



ITF House
49 - 60 Borough Road
London SE1 1DR

Telephone +44 207 403 2733
Fax +44 207 357 7871

國際運輸勞連

International Transport Workers' Federation
Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte
Fédération internationale des ouvriers du transport
Internationella Transportarbetarefederationen
Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation
Международная федерация транспортников
التنظيم عالمياً، النضال من أجل حقوقنا

Shiva Gopal Mishra
General Secretary

All India Railwaymen's Federation
4 State Entry Road
New Delhi 110055
India

Email: airfindia@yahoo.co.in; airfindia@gmail.com

Fax: + 91 11 23363167

OGS/MU/sr/ckr

20 November 2013

Dear Brother Mishra, Dear Delegates

AIRF's 89th Annual Convention, 22-24 November 2013

It gives us great pleasure to convey to the AIRF's Annual Convention warm fraternal greetings of the 4.5 million transport workers, especially the railway workers, who together with other sections make up the global solidarity family of the ITF.

Today railways worldwide are going through a period of major change, facing privatisation, deregulation and liberalisation resulting in fragmentation of the system, redundancies and job losses, the closure of unprofitable lines, outsourcing, sub-contracting and the promotion of precarious working. New forms of business and employment are emerging which do not always take safety standards and social consequences into consideration. The ITF and its railway section stresses the necessity to invest in the development of railways, to improve working conditions and safety measures, and to preserve the permanent character of jobs in the railway sector rather than replacing qualified full-time specialists with outsourced, casual or precarious workers. In tackling the problems of climate change the expansion of rail networks will be crucial. To achieve this goal, it is extremely important to have strong unions capable of negotiating with employers, governments and international institutions, to sign collective agreements which ensure decent conditions for railway workers.

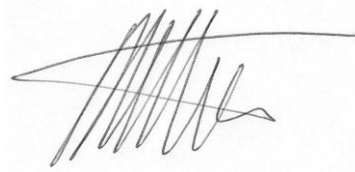
During the recent ITF Action Week, which was held on 7-13 October 2013, ITF and ETF railway affiliates mobilised railway workers across Europe on 9 October to oppose the 4th Railway Package of the European Commission, which proposes to further liberalise and fragment the railway networks in Europe. Unions organised a series of national actions to raise awareness about the consequences for passengers and railway workers if the new package is implemented. The ITF and its railway unions believe that only united and strong unions can safeguard the interests of passengers and workers.

We wish you a very successful Congress and hope that you reach productive decisions on the future of railways in India, and on strengthening union power. Railway workers around the world are proud professionals who are dedicated to provide best services to those who use the railways. We stand together in solidarity to defend workers' rights in the transportation industry all over the world.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Cotton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Cotton
ITF Acting General Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mac Urata", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mac Urata
Section Secretary
ITF Inland Transport Sections