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European Transport Workers' Federation  
Fédération Européenne des Travailleurs des Transports  
Europäische Transportarbeiter-Föderation  
Federación Europea de los Trabajadores del Transporte

**Mr. Geir Isaksen, CEO of the Norwegian State Railways**  
**Mr. Arne Fosen, CEO of Cargonet**

Brussels, 5 October 2016

Dear Sirs,

The European Transport Workers' Federation has been informed by our affiliate, the National Union of Norwegian Locomotivemen (NLF) about the dispute and ongoing strike in your companies. We understand that the core issue is about accepting a common national standard for locomotive drivers training.

The position of the ETF is that the training for a locomotive driver certification, and also the certification of other safety critical staff, is of utmost importance for railway safety. You represent the traditional state owned companies in Norway, and have so far a good safety record.

We strongly encourage you to seek a solution to these issues, as has been reached with other private and state owned companies in your country. The railway sector must not be based upon competition on safety standards with the primary goal of cutting costs. The training should be standardised to facilitate a high safety standard, and at the same time allow drivers to be employed throughout the industry without the obstacles posed by different levels of safety training requirements. You should, as big players in the Norwegian railway market, take a special responsibility in acknowledging this.

The ETF as responsible European trade union federation representing more than 800.000 railway workers in Europe, strongly support our NLF colleges in their strike. We will follow this conflict very closely, together with NSBs efforts to establish daughter companies as players on the international market. We will consider further actions in support of our Norwegian colleges.

Social dumping on safety and training will never be accepted !

With regards

Sabine Trier  
Deputy General Secretary



President Lars Lindgren

General Secretary Eduardo Chagas

Vice Presidents Alexander Kirchner  
Ekaterina Yordanova

