



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE

HORECA

Steering Committee Meeting

19 May 2009

Summary of the decisions taken

List of participants:

For EFFAT:

Kerstin Howald
Pál Kovács
Aage Jensen
Tito Livio Mongelli
Emilio Fagnoli

For HOTREC:

Marguerite Sequaris
Martin Couchman
Alessandro Nucara
Ferenc Kiss
Jostein Hansen
István Kovács
Isabel Sobrino Maté

For the Commission:

Elisabeth Aufheimer, DG EMPL, F1 (Chair)

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda is approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the SSD Steering Committee meeting of 13 February 2009

The minutes are approved.

3. Skills and Qualification Passport

Application for funding of the project “Towards the implementation of the European Qualification and Skills Passport (QSP) in the hospitality sector”.

State of play:

Scenario 1

- Approval of the Project by the European Commission (grant agreement)
- Next steps: launching of the call for tenders as of 1 June 2009
- Further Actions
 - Preparatory phase (1 June 2009-15 April 2010)
 - Follow Up phase (19 April -1 June 2010)

Scenario 2

- Rejection of the project. Reasons for rejection
- Next steps: New submission of the application before 1 September 2009?
Other alternatives?

Ms Aufheimer, European Commission, points out that the project has been accepted by the Commission services.

The official confirmation letter should arrive by the first week of June at the latest.

EFFAT and HOTREC agreed to launch a call for tenders immediately after receipt of the grant agreement. The dates and deadlines in the call have to be modified. HOTREC and EFFAT will collect contact details of potential providers. It is agreed to organise an extraordinary SSD steering committee meeting on 30 June 2009 to evaluate the tenders.

.Martin Couchman announced that both Ireland and Spain had expressed interest in participating in the QSP experimentation phase.

Mr. Nucara announced that Italy would most probably be interested in participating too.

Mr István Kovács explained that Hungary was not taking part in the project, though this decision was later modified.

It was still not clear whether Malta and France wanted to participate.

Representatives from the countries potentially involved in the experimentation phase have to be identified as soon as possible, as they should be members of the project steering committee.

EFFAT and HOTREC agree to write a joint letter to their members in Spain and in Ireland and possibly in France, Malta and Italy to check their interest in piloting the QSP.

4. Undeclared work / Illegal working practices

- State of play/future steps

Kerstin Howald presents the statement of the EFFAT tourism sector on undeclared work, adopted by their General Assembly on 24 March 2009 (included in the file for the meeting)

Ms. Howald explains that EFFAT would appreciate signing a joint declaration/statement with HOTREC on possible measures to reduce undeclared work. Martin Couchman replies that HOTREC is ready to discuss a document but it would need to stress the causes for undeclared work rather than call for sanctions.

HOTREC stresses that high VAT rates and high social security charges do not create favourable conditions to reduce undeclared work and welcomes the step of the French government. Negative effects could be caused by the economic crisis and high costs of social security systems.

EFFAT proposed to ask the member organisations to report what has been done in the Member States with regard to the possibility to apply a reduced VAT rates in the restaurant sector.

It is agreed to invite a French or a Belgian expert involved in the negotiations on the reduction of VAT to the next Plenary meeting.

EFFAT will draft a joint position on undeclared work which will tackle this issue in a more general way and will take into account the work of the social partners.

5. Review of European Social Dialogue

- a. "Consultation of the Social Partners for a review of the implementation of the Commission Communication and Decision of 20 May 1998" → New Communication to be expected by?
- b. Extraordinary Liaison Forum on the Review of European Sectoral Social Dialogue, Meeting on 27 April 2009- brief report

The Commission representative refers to the outcomes of the Extraordinary Liaison Forum, held on 27 April.

6. Third Party Violence at the Workplace

- State of play

Ms Howald, EFFAT, reports on the current situation. A couple of sectors (commerce, private security, hospitals, local and regional government) have decided to progress with the work on this item. A questionnaire has been developed and a conference will be held on 22/23 October to which HORECA will be invited. It is agreed to decide upon the next steps after this conference.

7. Healthy Workplaces Campaign by OSHA (European Agency for Safety and Health at work), meeting held on 17 March 2009 - brief report

EFFAT has officially joined the OSHA campaign. Apart from awareness raising, it is difficult to see what could be done jointly.

EFFAT and HOTREC are of the opinion that such campaigns are best supported at national level. In Denmark, a 'Smiley' sticker was introduced for hotels and restaurants that are complying with hygiene and health & safety standards.

8. Committee of Experts on posting of workers, meeting held on 25 March 2009 - update

Mr Couchman, HOTREC, raises the question why HORECA was elected to participate as observers in this committee. Posting of workers would not be a problem for the sector. Ms Howald, EFFAT, refers to cases in the tourism sector.

HOTREC reports on the correspondence with the Commission on this issue.

9. Legislative developments in social matters, update by the Commission

- Working time Directive
- European Works Councils
- Immigration policy
- Discrimination related issues
- Others

Ms Aufheimer, European Commission, briefly reports on recent developments in social matters. The conciliation procedure on the Working Time Directive failed. The main stumbling block was the opt-out.

The agreement on Parental Leave will be signed on 18 June.

Mr Couchman, HOTREC, raises the point on the current position of governments in relation to immigration from European countries and third countries (impact of crisis). It is agreed to discuss this item at the plenary meeting to be held on 15 June.

10. Developments in tourism matters, update by the Commission

Postponed to the plenary meeting

11. Miscellaneous

The EFFAT press release on the economic crisis in the tourism sector was briefly discussed. EFFAT stresses that there are different situations in different countries. A more positive approach to bridge the temporary crisis (i.e. training for employees) is preferable for EFFAT. Probably a common approach could be found. It was agreed to take the issue up at the plenary meeting and to ask member organisations to report about positive actions undertaken to cope with the negative consequences of the crisis.

Mr Couchman announced that the final report on Hotels and Restaurants skills developments (Oxford Research studies) had been circulated by the European Commission in early May. A conference involving all sectors is expected to be organised around October/November 2009.

The agenda for the plenary meeting is being finalized.

12. Next meetings in 2009

15 June 2009	SSD Plenary
16 September 2009	SSD Steering Committee
13 November 2009	SSD Steering Committee
1 December 2009	SSD Plenary

Liaison Forum Meetings

25 June 2009	Liaison Forum (10.00-13.00)
21 September 2009	Liaison Forum (14.00-17.00)
07 December 2009	Liaison Forum (14.00-17.00)

Special meetings

10-11 June 2009	Conference Czech EU Presidency: "Tourism Industry: Employment and Labour Market Challenges" Czech Republic, Prague
22-23 June 2009	"Restructuring Forum Climate Change" Brussels.