

SITCPLA SETS UP A NEW SECTION IN RYANAIR

After the Ryanair Cabin Crew assemblies celebrated in MAD and BCN, on October 4th, 5th, 6th, and the polling celebrated in all the bases across Spain, SITCPLA announces the establishment of a new Cabin Crew union section in Ryanair.

The discreet work previously done by the SITCPLA Board of Directors, together with our Ryanair colleagues, crystallises in this way to overcome a preoccupying anomaly in the field of liberties in Europe, which was already lasting too long: the lack of union representation for the more of 1,700 Ryanair Cabin Crew working in Spain, in over a dozen of bases. Already, several hundreds of Spanish based Ryanair Cabin Crew members join the project.

The recent European Court of Justice ruling in the joined cases of Cabin Crew members against Ryanair and its recruitment agencies has been a real turning point. The ECJ has determined that disputes over Cabin Crew members' contracts of employment fall within the jurisdiction of the courts of the country from which they carry out their duties – not those of a country such as Ireland, which the airline might choose to suit its own interests.

This relevant ruling adds to recent events happened at Ryanair, which have resulted in the cancellations of thousands of its flights, with hundreds of thousands of passengers affected. **The Ryanair business model, based on “social dumping”, must change.** Ryanair simply cannot continue keeping its workers' salaries rock-bottom and forcing other airlines to undermine their collective agreements, endlessly, without getting a proportionate response from the unions forming the ETF (European Transport Workers' Federation, as is the case of SITCPLA, and the European Union governing bodies.

It is urgent to redirect Ryanair to the strict compliance with the European laws and the respect to the freedom of union association of its workers, before it keeps on provoking irreversible damages to the European air transport sector. Both to airlines and passengers.

It is essential that the European Union undertakes the necessary legal changes to eliminate the loopholes that allow Ryanair to use tricks to obtain the highest benefits in the sector, at the expense of unprotecting its workers, making the air transport more precarious and damaging the passengers' rights, undermining the other airlines in a disloyal way.

The objective of SITCPLA will always be the protection of the Ryanair Cabin Crew jobs, while requiring that Ryanair complies with the same European rules as other airlines, where there are union representatives, recognized labor rights and collective agreements.

We know that other unions belonging to the ETF (European Transport Workers' Federation) are taking similar steps in other countries, as SITCPLA is doing now in Spain. The same ETF is working to coordinate a global response from the unions to eliminate the anomalies that Ryanair presents regarding its workers' labor rights, an initiative about which we will keep you informed.

For now, though, we would like to welcome our Ryanair colleagues, emphasizing our full support, so that they can achieve success in this new phase that opens now. Their victories will contribute to improve the status of our profession across Europe.

SITCPLA – Board of Directors