

February 10, 2010

Mr. Philippe Burghelle Vernet  
Head of Unit  
Directorate F – Air Transport  
DG Transport  
European Commission  
24, rue de Mot  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Mr. Robert Ready  
Chief Air Negotiator  
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada  
111 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1J1  
Canada

Re: First Meeting of the Joint Committee of the Canada/ER Air Transport Agreement

Dear Mssrs Ready and Burghelle Vernet:

On behalf of the European Transport Workers Federation (ETF), representing over 250,000 civil aviation employees all over Europe and the Canadian civil aviation affiliates of the International Transportation Workers Federation, representing over 50,000 Canadian air transport workers, we wish to acknowledge the signing of the European Union – Canada Air Transport Agreement in December, 2009.

This significant event will have a major impact for years to come on the European and Canadian aviation industries, communities, and the lives and livelihood of all workers in this sector.

This Agreement provides a framework for further negotiations and the ongoing development of the Canada/EU relationship in civil aviation through the operation of a Joint Committee. We believe that this process must allow for the active participation of all of the key stakeholders.

While the EU allowed for active participation in the negotiation of the Agreement by all classes of workers in civil aviation, the Canadian government consulted only groups representing a minority of workers, ignoring the interests and views of large majority of workers in this sector. This is unacceptable.

Going forward, we are asking that, in the ongoing negotiations and in the Joint Committee process, all of the worker groups, including the Canadian unions listed below, be officially represented and allowed to actively participate as stakeholder observers.

We understand that the first meeting of the Joint Committee is likely to take place in April of this year. We are asking that all unions be given the opportunity to fully participate in this session, as the basic guidelines and methodology for future action will presumably be developed at this meeting.

In addition, we would ask that at this first meeting of the Joint Committee, that Article 19 of the Agreement on Labour Matters, specifically the impact of the Agreement on employment and working conditions, be discussed. We would obviously wish to be actively involved in this meeting.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and look forward to discussing with you the terms of our participation.