



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social dialogue, social rights, working conditions, adaptation to change I

Social dialogue and labour relations

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE INLAND NAVIGATION

Plenary meeting 21 June 2007 Minutes (adopted on 10 October 2007)

1. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The agenda was adopted, and the minutes of the meeting of 27 March 2007 were approved.

2. Appointment of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Mr Lehninger (workers' group) was appointed Chairman for the next two years. He then took over the chair from Mr Koning (employers' group), whom he thanked for his constructive chairmanship and who was appointed Deputy Chairman.

3. Exchange with DG TREN

Mr Dieter (DG TREN G.2), standing in for Mr Trestour, briefed the meeting on the progress of work relating to the NAIADES action programme, to be implemented over the period up to 2013, and on the Commission's priorities for this year. He made the point that a significant amount of responsibility rested on the sectoral dialogue, as the subjects discussed by the social partners at European level had been included in the action programme. The Commission intended to report on the implementation of NAIADES before the end of 2007. The social partners were therefore invited to submit their comments on the progress they had made.

In the ensuing discussion the social partners referred to various points: the Fuels Directive, inland navigation promotion centres, lack of statistics on workers in inland navigation, cabotage, Commission staffing levels for the sector, and the Commission's plans regarding manning rules.

4. Adoption of the work programme 2007-2008

The draft work programme was examined point by point, and additions made. Concerning an agreement between the social partners on working time in inland navigation, the agreed intention was for it to be concluded by March 2008. The DG TREN representative said that the Commission, if it produced a proposal on manning rules, would do so in what was now the usual way, i.e. it would take stock of the

situation, analyse the implications and consult the stakeholders (in this case first and foremost the social partners). The social partners asked for the results of the Commission's stocktaking exercise to be sent to them as soon as possible, as a basis for their own contemplations. The work programme was adopted¹.

5. Working time

Bearing in mind the progress achieved at the ad hoc meeting on 10 May, the workers' representatives were of the opinion that concrete negotiations could now be started. However, the employers thought it was appropriate first to agree on the remaining definitions (number of consecutive days, "bogus" self-employed persons) and to go through the entire original text once more. The EBU and ESO also proposed that a new document be drawn up, setting out what had already been agreed and presenting the current status of discussions.

Mrs Durst (DG EMPL F.1) emphasised the importance of a clear negotiating mandate for all sides before the start of actual negotiations. There should also be an arrangement to allow consultation with the appropriate members during the negotiating process.

It was agreed that Mrs Beckschäfer (ESO) would prepare a new document by mid-July, which should contain all the text sections already agreed upon. The text sections which had not yet been examined together should be discussed in September². A further document could then be produced, which could be examined on 10 October.

6. Other business

The DG TREN representative informed the social partners that the Secretariat of the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR) had asked the European Commission whether it could take part in the social dialogue as an observer. The DG EMPL representative made the point that all documents adopted and the minutes of meetings were already available on the Internet. The social partners agreed to discuss this question at the next ordinary meeting on 10 October (date to be confirmed).

¹ Available in three languages:
http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/empl/sectoral_social_dialogue/library?l=/inland_waterways/2007/arbeitsprogramm_2007-200&vm=detailed&sb=Title

² A further ad hoc meeting was scheduled for 17 September.

List of participants 21.6.2007

<p><u>Employers:</u></p> <p>EBU: KONING, Michiel</p> <p>ESO: BECKSCHÄFER, Andrea</p>	<p><u>Workers:</u></p> <p>ETF: BIESOLD, Karl-Heinz BLESER, René BRAMLEY, Nick HERTOGS, Beatrice JERABEK; Milan LEHNINGER, Gunter</p>
<p><u>European Commission:</u></p> <p>DIETER, Rolf (DG TREN/G.2) DURST, Ellen (DG EMPL/F.1)</p>	