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European Transport Workers' Federation
Fédération Européenne des Travailleurs des Transports
Europäische Transportarbeiter-Föderation
Federación Europea de los Trabajadores del Transporte

Brussels, 30 November 2012

Viktor Orbán
Prime Minister
The Prime Minister's Office
1357 Budapest Pf. 6.
Hungary

By email: miniszterelnok@me.gov.hu]

Dear Prime Minister,

The European Transport Workers' Federation is following closely the developments of European railways and the role they can play in the framework of the objectives of the European Union for sustainable transport.

We have been informed by our Hungarian members that the Ro-La services in Hungary are in crisis because of the termination of the state subsidy. The railway freight operator Rail Cargo Hungaria Zrt. will not run trains anymore from Kiskundorozsma to the Austrian city of Wels from the 9th of December 2012.

102 jobs will disappear in Hungary as a consequence of the end of operations. The closure of Ro-La trains will directly and indirectly decrease the volume of railway services.

The railway operators that run trains on the Hungarian railway network have to pay quite high track charges compared to the other EU Member States. However these charges are not demanded in the road transport. Despite the Hungarian policy makers' intention to implement the road access charges in 2009, the measure has not been implemented. The state aid for Ro-La was implemented because of the need to facilitate the competition between railway and road transport. The subsidy decreased from 900 million HUF to 550 million HUF. And now there is no interest to support this combined road-rail transport anymore.

We have knowledge that about 300 000 trucks are transported on the Nagylak and Hegyeshalom corridor each year. The 10% of this transport was carried by Ro-La trains from Kiskundorozsma. The planned cuts will have effects on jobs and also on the environment. Furthermore the MÁV Co. Group will experience huge financial losses because there will be a decrease of the income from track charges.

The transport workers' job protection is the main task of the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) in the economic crisis.

We call the Hungarian Government to implement measures that can ensure the continuation of the operations of the Hungarian Ro-La railway track and the protection of the concerned jobs.

Yours sincerely,
Eduardo Chagas

ETF General Secretary



President Lars Lindgren

Vice Presidents Alexander Kirchner
Brigitta Paas

General Secretary Eduardo Chagas

