



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue
Social dialogue, Industrial Relations

Brussels, 24 October 2012

SECTORAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
ROAD TRANSPORT

Concise minutes of the Working Group meeting 3 July 2012

The meeting was chaired by Mr Sugic (workers, chairman of the committee).

1. Social partners' response to the Transport White Paper¹ - follow-up

With a view to adopt a joint statement at the plenary meeting planned for 24 October 2012, IRU and ETF continued their exchange on the draft (dated 19 June for the EN and DE version and 22 June for the FR version). IRU informed the workers' side on the result of their preparatory meeting: the employers wished to add the definition of "decent work" (ILO reference); one should delete the reference to a social code as long as it was unclear what this would be; the reference to a sustainable price for transport should also mention "ensuring a profitable industry". Whilst the reference to the ILO was not subject to discussion, the parties felt that the other suggestions needed to be further explored between the secretariats. ETF would hold its section meeting in September.

2. Driver shortages, image and recruitment in road transport sector - follow-up

Mr Parrillo presented the European Parliament's study of 2009 on the subject (see slide presentation)².

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2011_white_paper_en.htm

² See also minutes of 8 April 2010; study of 15.05.2009 available at www.europarl.europa.eu/studies

Shortage of Qualified Personnel in Road Freight Transport EN FR DE NL
15-05-2009 Study

Summary : The study provides a concise overview of the road freight transport sector, in the light of the structural issue of qualified driver shortage. In particular, this study analyses the multiplicity of factors affecting labour supply and demand, by taking into due consideration also the impacts of the current EU legislation and the effects of the present economic downturn.

Executive summary : 

Authors : Manuela Samek Lodovici, Enrico Pastori, Caterina Corrias, Alessio Sitran, Cristina Tajani, Nicoletta Torchio and Andrea Appetecchia

Committees : Transport and tourism

IRU mentioned that the study left out passenger transport, which was a problem. The employers deplored that young people did not have enough information on how to enter the occupation. Wage was an issue, too, but not the only one. The parties held an exchange on the – bad or maybe in reality not so bad – image of the profession, the possible remedies (extend the scope of recruitment, lower – often financial – entry barriers). The possibility of a joint study was also suggested. It was agreed that the secretariats continue their exchange and establish key points on what to do together in the future.

3. Review of Regulation 1072/2009 on access to the international road haulage market

Mr Mayet and Ms Whittaker (DG MOVE) informed the participants on the work of the High Level Group mandated by Commission Vice-President Kallas to assess the situation of the EU road haulage market³. Mr Mayet underlined that the report was an independent view and was not determining the Commission's future proposals. He invited the social partners to come up – ideally by mid-October – with a joint opinion on the report and in particular its ideas related to cabotage. Ms Whittaker presented the group's recommendations in details. These would amongst other inputs serve as an information basis for the Commission's impact assessment of a review of Regulation 1072/2009. Her presentation included the policy option considered as well as the next steps (see slide presentation).

The workers' side was unhappy that the report was only available in English and wished to have translations into at least the two other Commission working languages. The Commission agreed to organise at least a translation of the summary which describes the main recommendations.

Both sides of industry welcomed the report but considered it important to carry out a "reality-check" of the recommendations stemming from the academic world. The most crucial question seemed to be the difficult enforcement of the current cabotage rules but also the likely difficulties in enforcing the measures recommended by the High Level Group on cabotage. Other questions concerned the application of the Posting of Workers Directive as its scope covered only certain transport operations. The practical application of a prior declaration (which would not be an authorisation) using a common register as recommended by the High Level Group deserved further examination. The DG MOVE representatives called upon the social partners to share their experiences with the Commission. The Commission would in particular welcome concrete suggestions of policy options to be analysed in its impact assessment which would start in the coming weeks.

4. Consideration of items for the next meeting

The following items were considered: adoption of the joint statement in response to the Transport White Paper; further discussion/conclusion of driver shortages; reflexion on the above-mentioned impact assessment; review of the social partners' work programme; recommendations stemming from the STARTS project. It was clear that both sides of industry should work together before the plenary meeting to prepare these points in advance.

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road/doc/2012-06-high-level-group-report-final-report.pdf>

Participants 3.7.2012

Employers (7 ♂, 3 ♀)

Ms Antignac (FR)

Ms Boisen (DK)

Mr Causse (FR)

Ms Ivanova (BG)

Mr Kramer (NL)

Mr Mannaerts (BE)

Mr Moisio (FI)

Mr Nielsen (IRU)

Mr Pardo (ES)

Mr Viccars (IRU)

Workers (13 ♂, 6 ♀)

Mr Aarestrup (DK)

Ms Coulet (FR)

Mr Diamante (IT)

Ms Gällhagen (SE)

Mr Georgiev (BG)

Mr Goument (FR)

Ms Heinisch (ETF)

Mr Johnson (UK)

Ms König (SE)

Mr Miladinov (BG)

Mr Mitchell (UK)

Ms Mizzau (IT)

Mr Parrillo (BE)

Mr Peeters (BE)

Mr Ryd (SE)

Mr Sugic (FR)

Mr Teunissen (NL)

Ms Volkers (DE)

Mr Wolff (LU)

European Commission

Ms Durst (DG EMPL)

Mr Mayet (DG MOVE)

Mr Scheerlinck (DG EMPL)

Ms Whittaker (DG MOVE)