



Rail & Maritime Transport Union Inc

7 October 2016

Mr. Geir Isaksen, CEO of the Norwegian State Railways

By Email: geir.isaksen@nsb.no

Mr. Arne Fosen, CEO of Cargonet

By Email: arne.fosen@cargonet.no

Dear Sirs,

The Rail and Maritime Transport Union has been informed by our colleges from 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 my union is that the training for a locomotive driver certification, and also the certification of other safety critical staff, is of outmost 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.

We, - as responsible as a railway workers union, strongly support our NLF colleges in their strike. We will follow this conflict very closely, together with NSBs efforts effort to establish sister companies as players in the international market. We will consider further actions in support of our Norwegian colleges should the action become protracted.

Social dumping on safety and training will never be accepted!

Sincerely

Wayne Butson
General Secretary

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