



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Employment and Social Governance
Social dialogue

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Plenary Meeting

9 October 2019

DRAFT MINUTES

Participants:

Employer representatives

Mr Vladimir Budinsky EURACOAL, Czech Republic (vice-chair)
Mr Brian Ricketts, EURACOAL, Belgium
Ms Magdalena Chawula-Kosuri, EURACOAL, Belgium
Ms Corina Hebestreit, Euromines, Belgium
Ms Kasia Palaczanis, Euromines, Belgium
Mr Vicente Gutierrez Peinador, Confedem, Euromines, Spain
Mr Akos Zoltay, Hungarian Mining Association, Euromines, Hungary
Ms Beata Staszko, Employers' Organization of Polish Copper, Euromines, Poland
Mr Rafal Szkop, Employers' Organization of Polish Copper, Euromines, Poland
Mr Tobias Andres, Euromines, Germany
Mr Dirk Fincke, UEPG, Belgium
Mr. Sergiu Scolobiuc, UEPG, Belgium
Mr Ignacio Gentiluomo, IMA-Europe, Belgium
Ms Cecilia Andersson, SveMin, Sweden
Mr Lluís Rodríguez Camino, APEP, Germany

Employee representatives

Mr Jean-Pierre Damm, FNEM FO, France (chair)
Ms Corinna Zierold, industriAll, Belgium
Mr Ferencz Rabi, BDSZ, Hungary
Mr Szabolcs Beothy-Feher, BDSZ, Hungary
Mr Alberto Simoes, SIMA, Portugal
Mr Bernhard Rothleitner, IndustriAll, Austria
Mr Jesus Ignacio Crespo Torres, CCOO de Industria, Spain
Mr Victor Fernandez Vazquez, IndustriAll, Spain

European Commission: Ms Kathy Haas, DG EMPL

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The meeting was chaired by Mr Damm. He conveyed his thanks to Andreas Strohbach for his work with the Committee and presented his successor, Kathy Haas, to the participants. The draft agenda was approved.

2. Adoption of the draft minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the SSDC meeting on 18 June 2019 were approved.

3. EU Strategy on Industrial Policy- Update on Industry4EU, Euromines

Euromines reports about the EU Industrial policy resulting from the Council conclusions of 27/5/2019 and the strategic vision for 2030 and explains, together with UEPG, how the Industry4EU project¹ will contribute to define a joint position in this regard. Euromines also recalls the European Raw Materials Week (DG GROW event) on 18/11-22/11.

Euromines wonders whether in its strategy for 2030, the Commission will support the research of critical raw materials in Europe. There has been for 10 years a raw materials policy based on the 3 pillars advocated by the employers (access to resources from outside and inside the EU, research and development and skills), and now there has been a distinct shift in DG GROW's approach: they do not consider the raw materials in isolation anymore, but only as a "function of the downstream users". Euromines welcomes that there was a strategic decision to host battery production in the EU, but that is only for one product, so they have asked to have strategic alliances also on other value chains like infrastructure. To Euromines, the challenge now is to position the critical raw materials in this context.

IndustriAll is in favour of updating the joint social partners' position on raw materials in view of this information and the upcoming Commission, as the access to raw materials (and not only critical ones) should be guaranteed.

Employers and employees agree to have another look at the joint position, maybe add a new paragraph following the Council's statement on sustainable finance early October (Council stated that the social component should have a stronger role in investments), consult internally and finally agree to give a mandate to the Bureau to adopt the final joint position by mid-December 2019.

4. Report on EC Strategy on transition to carbon neutrality for energy intensive industry, Euromines

Euromines says it cannot really present the EC Strategy on transition to carbon neutrality, because it has been delayed. The High-level Group on EEI has worked on 3 elements (contribution of the EEI to develop new markets for low carbon products, how EEI should adapt to a low carbon economy, what should be done in terms of technology and research) and is to adopt on 30 October 2019 a "Masterplan for a competitive transformation of EU energy-

¹ The Industry4EU project (Industry 4.0 for the Future of Manufacturing in Europe) is a project co-funded by the European Commission (VP/2015/001 budget heading 04.03.01.08).

intensive industries enabling a climate-neutral circular economy” which would then be presented to the new Commission.

Vice-Chair Vladimir Budinsky (Euracoal) made an information point about the Declaration adopted at the Warsaw Conference on sustainable energy transition early October and asked to attach this Declaration to the minutes.

IndustriAll recalls that it contributed to the draft Masterplan as a member of the High-level group and lobbied to have the social dimension, the regional dimension, the skills dimension and labour market policies mainstreamed in all the sub-chapters, asking for an economic and social impact assessment of decarbonising the EEI and demanding flanking policies to keep the value chains in the EU. IndustriAll wonders whether the result of all these discussions will be taken up by the new Commission.

Euromines shares the worries as to what will be published on 30/10, and is ready to continue fighting for the raw materials and the social dimension to be reflected in these discussions.

In this “alert phase”, employers and employees agree to wait for the Masterplan to be published on 30/10 and continue the discussions. Euromines suggests as a possible way forward to choose some value chains and draw a map where you could see how upstream mining industries distribute materials to downstream industries in different regions of Europe and how this translates into employment figures. IndustriAll agrees with this concrete approach, which will have more impact than just a contribution to a paper, and proposes to follow-up in November. The Employers’ Organization of Polish Copper, as part of a research consortium with Wroclaw University, could provide information that could be used for this purpose. IndustriAll agrees this would be useful and will organise a meeting.

Euracoal updates on the progress of the work of the Platform for coal regions in transition and the support of the European Parliament to a Just Transition Fund. IndustriAll’s Spanish delegation explained the Spanish issues with mines closures and their worries regarding access to cohesion funds. IndustriAll clarifies that for the moment the Platform has not been extended to carbon-intensive regions and informs on the breakout session on social dialogue to take place on 16/10. Employers and employees wonder how the Just Transition Fund envelope will be distributed among regions.

5. Latest developments in EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), Euromines

Euromines presented the latest developments in EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) 2021-2030 and conveyed their worries concerning the future and a possible revision of this regime given the new political orientation of the Commission. As international competition is not submitted to the same regime, it poses a risk for our production in Europe. Euromines doubts how a carbon tax for imports could be implemented.

The Chair agreed this will have an impact on businesses. Future solutions will have to be found in research and innovation.

6. Information on Euromines H&S Conference, 19-20 November, Luxembourg

Euromines informed about the Health and Safety Conference on 19/20 November 2019 on physical hazards. Social partners are invited to join to show their best practices, as slots are still available.

7. European Minerals Days – event on 21 November 2019: Raw Materials – societal need (IMA-Europe)

IMA-Europe informed about the European Minerals Days, an every 2 year event, where quarries and mines open their door to the public. There will be a closing Mineral Day in Brussels on 21 November 2019. This year's theme is "The mineral sector contributing to local jobs and economic development".

8. AOB

UEPG presented their upcoming event "Sustainable Development Awards 2019" to be held on 20/11/2019 in Brussels and invited social partners to join the ceremony.

The Chair invited UEPG and IMA-Europe to decide on which of the 2 organisations would chair the Committee in 2020. UEPG promised a decision would be taken within a few days.

The Chair asked the employers to submit a proposal for the 2020 Work Programme of the Committee. The new Chair for 2020 should take the initiative to convene a Bureau to this effect.

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.