



Brussels, 11 June 2012

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
GAS**

Minutes of the working group meeting

16th of April 2012

Chairman: Mr. Didier Baur (CGT-FNME)

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted with rescheduling of some of the points.

2. Approval of the draft minutes

Draft minutes from the plenary session of the 15th of November 2011 were adopted without changes.

3. Update on the skills mapping project

EPSU updated the committee on the composition and work of the steering committee. Regarding the timeline of the project the next committee meetings will be on the 27th of April, 14st of June and 8th of November with the 7th of September reserved for a special meetings with national representatives. It was agreed that the nature of this meeting will be specified in the 2Q of 2012 depending on how the project is evolving. David Tarren from Syndex updated the committee on the work done so far by Syndex. In his presentation (available at http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/empl/sectoral_social_dialogue/library?l=/electricity&vm=detailed&sb=Title) he described the methodology used and briefly outlined the role of different institutions such as regulators, awarding bodies, training providers and labour market intelligence and compared the situation in different EU MS. It is clear that the main focus in the gas sector is mainly on health and safety issues and prevention of risks, the picture however, differs from country to country. During the discussion following the presentation it was agreed that the Social Partners will further examine issues such as skills and training – e.g. qualifications of workers, who deal with issues, which are new in the sector e.g. shale gas, biogas as well as those who working on the interface of gas and electricity. Furthermore, it was agreed to circulate a short survey, which Syndex will present to national members to double-check some of the information received so far.

4. Eurogas views on the Roadmap 2050

Eurogas provided an update on the Energy 2050 Roadmap. The presentation is available here http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/empl/sectoral_social_dialogue/library?l=/electricity&vm=detailed

[&sb=Title](#). A brief update about Eurogas was provided and further to that role of different sectors (e.g. residential and services, industry, transport, power generation) and their potential to contribute to de-carbonization was discussed. The comparison with the Energy 2050 Roadmap of the COM focused on key differences and similarities of the two Roadmaps e.g. - Eurogas supports the focus on energy efficiency (industrial sector, gas share 30 percent, some of the biggest changes at this point part of ETS), as well as the substitution of high carbon fuels in power generation and transport with lower ones like gas. It also supports Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) facilities.

In terms of the key differences Eurogas considers that the COM puts too much emphasis on the role of electricity in residential, services and transport sectors. It was also mentioned that in the transport sector the COM does not consider the potential of natural gas. During the discussion it was mentioned that different aspects including the need to explore the employment consequences and the employment potential of the different scenarios of de-carbonization was necessary. [EPSU](#) and [EMCEF](#) also added that the inclusion of the social dimension in the COM Energy 2050 Roadmap should be viewed positively, however it is crucial to ensure follow-up by the Social Partners and to further consider the issue of skills and training for workers in the sector. [EMCEF](#) added that while the long-term focus is important it is crucial to consider these issues now e.g. to focus also on European energy independence, security of supply, transparency of energy prices – within the next decade e.g. 2020. It was stressed that a comprehensive European Energy policy and Energy community is needed.

5. ENTSO-G Ten year network development plan

Olivier Lebois made a presentation on behalf of [ENTSO-G](#) (European network of transmission system operators for gas), which is available here http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/empl/sectoral_social_dialogue/library?l=/electricity&vm=detailed&sb=Title. A brief presentation about the structure of [ENTSO-G](#) was provided together with a comprehensive presentation about developing the 10 year network development plan for the gas infrastructure in Europe. Issues addressed during the discussion included the potential for shale gas exploration in Europe and the possible consequences for the sector. The question of technological development was highlighted as it is crucial for example for future role of CCS and its infrastructure as well as for open questions related to electricity produced from renewables - e.g. the conversion of excess electricity into hydrogen that can be stored in the gas sector infrastructure. The role of biogas was also discussed. A public workshop to present the structure of TYNDP, which shall be published by March 2013 (Ten year network development plan 2013-2022) will be held on the 20th of June.

6. Energy Community Social workshop - 20th of April 2012

The workshop is co-organized by DG EMPL and Energy Community Secretariat and will bring together Social Partners from Western Balkan countries as well as from Brussels together with representatives of regulatory bodies, the ILO, European Commission. The background for the workshop is a study commissioned by DG EMPL in 2009 about the state of social dialogue in the Western Balkan countries. The study has also a sectoral dimension and as such the workshop will mainly target Social Partners from the energy sector. The draft agenda is available here - <http://www.energy-community.org/pls/portal/docs/1140177.PDF>). [EMCEF](#), [EPSU](#) will attend and present the views of the European Social Partners. The main added value of the workshop stems from the fact that it is a forum for the exchange of views on social dialogue with Social Partners from non-EU countries. These regular workshops together with the Social Forum focus on key issues in the Balkan region and Eastern neighbourhood countries such as energy poverty. The 5th

The 5th Social Forum of the Energy Community will take place on the 11/12th of September 2012 in Montenegro.

7. AOB

The question of the workings and operation of the committee was discussed, since employers were represented today only by one representative. The COM expressed its support for the work of the committee and reassured the Social Partners that it will support them in their mutual discussions. It was agreed that the discussions regarding the future operation of the committee will continue.

8. SSDC dates for 2012

Dates of 2012 meetings are as follows – WG14th of June, project related SG meeting on the 14th of June as well, PL session on the 20th of November and 7th of September for the special project-related meeting.