



## International Transport Workers' Federation

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## The Maritime Union Of Australia

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Iñigo de la Serna Hernàiz  
Spanish Minister of Infrastructures  
By e-mail: [fomento@fomento.es](mailto:fomento@fomento.es)

Dear Mr de la Serna Hernàiz,

It is with great concern that the Maritime Union of Australia has learnt about your government's proposal to drastically change labour arrangements in Spanish ports that could result in the loss of up to 8,000 jobs for unionised dockworkers.

The MUA has been informed by Spanish unions that your government intends to approve a law which seeks to aggressively and destructively liberalise the port labour market.

Unbelievably, this law even seeks to dismantle the current dockers' registration system in breach of Spain's international obligations under ILO (International Labour Organization) Convention 137.

To add to the sense of the damaging, unnecessary and aggressive intent the proposed law furthermore ignores the agreements reached a few weeks ago between the employers' association, ANESCO, and the unions.

The MUA strongly believes it is unacceptable that after many years of discussions your government has apparently decided to ignore the proposals suggested by social partners and act unilaterally.

The MUA adds its voice to those of Spanish unions demanding you immediately halt the legislative process and get back to the negotiating table with the unions and the employers' association.

In times of general distrust towards governments and institutions, decisions like this one merely confirm public suspicions.

As President of the International Transport Workers' Federation, I have been closely following the developments in Spain since the opening of the infringement procedure back in 2013.

Your decision to gut the rules that govern Spanish ports not only ignores international conventions but shows a callous disregard for Spanish jobs, national prestige and international conventions.

Spanish unions are mobilising to resist its determination to wreck social partnership in its ports. They are absolutely assured of our international support.

Yours sincerely

**Paddy Crumlin**  
**President ITF**  
**National Secretary MUA**