



**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  
ROAD TRANSPORT**

**Working group meeting, 12 February 2009**

**Concise minutes**

The meeting was chaired by vice-chair Mr Causse (employers). The meeting's objective was to decide upon a social partners' joint action regarding driver training (see the sectoral dialogue committee's work programme 2009-2010).

**Driver training**

On the basis of the document "Draft overview for an IRU/ETF project on EU driver training" (22 January 2009), the social partners discussed first the expected outcome of a joint action. IRU and ETF wanted to have an overview of cooperation between social partners and financing opportunities. Both parties also thought it was important that the social partners assess how the provisions of the Directive work in practice and to provide a joint input to the Commission's report making an initial evaluation of the implementation of the Directive (to be submitted before September 2011).

The Commission representative said that the social partners' study should not duplicate the assessment which will be done by the Commission (mainly part I of the planned study) and reminded the objectives of budget heading 04 03 03 01 "Industrial relations and social dialogue"<sup>1</sup>. ETF and IRU agreed that the basis of a social partners' study funded by this budget heading should be the organisation of training and the cooperation between social partners and not the transposition of the Directive. Nevertheless it was also agreed that a vital objective of the IRU and ETF's joint work on driver training was the examination of the Directive's transposition and thus its impact on the occupation, particularly where this analysis would not be covered by the Commission's report.

The parties also discussed the idea to jointly submitting to the Commission a list of issues requiring further analysis which could be included in the Commission's report. It was agreed to discuss the social partners' possible contribution to the Commission's report with the Commission at the next meeting (24 March 2009).

It became apparent that there was still no agreement whether to include looking at collective bargaining solutions at national level or not. IRU stated that there was a need to look at such issues as the financing of training, its content, timing and quantity, but that as previously stated at the plenary they did not wish to look at collective agreements unless such an option was supported by experience and progress established during the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=196&furtherCalls=yes>

course of the project. In line with this, ETF reminded that at the plenary meeting in November, the door had been left open to look at this aspect which was at the core of social dialogue.

For IRU, the document of 22 January was still a good basis. Part I.(a) would most likely be covered by the Commission's report. Parts I.(b) and (c) dealt with the organisation of training; parts II.(a) and (b) were still needed. ETF suggested adopting recommendations on the level of exams and content of training. They also drew the meeting's attention on a possibly useful handbook and mentioned other aspects to be taken into account such as the time during which training was provided (during working hours, the weekend, etc.) and timely access to training. IRU deemed one should first take stock of the situation before considering whether recommendations were possible for a Union of 27 Member States with very different national situations and practices. The parties agreed that further details would be discussed amongst secretariats.

### **Any other business**

The parties agreed upon the agenda of the next meeting (24 March). At the beginning of that meeting, the designation of the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the sectoral dialogue committee for the next two years would be confirmed. The new chair would chair the next two plenary meetings.

The participants were informed about the publication of the Commission's new Industrial Relations Report and the next Forum de Liaison meeting dealing, amongst other things, with the Commission's review of the functioning of European sectoral social dialogue committees.

#### Annex: List of participants 12.2.2009

<u>Employers</u>	<u>Workers</u>
Mr Causse (FNTR)	Mr Belen (TCM-UGT)
Mr Csanyi (MKFE)	Mr Buenestado (TCM-UGT)
Ms Freber (BGL)	Mr Christensen (3F)
Mr Hahr (BA)	Ms De Roeck (BTB-UBOT)
Mr Kramer (TLN)	Ms Heinisch (ETF)
Ms Lopez Leza (ASTIC)	Ms König (Kommunal)
Ms Maître (FNTR)	Mr Llewelyn (Unite)
Mr Mannaerts (FBAA)	Ms Paas (FNV Bondgenoten)
Mr Nielsen (IRU)	Mr Parrillo (CSC Transcom)
Mr Pikous (Cesmad Bohemia)	Ms Petrova (FITTUB)
Mr Ribeiro de Campos (ANTRAM)	Mr Schönauer (VIDA)
Mr Salmon (CPT)	Ms Tilling (ETF)
Mr Usonis (LINAFA)	Mr Virgiliu Mihail (STAR Federation)
Ms Vasarainen (ALT)	
Mr Viccars (IRU)	
Ms Visscher (KNV)	
Mr Yarsley (FTA)	
<i>European Commission</i>	
Ms Durst (DG EMPL F/1)	