

STATEMENT FROM THE MEA – APRIL 22

While still waiting for a response from the union regarding the two counter-proposals submitted through the mediators this past April 15th, the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) is also awaiting instructions from the latter regarding the next steps.

In the meantime, we believe it is necessary to clarify the following.

There has not been a single day of negotiations since April 15th, even though the MEA has been available.

The MEA cares about the well-being of its employees and understands that improving their work-life balance is an important demand for them. This is why the counter-proposals submitted on April 15th were amended to include improvements with respect to this demand.

It's important to note that the April 15th counter-proposals were intended as a response to the counter-proposal submitted by the union on April 8th.

To continue to adequately serve the population, the MEA has evaluated all the available options and will use, as of [Monday, April 26th](#), the provisions of the Collective Agreement which allow it to switch to regular schedules in order to maintain the fluidity of the logistics chain. This option will help to counter, in part, the harmful effects of the overtime and weekend strike launched by the union.

With each passing day, the port becomes further congested, the situation becomes more and more critical, and the union does not seem to be concerned about the consequences.

We must move forward.

Note: MEA has clarified the “switch to regular schedules,” mentioned in the second last paragraph, as follows. “The 80% of workers working 5.2h on an 8h shift will now work a full 7h. Normally they are 3 workers for 2 machines”. Now they will be 3 workers for 3 machines. Details on which machines were not available.