



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

Brussels, 7 February 2014

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT**

**Minutes
Plenary meeting of 4 November 2013**

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

The meeting was chaired by Mr Jacques Kerkhof (workers), chairman of the committee. The participants introduced themselves. The agenda was adopted with a new item on the designation of the new president and vice-president of the committee. Point 7 on the presentation of the study was postponed. The minutes of the previous meeting (16 September 2013) were approved.

2. Information by the European Commission (DG MOVE)

Mr Dieter (DG MOVE) informed the participants on the extension till 2015 of the research platform "Platina¹ II", a project for the implementation of certain aspects of the NAIADES programme. Part II on jobs and skills was particularly relevant for the social partners. This contained three sub work packages focussing on the elaboration of technical standards for simulators, the development of an electronic service record book and the generation of training material for logistic applications.

EBU informed the participants on a public hearing on NAIADES II organised by the EESC² on 22 November 2013.

3. Information by the European Commission (EMPL)

Ms Durst (DG EMPL) informed the participants that the Commission services were currently preparing the analytical document on the impact of the social partner agreement on working time in inland waterway transport which was planned to be submitted to the Commission's Impact Assessment Board in December. The social partners asked how long it would take to prepare a proposal (if the Commission decided to present one) and expressed their fear that it would take too much time. Ms Durst said that the Commission had no intention to decelerate the process.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/inland/promotion/platina_en.htm

² <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-green-inland-waterway>

4. Work programme 2014-2015

Contrary to what had been agreed at the last meeting, the secretariats had not exchanged their ideas for the next work programme before the plenary meeting. Bearing in mind the wish to have a concrete and more realistic work programme, ETF presented a draft concise work programme, focussing on three points: working condition improvements (a. psychological stress at the workplace; b. fatigue); accompany Platina/NAIADES II progress on social matters (a. professional profiles; b. harmonisation of manning requirements); monitor EU progress on: a. working time agreement; b. social security agreement.

Ms Durst (DG EMPL) stressed that the mere listing of themes was not sufficient. The work programme should specify what would be addressed how and by when. An existent joint work programme was a precondition for the Commission to organise social dialogue meetings. The work programme 2014-2015 needed to be finalised by mid-November.

The social partners discussed some themes in detail, for instance fatigue (the Project Horizon³ research which delivered empirical data to provide a better understanding of the way in which watchkeeping patterns can affect the sleepiness levels of ships' watchkeepers). Finally, the social partners decided to take their current work programme as a basis for discussion. All elements were discussed. For ESO, the first priority was to address the harmonisation and modernisation of manning requirements. For ETF, the themes linked to working conditions were crucial. In this context, Ms Durst referred to support measures such as the social dialogue budget heading, Eurofound and Bilbao, for instance the Online Interactive Risk Assessment project⁴.

5. Joint social partner input on professional qualifications

The draft text sent out by ETF after the last meeting had met a "cryptic" response from the EBU side and had therefore not been sent to the Commission. EBU explained that they considered the document as the summary of what the social partners had discussed; however, some aspects had not yet been sufficiently discussed. For EBU, the document as such was acceptable. It was agreed to send the document to all stakeholders, in particular the Commission.

6. Introduction by Croatian delegates on the IWT situation in their country

Croatia was represented at the workers' side only. The ETF delegate Mr gave an overview of the situation of IWT in his country (unionisation rate, length of inland waterways, size of the fleet, number of employees, etc.). The most problematic issues were the fact that employees working in Croatia for foreign-owned companies worked without papers, especially on cruise vessels; the fact that the crew from Croatian flag vessels had not been paid since April 2013; and the fragile situation of the Croatian company Dunavski Lloyd. According to the speaker, there were almost no owner-operators in Croatia, the Cypriot flag was present in Croatia, and the Sava Commission was actually not very active.

³ <https://www.nautilusint.org/campaigns/pages/project%20horizon.aspx>

⁴ <http://www.oiraproject.eu/>

7. Designation of the new president and vice-president of the committee

In agreement with the rules of procedures of the committee, the parties designated a new president and vice-president for the next two years, starting with the first meeting in 2014. Mr Koning (employers) would take over the chair, while Mr Kerkhof (workers) would become vice-chair of the committee. Both were warmly thanked for their previous and coming contributions.

8. Any other business

The CCNR informed about Decision n° 8⁵ of September regarding auxiliary staff not covered by the Rhine Agreement. The CCNR's annual congress would take place on 3-4 December 2013.

The parties broadly agreed the draft agenda of the next meeting, which included the postponed presentation of the study on psychological stress at the workplace. The final draft agenda needed to be ready before the Christmas break.

Ms Durst reminded the social partners of the Thematic Liaison Forum on 15 Years of EU Sectoral Social Dialogue (11 December 2013) and the invitation to a "Success Story" (at least one per sector) related to the work of each Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee by mid-November.

ETF suggested reconsidering the cooperation between the social partners and the secretariats in order to improve the way the social partners work together between the meetings.

⁵ <http://www.ccr-zkr.org/12050300-fr.html#04>

Participants 4.11.2013

<p>Employers <i>(5 ♂, 1 ♀, 4 different Member States)</i></p> <p>EBU Mr Koning (NL) Mr Leandri (FR) Mr Naaborgh (NL) Mr Rusche (DE)</p> <p>ESO Ms Beckschäfer (DE) Mr Van Lancker (BE)</p>	<p>Workers <i>(12 ♂, 2 ♀, 9 different Member States)</i></p> <p>ETF Mr Bleser (LU) Mr Bramley (ETF) Mr Brazzoduro (HR) Mr Broek (NL) Ms Chaffart (ETF) Mr Frunza (RO) Mr Jerabek (CZ) Mr Jung (LU) Mr Jacques Kerkhof (BE) Mr Kiepe (DE) Mr Komiljovics (HU) Mr Melvan (HR) Ms Sokolova (BG) Mr Van den Broek (NL)</p>
<p>European Commission</p> <p>Mr Dieter (DG MOVE) Ms Durst (DG EMPL) Ms Maillart (DG EMPL)</p>	<p>Others</p> <p>Ms Tournaye (CCNR, observer)</p>