



**SECTORAL DIALOGUE  
COMMITTEE  
CIVIL AVIATION**

**Minutes of the Ground Handling Working Group meeting  
24 January 2020**

The meeting was chaired by DG EMPL social dialogue unit (Sylvie Finné).

**1. Adoption of the draft agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Adoption of the draft minutes of the last meeting**

The draft minutes of the last meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 will be adopted through written procedure.

**3. Social dialogue project to support the work of the civil aviation sectoral social dialogue committee**

François Ballestero (ETF) presented the new project funded by DG EMPL to support the work of the sectoral social dialogue committee: *A results-based approach to social dialogue: supporting the implementation of the work programme of the sectoral dialogue committee in civil aviation*, which was recently signed to start on 1<sup>st</sup> February. This project will allow the SSDC and the working groups to have additional meetings and activities to support their work programme. It includes two horizontal issues:

- Supporting EASA implementation the new Basic Regulation draft Article 89, on the interdependencies between safety and socio-economic factors and draft Article 115 regarding social dialogue requirements
- Continue the dialogue on violence at work specifically on unruly passengers (including violence against women)

The Ground Handling (GH) working group will focus on two specific points set out in the work programme 2018-2020:

- Contribution to the evaluation of Directive 96/67,
- Common Minimum Standards on Training and Quality of Service regarding GH operations.

Two additional meetings per year are planned. The next meeting will be on 12 May 2020.

**4. EASA work – roadmap and next steps (implementation of roadmap actions)**

Daniel Coutelier, Better Regulation Senior Officer from EASA, project manager for the rule making for the safety related requirements for GH, provided a presentation on the Basic Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 for the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

This Regulation establishes requirements for GH services. EASA has tasked a group of experts to set up a roadmap for the implementation of the GH requirements. See the slides' presentation.



GH Project Update  
for Social Dialogue |

The stakeholders are engaged in a dialogue towards the implementation of a GH roadmap addressing key areas (management System, operational standards, ground support equipment, training and staff turnover). Focused consultation with GHSP, air operators, aerodrome operators and social partners will take place.

Social partners agreed to continue to cooperate with EASA notably through a stakeholders' workshop foreseen in November 2020.

## **5. Evaluation of the Ground Handling Directive**

DG MOVE updated about the state of play of the evaluation of the Directive 96/67/EC on access to the GH market at Community airports started in September 2019 supported by an external study. This evaluation aims to assess whether the Directive has contributed to improved quality and efficiency of services through market opening. Targeted stakeholders' consultation by the contractor is ongoing and an open public consultation is to be launched<sup>1</sup>. The evaluation is planned to be finalised beginning of 2021. DG MOVE asked for the active contribution of the social partners to the evaluation.

## **6. Common minimum standards on training and quality of service**

Bastiaan De Bruijne (ACI) introduced the background for the discussion on the document on quality standards and training up-dated by ACI (Gerard Borel) following the last GH Working Group meeting. He underlined the complex evolution at the airports that affect the operations, the safety and the working conditions. The document call the social partners to work on common standards for training and on quality of services.

François Ballesterio (ETF) presented the joint Statement on the revision of the GH Directive adopted by the social partners in 2011<sup>2</sup> and reminded the report published in 2018 in the framework of the last social partners project<sup>3</sup>. He indicated that many issues addressed in 2011 Statement are still topical and suggested to build also on that Statement to prepare joint social partners inputs to the Commission for the review of the GH Directive.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/2081-Evaluation-Groundhandling-services-at-airports/public-consultation>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=521&langId=en&agreementId=5203>

<sup>3</sup> [ground handling brochure – please send me the pdf to have it in the social dialogue data base](#)

The Employers organisations wondered if it would be more relevant to have two separate discussions: social issues between social partners and the general issues of the GH Directive by each organisation separately.

ETF reminded that the Directive 96/67/EC Article 18 is important for the workers, notably regarding transfer of staff. He stressed that both economic and social issues should be considered together and asked to continue the joint work on these issues.

ACI, ASA, ACP, ERA and A4D agreed to continue the work regarding standards on training and to work within the EASA framework and its experts group. They also agreed that the social dialogue can go beyond to what is regulated by EASA.

The social partners decided a step by step approach. ETF suggested to share the social partners' replies to the consultation on the evaluation of the GH Directive in order to identify common views between social partners as a basis for the next dialogue on the subject. This was agreed.

Based on the inputs by the other organisations (mid-February 2020) ETF will provide a revised draft by end of March to be discussed at the next social dialogue meeting on 12 May 2020.

The work of the social partners will be used notably to contribute to the evaluation of the GH Directive.

## **7. AOB**

The social partners were informed about the fair minimum wages consultation. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=522&langId=en>

**List of participants 24 January 2020**

<p><u>7</u> <b><u>Employers</u></b> ( 5♂ ♀2)</p> <p><b>ACI</b> Mr Bastiaan De Bruijne</p> <p><b>ASA</b> Mr Fabio Gamba</p> <p><b>A4D</b> Ms Sinead Kelly (IE) Mr Matthew Krasa (IE) Ms Monika Rybakowska (BE)</p> <p><b>ACP</b> Mr Hans Ollongren (SV)</p> <p><b>ERA</b> Mr Klaus Knoepfle (UK)</p> <p>AIRE Not represented</p>	<p><u>19</u> <b><u>Workers</u></b> (15♂ ♀4 )</p> <p><b>ETF</b> Mr François Ballestero Ms Wiebke Warneck Mr Arnaud Boucheix (FR) Mr Philip Gastinger (AU) Mr Henrik Bay-Clausen (DK) Mr Jimmi Hall (SV) Mr Enrique Carmona (ES) Ms Patricia Cumplido (ES) Mr Israel Quiros (ES) Ms Karin Knappe (DE) Mr Joel Krier (LUX) Mr Luigi Mansi (IT) Mr Oliver Richardson (UK) Mr Brian Norbury (UK) Mr Chaker Nassar (SV) Ms Daniela Modonesi (IT) Mr John Mckirdy (UK) Mr Darren Rolls (UK) Mr Bjorn Vanden Eynde (BE)</p>
<p><b>EASA</b> Mr Daniel Coutelier Mr Jean-Marc Cluzeau</p> <p><b>European Commission</b> Ms Charlotte Basquin DG MOVE E4 Ms Sylvie Finné Social dialogue</p>	