



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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

24 April 2013

Steering Group Meeting of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Sector on

"Professional Football"

5 November 2012

Final Minutes

1. Welcome and Opening of the Steering Group meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr Norbert SCHÖBEL (DG EMPL). At the beginning of the meeting, participants shortly introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the draft agenda

The agenda was approved without modification.

3. Update and information between the parties

Social partners asked the Commission about the possibility of organising meetings in Nyon (Switzerland) or countries of the UEFA territory outside the EU. The Commission, acknowledging the practical advantages of organising meetings for instance at the headquarters of EU social partner organisations (Nyon), explained the financial rules where co-financing in the framework of social dialogue budget lines is limited to EU member states and candidate countries only (with the exception of international organisations which is not the case for EU social partners). This rule was also expressed earlier in an exchange of e-mails with Mr ABATAN (EPFL) during July 2012.

EU social partners agreed on the principle to organise and finance several kick-off meetings related to the implementation of the autonomous agreement but decided to come back to the issue since commitments would need the internal approval within the different organisations.

4. Work programme/Meeting calendar 2012-13

Participants agreed to organise the three thematic Working Groups of the professional football sector sequentially, starting at the next meeting planned for 17 December. However, employer's organisations expressed their doubts to start the working group on contractual stability without having the results on the EU study on the transfer of players. It was concluded that the study in itself would not be a condition to decide whether the working group should be organised or not.

As for the meeting calendar for 2013, social partners agreed on the following dates¹:

- 21 March 2013: Working group meetings (BXL)
- 24 April 2013: Steering Group meeting (Nyon*)
- 16 May 2013: Working Group meetings (Amsterdam*)
- 19 September 2013: Working Group meetings (BXL)
- 14 November 2013: Steering Group meeting (Nyon*)
- 2 December 2013: Plenary meeting (BXL)

The Steering Group meetings are neither organised nor co-financed by the Commission.

5. Composition, mandate, role, objectives and expected deliverables of the Working Groups

Participants started a first debate as regards the mandate and objectives of the three Working Groups (Implementation of the Autonomous Agreement; Career fund; Contractual stability). It was concluded that the mandate of each working group needed further reflection, in particular in relation to the scope of the working group on career funds and on contractual stability.

6./7. Implementation of the Autonomous Agreement - European Professional Football Social Dialogue Taskforce + EC Funds for a project to implement the Autonomous Agreement

Mr Theo VAN SEGGELEN (FIFPro) stressed the need to receive the name of a contact person from each organisation in order to prepare a joint project to be submitted under the next call for proposals in 2013. Mr Alasdair BELL (UEFA) referred to the "Task Force" as described in the Autonomous Agreement which would need to report back to the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee and its working groups.

8. Information on the new ESD committee on sports and active leisure (to be launched on 11/12 December): Role, scope and relation/dynamics with the ESD committee on professional football

Mr SCHÖBEL informed participants about the launch of the test phase for a possible new Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Sports and Active Leisure and the fact that the Commission would like to invite representatives from the professional football sector so that the sport and active leisure sector could learn from their experience.

¹ It should be noted that the participants did decide neither on the Steering Group meetings nor on the fact that the Working Group meeting to be held on 16 May 2013 should take place in Amsterdam. The final decision was taken at the meeting of the professional football sector on 17 December 2012.

9. Information from the Commission

Mr Pedro VELAZQUEZ (DG EAC) informed participants about the latest developments in the field of sport at EU level: Sports Forum in Nicosia, three working groups in the EU work plan for sport (anti-doping, education and training, good governance); match-fixing, on-line gambling and the Council of Europe Recommendation Council of Europe Recommendation on promotion of the integrity of sport against manipulation of results. He also updated the participants about the state of play of studies commissioned by EAC (namely transfer of players) and about the results of the preparatory action in the field of sport.

10. AOB

Mr Emanuel MEDEIROS (EPFL) raised the issue of the representativeness study on sport and criticised the draft which does not reflect several specificities of EU organisations in the professional football sector. Mr SCHÖBEL invited Mr MEDEIROS to present his comments in writing which could then be taken into account at the evaluation committee meeting on 16 November in Brussels. He also added that the purpose of the study is to analyse the representativeness of EU social partner organisations in the field of sport but excluded that the study would have an impact on the currently existing structure of a Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for professional football which will be distinguished from a possible new Committee on sports and active leisure (without the football sector).

Participants

Employers <u>ECA</u> Mr Dewaele Mr Frommer <u>EPFL</u> Mr Blask (DE) Mr Diallo (FR) Mr Macedo de Medeiros Mr Pifarotti (IT) Ms Vaadal (NO)	Workers <u>FIFPro</u> Mr Øland (DK) Mr Stefanovic (SI) Mr van Megen (NL) Mr van Seggelen
European Commission Mr Schöbel (DG EMPL) Mr Velazquez (DG EAC)	Others <u>UEFA</u> Mr Bell Mr Grafström