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ALL AT SEA

'Union busting' at global pipeline company

WHY ARE WE HERE TODAY?

We're protesting because Allseas Group refuses to recognise a trade union.

CAN THAT BE LEGAL?

The Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC), adopted by Switzerland in 2011, demands that workers be permitted to organise – but Allseas Group won't recognise unions or discuss its compliance with the MLC.

WHO ARE ALLSEAS GROUP?

Allseas Group SA describes itself as *a global leader in offshore pipeline installation and subsea construction*. It has over 2,300 workers at nine offices and on board five vessels globally, and is headquartered in Switzerland.

WITH THAT MANY STAFF, IS THERE AN ALLSEAS UNION?

No. Workers used to have a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with the FWZ union in the Netherlands, but this ran out almost 15 years ago.

WHY ISN'T THERE A NEW AGREEMENT IN PLACE?

It's not down to lack of trying! Both FWZ and the ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) made approaches to arrange new CBAs for seafarers working at Allseas. Allseas refused to negotiate.

SO WHO REPRESENTS ALLSEAS WORKERS?

Nobody, despite repeated union approaches.

BUT DON'T ALLSEAS WORKERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO JOIN A UNION?

Absolutely. Under the MLC, which came into force in August this year, all seafarers have the right to have their interests represented by a union.

WHAT DOES THE MLC MEAN FOR ALLSEAS' POSITION?

The MLC outlines regulations that will result in, among other things, freedom of association and particularly the freedom to join a union. As a legally-enforceable international convention, Allseas must ensure it is MLC compliant.

WHAT IS THE ITF'S INVOLVEMENT?

The ITF has worked with the International Labour Organization (ILO), shipping companies, international organisations and governments to develop and implement the MLC – a hugely important global convention. Switzerland ratified it in 2011 and we are shocked that a Swiss-based company should apparently be evading its responsibilities under the MLC.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Lobby your legislators to ensure MLC compliance for all companies wherever they're based and whichever flag they use. There should be no place for them to hide from their responsibilities.



Châtel St Denis
Thursday, 26th September

Meet at the railway station from 10:30
11.00 March to Allseas headquarters
and presentation of demands.

International Transport Workers' Federation

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