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FRANCE**

FILT-CGIL support for the strike against Veolia Transport Sweden

FILT-CGIL, the Italian Transport Workers Federation, expresses its strong support for the Swedish trade union SEKO and its members in the ongoing conflict with Veolia Transport Sweden.

Through excessive underbidding, Veolia Sweden has won the tender for train operations between Denmark and Sweden, crossing the Oresund bridge.

The price for this underbidding is now to be paid by the employees. The price is massive lay-offs of the permanent employed workforce and “offer” from Veolia to be re-employed as part time workers or on hourly basis when needed by the company. Of 211 locomotive drivers employed today, 107 is going to be employed on a permanent basis. 67 will be “offered” part time employment. The onboard staff is equally strongly affected.

Veolia Transport Sweden is a part of the international Transdev group and the mother company must be held responsible for the behaviour of their Swedish branch. In the frame of the unique rail European Market there’s a concrete risk that similar situation will reproduce in other countries in Europe.

Filt-Cgil agrees with the ETF Locomotive Drivers’ Advisory Group proposal to support SEKO trade union and its members in the ongoing conflict and in the other actions that will be implemented in other countries.

The European Council will be called in the coming months to approve the regulatory changes of the 4th Railway Package, which will lead to further market liberalization in the sector, in all member countries.

Events such as Veolia Sweden highlight how certain rules and adequate safeguards for the railway staff are necessary. A confrontation between the social partners, that allows companies to deliver quality services and personnel to operate safely, is essential.

FILT CGIL always opposes the logic of excessive underbidding, which often becomes a source of illegal and unfair competition and creates social dumping.

Rome, June 20, 2014.