



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Employment and Social Governance
Social dialogue

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

WG Videoconference Meeting

19 June 2020

MINUTES

Participants:

Employer representatives

Cesar Luaces Frades, Spanish Aggregates Federation, Spain (Chair)
Corina Hebestreit, Euromines, Belgium
Kasia Palaczanis, Euromines, Belgium
Beata Staszko, Employers' Organization of Polish Copper, Euromines, Poland
Rafal Szkop, Employers' Organization of Polish Copper, Euromines, Poland
Dirk Fincke, UEPG, Belgium
Sergiu Scolobiuc, UEPG, Belgium
Florence Lumen, IMA-Europe, Belgium
Lluis Rodriguez Camino, APEP, Germany

Employee representatives

Jean-Pierre Damm, FNEM FO, France
Corinna Zierold, industriAll, Belgium
Karoly Stanitz, BDSZ, Hungary
Szabolcs Beothy-Feher, BDSZ, Hungary
Ferencz Rabi, BDSZ, Hungary
Alberto Simoes, SIMA, Portugal
Jesus Ignacio Crespo Torres, CCOO de Industria, Spain
Victor Fernandez Vazquez, IndustriAll, Spain
Desislava Kancheva, Podkrepa SMF Miners, Bulgaria

European Commission: Kathy Haas, DG EMPL



1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

Cesar Luaces Frades (Chair) opened the meeting and presented himself.

The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the meeting on 9/10/2019 were adopted.

2. Covid-19 and Health & Safety Practices in the extractive industry – exchange about different responses to the current situation

The Chair introduced the topic, mentioning the example of Spain with the adoption of a specific health protocol for workers of the sector already in March.

IndustriAll said they monitored closely the situation as some trade unions went on strike in some countries. For IndustriAll, the re-start of the activity should be negotiated with workers and those staying at home should be financially compensated. No worker should be forced to resume work if safety is not guaranteed (and workers with health conditions should be exempted). All companies should have health protocols for the organisation of work; workers should have protective equipment and should be trained on the new rules. Also, Covid-19 should be recognized as an occupational disease and compensation schemes should be set up for victims (this was explained in a letter they wrote to Commissioner Schmit).

Euromines presented their actions during the corona crisis to help their members and communicate about the industry's efforts (see slides).

IMA-Europe said their industry was probably less affected than others as many of their operations are outdoor. They reported about the challenges encountered during the crisis and how they helped members in the return to work, mentioning that the EU-OSHA guidance was useful (see slides).

UEPG explained how they informed their members during the crisis (see slides) and published one of the first European sectoral guidance documents against Covid-19 for workers and managers. They mentioned the lack of protective equipment as a challenge, but confirmed social dialogue worked well at company level. 20% of staff teleworked.

The Chair confirmed that for the aggregates industry, the lack of demand for aggregates during the crisis was an issue (because the construction sector stopped), as well as the supply to construction sites, and suggested a need to get closer to the construction industry.



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Trade unions confirmed social dialogue at company level was constructive during the crisis and now social partners needed to continue this good social dialogue to fight the economic crisis.

3. Status of NEPSI 2019-2021 – presentation by Florence Lumen, IMA Europe

IMA-Europe presented the status of the NEPSI project 2019-2021, a project to reduce workers' exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) dust financed under the social dialogue call (see slides), and explained the duration of the grant was extended because of the corona crisis.

4. Ageing of workforce in the extractive industry – presentation of the project by César Luaces Frades, Chair of the SSDC EI

The Chair presented a project on Ageing of the workforce in the extractive industries, financed under the programme Horizon 2020 (Research and Innovation Action) (see slides). He explained the demographic problem and the issue of attractiveness of the sector for young people and women.

In the following discussion, trade unions confirmed that the sector had an image problem, being seen as not “green” enough by young people, so the industry should better communicate about what it does to implement the Green Deal.

5. AOB

IndustriAll raised the question of participation of Euracoal: they did not attend, nor register for participation in this meeting.

The next meeting is on 6 October: it is not yet clear if it will be a physical meeting in the classical sense or a virtual one (videoconference) or even a hybrid one if some people cannot travel because of corona. Social partners also asked to foresee an additional meeting towards the end of November to replace the cancelled meeting in March.