



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

Meeting of the Committee

30 November 2009

Minutes (adopted on 8 November 2010)

The meeting was chaired by Mr Causse (employers). The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the last plenary meeting (18 November 2008) were adopted after having clarified ETF's position on weekend bans.

Road Safety Action Plan

The participants were informed about the European Union policy on road safety (slide presentation provided by DG TREN and information on the conference of 2 December 2009¹). ETF suggested attempting to have a joint response to the Commission's consultation on the Road Safety Action Plan. ETF had already sent its response to DG TREN, focussing on health & safety, working time, fatigue... IRU reported that it had a clear position focussing on innovation, incentives, and infrastructure. IRU stressed the need to base policies on facts and referred to a scientific study carried out together with the European Commission². The parties decided to compare their respective positions. ETF announced they would come back to IRU after its section meeting (26-27 January). IRU's social commission would also meet around end January.

Review of the work programme

Improved rest facilities: This year there had been less joint activity, but each side had had its own activities in the field (together with ITF, TEN-T workshop, IRU's "TRANSPark" project...). ETF considered nevertheless that there would be scope for some joint activity, for instance a social partner conference.

Training and qualifications for non-mobile workers in road transport logistics: The latest development in this area was a joint IRU-ETF letter requesting DG TREN for assistance. It had been followed by a meeting with the Commission on 16 November. In addition, it was planned that Mr Lasserre from AFT-IFTIM (France) would give a presentation on job definitions at the next logistics working group meeting (11 January 2010).

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/events-archive/2009_12_02_ersap_conference_en.htm

² ETAC study available at: http://www.iru.org/index/en_policy_road_safety

Driver training: The social partners were happy to announce that they had overcome difficulties with regard to the content of the planned joint study. In addition, the social partners would try to get in touch with the committee (Article 12 of Directive 2003/59/EC) for which they had not been accepted as members/observers. A joint letter to the Commission would be prepared in order to get in touch with the members of the committee. UITP announced the Information and Initiative Days on the Directive 2003/59/EC on 4-5 February 2010, a joint initiative of UITP and ETF co-financed by the European Union³.

Better enforcement of EU driving and rest time rules: ETF suggested to link the subject to the digital tachograph revision for which ETF will have its preliminary position ready end January. IRU informed the participants that the next legal working group would take place on 18 December; the employers' organisation had been approached by enforcement officers. ETF announced that they would discuss "sanctions" tomorrow and would come back to IRU afterwards.

Urban public transport: UITP informed about the social dialogue working group meeting of 10 November (see minutes there) and ETF's proposal of a perennial work programme for the group. The following three broad subject would be addressed together: Qualifications, training, certification; Aggressions and violence in public transport; and Women in public transport.

The parties concluded that the essential elements of the work programme (adopted for the period 2009-2010) would be the same.

Information by the European Commission

Mr Mayet (DG TREN) announced that that soon legislation would be published to modernise digital tachographs used by professional drivers. The changes introduced would better protect against fraud, provide for more accurate recording and would require Member States to use a common electronic data exchange system. The new legislation (adaptation to technical progress) was expected to save the road transport industry millions of Euros each year by making the tachographs easier to use⁴ (Commission regulation 1266/2009).

In addition, the Commission would soon launch a public consultation to seek opinions of interested parties on the possible review of the legislation on tachographs (Council Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport)⁵.

The Commission representative also informed about the possible new White Paper on Transport which would depend on the new Commissioner.

The social partners raised different points with the Commission: the scope of the possible future legislation on tachographs, possible tachograph fraud and manipulation, fair competition, the image of the profession, and the big challenges ahead (decarbonisation...). The Commission representative welcomed the social partners'

³ <http://www.uitp.org/events/2010/iidays/en/index.cfm>

⁴ See also http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road/social_provisions/social_provisions_en.htm

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road/consultations/2010_03_01_tachographs_en.htm

intention to submit a joint paper as contribution to the debate on the future of transport. A first reflexion paper was published in June 2009 and stakeholders can send their views to the Commission. Key priority measures are likely to include measures to "decarbonise" the transport system and deepen the internal market.

Review of other social dialogue activities undertaken during 2009

The parties announced both that they would take stock of the situation (impact of the economic crisis) in January and check afterwards whether and which follow-up to the joint statement on the economic crisis was needed.

Delegates from BG reported positively on the ILO, ETF, IRU social dialogue capacity building project, which had helped them to prepare strengthening their social dialogue.

Any other business

IRU informed about the IRU Bus & Coach Smart Move Campaign⁶ which included an exhibition in front of the European Parliament on 2 December.

The DG EMPL representative announced the planned social dialogue **meetings for 2010**. Meanwhile, the following meeting possibilities are planned (**to be confirmed**): 11/01 (confirmed), 16/02, 08/04, 26/05, 08/07, 27/09 (Public urban transport), **08/11 (Plenary meeting)**, 6/12. As usual, meetings (languages) have to be ordered at least six weeks in advance and will be confirmed after approval.

⁶ <http://www.busandcoach.travel/>

Annex: List of participants 30.11.2009

<u>Employers</u>	<u>Workers</u>
Mr Abel Marques (PT) Ms Antignac (FR) Mr Causse (FR) Mr Csányi (HU) Mr Dekindt (<i>UITP</i>) Mr Gentze (DE) Ms Ivanova (BG) Mr Larsen (DK) Ms Maître (FR) Mr Mannaerts (BE) Ms Mets (EE) Mr Nielsen (<i>IRU</i>) Mr Riberio de Campos (PT) Ms Vasarainen (FI) Mr Viccars (<i>IRU</i>) Mr Visscher (NL) Mr Yarsley (UK)	Mr Aaregirup Jensen (DK) Mr Buenestado Garcia (ES) Mr Evans (UK) Mr García Revuelta (ES) Mr Goument (FR) Ms Heinisch (<i>ETF</i>) Ms König (SE) Ms Malinowska (LT) Mr Parrillo (BE) Mr Peterson (EE) Ms Petrova (BG) Mr Pettersson (SE) Mr Schönauer (AT) Mr Smidt (DK) Mr Sugic (FR) Ms Tilling (<i>ETF</i>) Ms Volkers (DE) Mr Wolff (LU)
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>European Commission</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ms Durst (DG EMPL/F.1) Mr Mayet (DG TREN/E.1)</p>	