Long Distance Truck Drivers & Allied Workers' Union signs a charter on vehicle load control with participation of the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Transport.

Federation of Transport Trade Unions in Bulgaria signs a memorandum of cooperation with the Vice-Mayor of Sofia, transport authorities, the CEOs of urban public transport municipal companies, and members of UITP, on implementation of the 2013 ITF/UITP memorandum of understanding.

2015

Over 60 private transport workers, mainly bus drivers from the informal economy, join the MTCPUW Mongolia as a result of the union's organising campaign during the Action Week.

