



Connolly Youth Movement

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Press Release

STOP THE RACE TO THE BOTTOM

Connolly Youth Movement Support the Workers of Irish Ferries

The intention of Irish Ferries management to replace all its current workers with foreign agency workers on vastly reduced rates of pay of around €3.50 an hour - substantially below Ireland's legal minimum wage of €7.65 for an adult worker – is truly shocking. This comes despite operating profits last year totalling €14.6m. For once we agree with Bertie Ahern in calling this “totally unacceptable”. However, we are still waiting on him taking action on the matter.

If this is not stopped now, it will provide a precedent for other companies in Ireland who also believe they can treat Irish people like shit in the interest of profit.

The action of the Irish Ferries management is part of a ‘race to the bottom’ caused and supported by neo-liberal policies of our government and the European Union. This includes valuing the free movement of capital over the rights and conditions of working people. It results in privatisation and de-regulation.

So rather than the EU increasing the rights of ordinary working people, it is decreasing them to a level competitive with countries like China or Eastern Europe. The EU constitution rejected by French and Dutch workers intends to build on this, and was one reason why workers of these countries voted no.

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