



## International Dockworkers Council

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## Ports for Peace – Reaffirming the Position of Dockworkers

Across Europe and the Mediterranean, we are increasingly hearing that “*the peace is over*”. Governments speak openly about rearmament, militarisation and preparation for conflict, while ports and strategic infrastructures are once again placed at the centre of these agendas.

As dockworkers’ trade unions, we recall that the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) has already taken a clear and principled position on these issues. Resolution No. 19 of the IDC General Assembly (New Orleans, May 2022) explicitly reaffirms the IDC’s rejection of any form of war or armed confrontation and its commitment to dialogue, peace and the protection of civilians. This position remains fully valid today.

Dockworkers are workers. They are not security forces, not law-enforcement agents, and not military personnel. Their responsibility is to carry out port work safely and professionally — not to assume tasks that fall under the authority of states, police bodies or armed forces.

We therefore firmly reject the stigmatisation and criminalisation of dockworkers, particularly through their association with drug control, arms trafficking or security failures. Dockworkers must not be turned into scapegoats for shortcomings in public policy, law enforcement or international security strategies.

Equally, dockworkers do not wish to be involved in wars that are not theirs, nor to see their labour or their ports instrumentalised for military or geopolitical purposes. The transformation of ports into militarised infrastructures undermines their social and economic role and places unjustified pressure on workers.

**As already highlighted by the IDC, militarisation and the war economy have direct consequences for dockworkers: downward pressure on wages, erosion of labour rights, deterioration of health and safety conditions, and renewed attempts to justify automation, privatisation and restrictions on trade union freedoms.**

In line with Resolution No. 19, the IDC reiterates that it:

- Rejects any form of war or armed confrontation that harms civilians;
- Advocates for dialogue and peaceful solutions to conflicts;
- Defends human rights, democratic values and social justice;
- Opposes discrimination, stigmatisation and the criminalisation of workers.



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Ports must remain spaces of work, cooperation and peace, serving societies and communities — not instruments of war.

The IDC expresses its full support for the **International Day of Struggle on 6 February**, in defence of social security, health and safety at work, and for wage and pension increases.

We reaffirm our opposition to the privatization and militarization of ports. International dockworkers' solidarity is essential to defend workers' rights, peace, and dignity at work.

**Dockworkers do not work for war**