



3rd International Meeting of docker and port workers' Unions Istanbul 18th and 19th may 2026

“Dock and Port Workers Do Not Work for War”

Strengthen the coordination and call for another day of action!

The third international meeting of Mediterranean and European port unions was held in Istanbul, focusing on the struggle against wars, genocides and aggression, closely linked to problems of the salary, working conditions, automatisisation projects and the security and health of all docks and ports workers.

The meeting was attended by the CGT Port and Docks from France, Enedep union from Greece, LAB from the Basque Country, Liman-Is from Turkey, ODT from Morocco and USB from Italy, who jointly signed a declaration which we attach to this press release, also available on the websites of all the organisations.

Following the success of previous meetings, which gave rise to joint and coordinated initiatives – in particular the International Day of Port Struggle on 6th February – the trade unions agreed to consolidate the work carried out to date, launching further initiatives against war, genocide and against any complicity with Israel, the US, NATO, the EU and individual governments.

The declaration sets out seven demands: from the immediate end to the genocide of Palestinian people to the recognition of an independent Palestinian state; to an end to US-Israel wars of aggression in the Middle East to full solidarity with the peoples of Cuba, Venezuela and Sudan, alongside the defense of peoples' sovereignty, territorial integrity, the right to resistance and self-determination.

It calls for ports not to be used for the transportation of arms, ammunition, equipment or military material and troops to war zones. Trade unions must step up vigilance, inform workers, expose war cargoes and organise constant, collective mass resistance using all available means.

We reaffirm our firm NO to the war economy, to rearmament plans of governments and plans to militarise ports and strategic infrastructure, because our resources must be used to fund the needs of the people, alongside wages and health and safety measures in the workplace. Contracts must provide for real wage increases, stable jobs, reduced working hours and an adequate pension policy. Technological progress, mechanisation, automation and the use of AI must be opposed so they do not lead to the loss of jobs.

Finally, the signatory unions commit themselves to strengthen coordination between ports, through the exchange of information towards coordinated and joint mobilisations to block arms shipments and show solidarity with all those under attack from any kind of repression.

By signing this declaration, the trade unions have agreed to call for a second day of international action by port workers in October 2026.

From now on the signatory trade unions of the Istanbul Declaration are ready to welcome other trade unions that will endorse the document's content. At the same time, are now available to meet with other groups of docks or ports workers from other any other ports who will be interested in this struggle.