



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

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

Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Personal Services

Steering group meeting on 7 October 2009, Brussels

Minutes

Mr Monggaard (UNI europa) chaired the meeting. The agenda was adopted without modifications.

1. Next steps for the European Hairdressing Certificates

The Chair highlighted the agreement's implementation provisions, which foresee the creation of an examination committee for level B and for level C (article 7). This could be one or two committees. In addition, every two years the social dialogue committee shall discuss and take the necessary decisions regarding the organisational structure for issuing the certificates (article 4.2). To this end, 2 secretariats should be established, and the examination committee(s) should report to the social dialogue committee every year.

The agreement should be implemented within 2 years, through the European social partners and the national organisations (article 8). The steering group should report to the social dialogue committee on the implementation after 3 years, so that the committee can take a decision on whether to revise the agreement according to article 9.

Coiffure EU gave a presentation with a proposal regarding the organisational structure.



Presentation

The social partners agreed that one secretariat for both level B and C is sufficient. The secretariat will also make proposals for the design and management of the certificate to the social dialogue committee.

By the December plenary meeting the social partners will nominate 3 members and one alternate from each side to constitute the examination committee. At the same time, these persons will also be responsible for setting up the secretariat, including making a proposal on its location.

The Chair pointed out that an information platform is also planned (article 7.1). Currently the database is hosted on the DFKF website in Denmark (www.dfkf.dk), which can be maintained for the time being. Later on the data could easily be migrated elsewhere if there is a need.

Mr Laan from Pivot Point briefly presented his educational company and pointed out its interest in seeing higher training standards established throughout Europe. For this

reason Pivot Point, like other education providers, is very interested in the implementation of the European hairdressing certificates. Mr Laan wondered, however, whether there is sufficient awareness and promotion of the (voluntary) European hairdressing certificates, since it is important to create a critical mass of knowledge about their benefits.

2. Follow-up on the EQF project

The Chair reported that the final report on the EQF project was delivered to the Commission. The results have been extraordinarily good, as the project has not only made the match between the European hairdressing certificates and the EQF, but also to national frameworks. In that sense, the EQF matrix describes the competences, skills and knowledge in the language of hairdressers, and outlines on a sectoral basis the contents of each level.

The results of this project will be an important tool for implementing the European hairdressing certificates. It can also be used for publicity and awareness-raising on a national basis, for example by explaining to countries why there should be a harmonised training framework for level 4.

Mr Laan (Pivot Point) asked about existing documents that outline the benefits of the European certificates for individuals, as it would be important to motivate people to obtain them.

Coiffure EU responded that an important principle of the European social partners' agreement was subsidiarity, so that the European certificates would complement and not replace national training systems. For level B and level C, the contents have been defined, divided into modules. By comparing to the national qualification already obtained by a candidate, it is easy to determine which modules will need to be completed to obtain the European certificate. These could then be provided by Pivot Point or other training institutions or companies. However, it is not the intent of the social partners' agreement to enable Pivot Point to completely take over hairdressing education throughout Europe, since there will not be one system for the entire EU. Rather, the social partners control that a candidate has fulfilled all the required modules of a level before issuing the corresponding European hairdressing certificate. Coiffure EU also suggested that Pivot Point could cooperate more in the new Member State of the EU, where no national training systems exist yet, rather than try to replace national systems in the Netherlands or Germany.

UNI europa agreed that Pivot Point could be most helpful in complementing the national training systems, and in widely publicising the European standards.

3. Update on the negotiations on risk prevention, health protection and working environment

Mr Röhr (Coiffure EU) gave an update on the negotiations meeting that was held on 28 and 29 September 2009 in Brussels. He reported that the work on an agreement could indeed be finished by the end of the year. The two sides have agreed on the preamble, and the provisions on skin protection are also clear. Open issues include the specifications on stress, musculo-skeletal disorders, and the topics of discrimination and protection of pregnant women. The implementation of an agreement will be followed up by the same task force that is now negotiating it, and the social partners will ask the Commission to submit the agreement to the Council of the European Union for a

decision in the form of a directive, making it legally binding throughout the territory of the EU.

4. Next social dialogue committee meetings

The negotiations task force will meet again in Brussels on 9, 10 and 30 November 2009, and the plenary meeting of the committee is scheduled for 2 December. Principal items on the agenda for that meeting will be the agreement on risk prevention and health protection, as well as the implementation of the European hairdressing certificates. Other topics to be included on the agenda will be coordinated between the secretariats of Coiffure EU and UNI europa.

5. 2010 work programme

The main topics of the social dialogue committee' work programme for 2010 will be the follow-up to the agreement implementing European hairdressing certificates, and health and safety.

Coiffure EU also suggested to organise a third conference on training in Italy in the autumn of 2010, and to apply for funding to the European Commission. In addition, the topic of mobility and the Leonardo exchange programme could be included on the 2010 work programme.

Both suggestions were welcomed by UNI europa.

6. Any other business

The languages for simultaneous interpretation at the plenary meeting were confirmed: English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Greek.