

Who can join the ITF?

Any trade union with members in the transport industry can apply to join the ITF. There are criteria and procedures which a union must follow before it can become an affiliate. For an application form and further information, please contact the ITF.



FLIGHT COLLECTION - QUADRANT

How is the ITF financed?

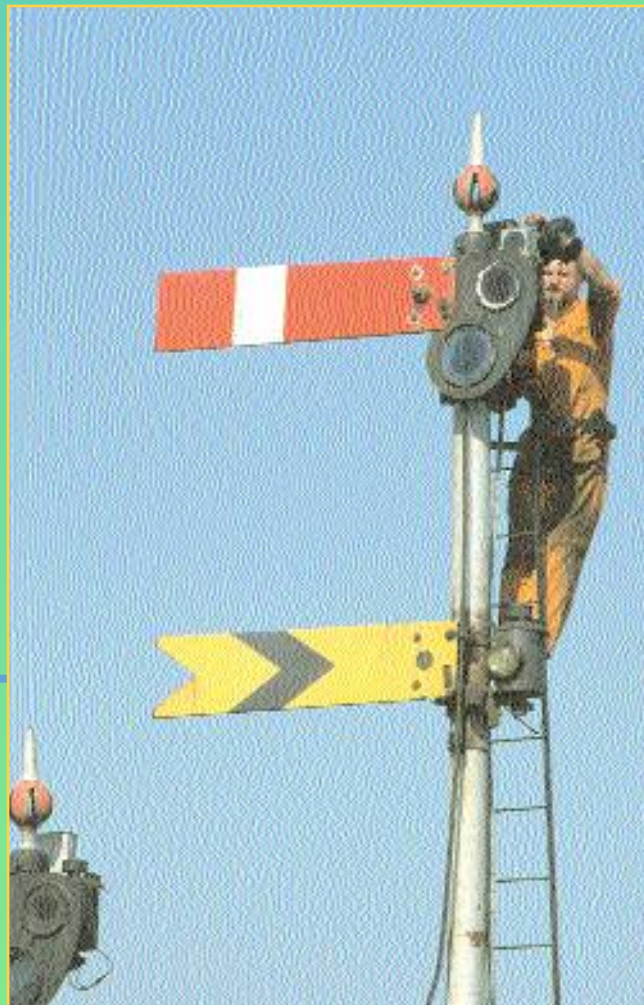
The ITF's general activities are financed from the affiliation fees of its member unions. The size of the fee is based on the size of the union's membership. Reduced affiliation rates may be available for unions with fewer resources.

The ITF uses these funds to run its activities and support its affiliates. Maritime activities have their own special funding which supports the FOC Campaign and provides welfare support for seafarers worldwide.

Who runs the ITF?

The ITF is run by its member unions. The main policy-making body is the Congress which meets every four years. All affiliates can send voting delegates to the Congress. They elect:

- The President and five Vice-Presidents (four from different world regions and one Women's Vice-President).
- The General Secretary who is in charge of the ITF Secretariat with its full-time staff.
- The Executive Board made up of 37 representatives from affiliates; this meets twice a year and is in overall charge of the ITF between Congresses.



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To find out more about the ITF ...

Head Office

49-60 Borough Road, London SE1 1DR, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 20 7403 2733 Fax: +44 20 7357 7871
Email: mail@itf.org.uk Website: www.itf.org.uk

African Regional Office

PO Box 66540, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 2 444 80 18/ 444 80 19 Fax: +254 2 444 80 20 Email: itf@nbnet.co.ke

African Francophone Office

1450 Avenue Kwame Nkrumah, 10 BP 13499, Ouagadougou 10, Burkina Faso
Tel: +226 20 53 62 Fax: +226 33 31 01 Email: itfwak@fasonet.bf

Asia/Pacific Regional Office

Tamachi Kotsu Building 3-2-22, Shibaura, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0023, Japan
Tel: +81 3 3798 2770 Fax: +81 3 3769 4471 Email: mail@itftokyo.com

Asian Sub-Regional Office

12D College Lane, New Delhi 110001, India
Tel: +91 11 2335 4408/ 7423/ 2373 1669 Fax: +91 11 2335 4407
Email: itfindia@del2.vsnl.net.in

European Regional Office

European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF), 22 Rue de Pascale, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 285 4660 Fax: +32 2 280 0817 Email: etf@etf.skynet.be

European Sub-Regional Office

c/o ITURR, 11 Staraya Basmannaya, 103064 Moscow, Russia
Tel: +7 095 262 2995/262 5873 Fax: +7 095 923 8831
Email: iturr@orc.ru Website: www.itf.ru

Interamerican Regional Office

Av. Rio Branco 26-11 Andar, CEP 20090-001 Centro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Tel: +55 21 2233 2812/2263 1965 Fax: +55 21 2283 0314
Email: rio@itf.org.uk Website: www.itf-americas.org

Caribbean Sub-Regional Office

198 Camp Street, S Cummingsburg, Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: +592 2 71196/50820/54285 Fax: +592 2 50820
Email: glusolutions2000.net

USA Flags of Convenience Campaign Office

Suite 400, 1101 17th Street NW, Washington DC 20036, USA
Tel: +1 202 955 8347 Fax: +1 202 955 8364 Email: itf_was@ari.net

ITF Cruise Ship Campaign Office

399 Challenger Road, Suite 103, Cape Canaveral, Florida 32920, USA
Tel: +1 0 321 799 2994 Fax: +1 0 321 799 9282 Email: itfcruiseship@aol.com



International Transport Workers' Federation

ITF House, 49-60 Borough Road,
London SE1 1DR, UK
Tel: +44 20 7403 2733 Fax: +44 20 7357 7871
E-mail: mail@itf.org.uk
Web-site: www.itf.org.uk



About the ITF

What is the ITF?

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), is a truly global organization. It is a federation of 570 transport trade unions in 132 countries, representing around 5 million workers.

The ITF was founded in 1896 in London by European seafarers' and dockers' union leaders who realized the need to organize internationally against strike breakers. Today the ITF organizes workers in ships, ports, railways, road freight and passenger transport, inland waterways, fisheries, tourism and civil aviation.

The ITF represents transport workers at world level and promotes their interests through global campaigning and solidarity. It is dedicated to the advancement of independent and democratic trade unionism, and to the defence of fundamental human and trade union rights. It is opposed to any form of totalitarianism, aggression and discrimination.

The ITF is one of 10 Global Union Federations allied to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).



What does the ITF do?

The ITF's role is to support its member trade unions and find ways of defending the interests of transport workers in the global economy.

Union coordination

The ITF brings unions together to share information and build common strategies. Unions meet in international

conferences to discuss their industry or their transnational employer. Specialist international task groups deal with specific and technical issues such as occupational health.

Mobilising Solidarity

The ITF supports its affiliates to take solidarity action with each other. When transport unions in one country are in conflict with employers or governments and need direct help from unions elsewhere, the ITF can provide international support. In recent disputes, international action and pressure have proved a major, sometimes decisive, factor in achieving union objectives.

Campaigns

To highlight issues of particular concern to transport workers, the ITF runs international campaigns. These have included worldwide actions by rail workers on safety, aviation workers against 'air rage', road transport workers against excessive working hours and dockers fighting union-busting in ports. The ITF's oldest and most famous campaign is against Flag of Convenience shipping.

Information

The ITF aims to keep its affiliates informed of worldwide developments that have an impact on their local or national activities. The ITF also provides analysis to others such as the press and media on developments in the transport industry which affect workers. The ITF publishes 'Transport International', a quarterly magazine covering issues of importance to transport workers around the world. The ITF maintains a web-site with information about all its current activities.



Representation

The ITF represents transport workers' interests in international bodies which take decisions affecting jobs, employment conditions, or safety. Such bodies include the International Labour Organisation, the International Maritime Organisation, and the International Civil Aviation Organisation. The ITF also takes up the interests of transport workers with the OECD, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation.

Transport Workers in the Global Economy

The globalisation of the world economy has only been made possible by dramatic changes in the technology and organisation of international transport. It relies on satellite communications, low cost shipping, cheaper air travel, and containerisation. It demands new high speed road and rail networks geared to regional and global transport hubs. It requires global port operators, multinational transport companies, and international airline alliances.



The globalisation of the world economy requires the movement of goods and people at ever greater volume, at ever lower cost. Yet the constant pressure for lower costs of this "economic modernisation" has led to indecent work standards from the appalling safety standards at sea encouraged by the Flags of Convenience system, to the inhuman and dangerous working hours worked by thousands of truck drivers. It has increased work intensity and eroded working conditions for all transport workers.