



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change
Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations

SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE "RAILWAYS"

Conclusions of the Meeting of Working Party I held on 6 December 2006 (adopted on 11 October 2007)

In the absence of the WP Chairman, the meeting was chaired by the Commission representative.

(1) Implementation of the agreement on the European licence

The CER thought that this was not an autonomous agreement like the others, as it had been followed by a Commission proposal for a Directive. The ETF pointed out, however, that the main reason for negotiating the agreement had not been to influence the Directive, but to come up with a solution for the transitional period between the opening of the market and entry into force of the Directive. The negotiations had taken place in full knowledge of the fact that the document would not have any legal status. This was why the ETF could not agree with the CER paper. The CER repeated its position that the document should not be distributed until the parameters of the future Directive were known. The Commission pointed out the importance of implementing agreements which had been reached: failure to implement the agreement would call its credibility, and that of the signatories, into question (see also the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting of 6 November 2006). The Commission also mentioned the option of proposing a project under budget line 04.03.03.01 (call for proposals VP/2007/001) with a view to financing implementation measures.

In order to verify the CER's statement that most of its member companies were already implementing the agreement (including those provisions which were not incorporated into the proposal for a Directive), it was agreed that the CER would perform an inventory in the coming months, under ETF supervision.

(2) Possible topics for European social dialogue

The 2007-2008 work programme would be adopted at the 2007 plenary meeting. In addition to monitoring agreements and the topics/projects which had been started, the ETF pointed out the two topics which were still pending (ERTMS and training centres) and mentioned some other possible topics for the future (on-board staff, accidents involving cross-border transport, violence and threats against staff and passengers, and checks on working hours and driving time). The CER explained why it had not yet

tackled these two topics: work on ERTMS had not got under way because a suitable project handler had not yet been found; as regards training centres, the CER Management Committee thought it inappropriate to carry out joint work before it had held internal consultations. EIM said that it was very interested in work on training centres. Other members of the employers' delegation suggested agents' language skills and the demographic challenge. There was an exchange of views on the various proposals made during this brainstorming, but no conclusions were reached.

(3) Other items for discussion

Regarding the consultation on reconciliation of professional, private and family life¹, the ETF said that it would prepare a joint response with ETUC. Although this topic did not concern only women, the current project on women had a bearing on this issue, as did the question of periods of rest away from home. TRANSNET informed the meeting of a joint initiative which had been launched in Germany with the GDBA, aimed at concluding a collective agreement on promoting reconciliation of professional, private and family life.

The CER wished to know more about the future obligations of employers when staff were transferred following a change of operator (revised proposal for a Regulation on public passenger transport by rail and by road; inter-institutional procedure 2000/0212/COD). The ETF also attached importance to this topic (risk of unfair competition and cherry-picking). As the topic affected not only public transport but also employment law, the Commission asked the social partners to define their objectives clearly, formulate unambiguous questions and come up with specific examples, which would facilitate a future exchange of views.

Participants 6.12.2006 :

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| Employeurs : | M. GUERRA (CER) M. INGLESE (FS) M. JENSEN (SNCF) M. METTE (DB) M. PREUMONT (CER) M. SILVA (EIM, REFER) |
| Travailleurs : | M. BARTL (ETF) M. DE CHATEAUVIEUX (CFDT) M. PETIT (ETF) M. PITELJON (CGSP) Mme TRIER (ETF) |
| Commission européenne : | Mme DURST (DG EMPL/F.1) |

¹http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/consultations_en.htm