



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social dialogue, Social rights, Working conditions, Adaptation to Change
Social dialogue, Industrial relations

Meeting: Sectoral social dialogue committee, **Gas, Working Group**

Time: 08.02.2008

Address: Centre Borschette
36 Rue de Froissart
1040 Brussels

PARTICIPANTS:

Employers	Trade Unions
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. BASIU Simona (Eurogas)2. CHVATAL Roland (AT)3. GENTGES Peter (DE)4. NAGY Katalin (HU)5. TICHY Milan (DE)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. BAUER Didier (FR)2. BAUER Andreas (AT)3. GOUDRIAAN Jan Willem (EPSU)4. MACAK Erik (EMCEF)5. MOSER Marina (EMCEF)6. SZEGEDI Andrasne (HU)7. SZEKELY Tamas (HU)8. CEDRONE Carmelo (IT)

Commission:

Dlouchy Dorota, DG EMPL F1;

Pedelabat Patricia DG EMPL F3;

Hubert Manuel DG EMPL F3;

MINUTES

1. Opening and welcome by the Chair

The chairmanship of the committee is handed over to Trade Unions side. Mr Didier Bauer becomes the new chair. Mr. Gentges apologies for the absence of the outgoing chairwoman Mrs. Martina Ifflander-Weber, who cannot participate due to other urgent commitments. The chairman welcomes also new EMCEF political secretary Mr. Erik Macak.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the last Working Group meeting on 12.10.07

The minutes are approved without changes.

3. Exchange of views on debriefing of plenary on 15.11.07 and minutes

Mr. Goudriaan underlines importance of giving the publicity to the documents adopted by the committee. There are no comments on the minutes.

4. Feed back by Ms. Simona Basiu on the Eurogas position on the 3rd liberalization package

Eurogas adopted in December several position papers on the package.

As far as unbundling is concerned, Eurogas decided not to take position on the subject for the time being.



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Presentation of Mrs Simona Basiu:

In reply to the presentation, EPSU states that a number of positions of Eurogas are shared by them. As far as Agency is concerned, EPSU argues that consultations not only with "market-players" are necessary, but also with social partners and customer/low income users organizations. JWG welcomes also the fact that Eurogas took up the issue of the role of European Commission's process of comitology. The role of Agency towards TSO also should

be more clearly defined and this point should be brought to the attention of the European Parliament.

As far as social consequences are concerned, EPSU supports the Eurogas in the view that this committee should focus its' work on the issue.

EMCEF supports the opinion of the EPSU on the consultation process.

EPSU proposes to reflect on the common position paper of SSDC GAS on the package at the Secretariat level and to put forward a proposal for the plenary.

5. Presentation by Mr Manuel Hubert DG EMPL/Unit F.3 on the Project on Skills needs

Presentation:

Mr Hubert described background of the project, methodology and its objectives.

In August 2007 open call of tender for 17 sectors was launched. In January 2008, the multisectoral kick-off meeting with the participation of Social Partners was organised.

Following this meeting the sectoral meetings have taken place.

The methodology can be described in 8 steps:

1. The map of the sector – evolution of the sector, SWOT
2. Identification of drivers of change
3. Possible emerging competencies
4. Scenarios of the employment evolution: (time horizon 7 years)
5. Implication of the scenarios for the occupational profile and competencies
6. Strategic choices
7. Implications for the educational systems
8. Recommendations

Mr Hubert asks members of the committee to provide any relevant information, study or the contact details of the knowledgeable person that can be interviewed for the project, in order to make it as thorough as possible.

Presentation of the results is foreseen once the draft of the final report is presented by the contractors. The final report will be subject of the approval of the expert panel. Experts' recommendations will be included in the report. The expert panel will take place in Dublin (organised with the cooperation of the EMCC) in January 2009 (exact date is still not known).

As far as dissemination of results is concerned – the report will be sent to all social partners, industry, academics and the public authorities at all levels.

On 15 May, the second multisectoral meeting will take place. It will give an opportunity to discuss interim reports. Third multisectoral meeting will take place on 3 October, where draft final reports will be discussed. Second sectoral meeting will take place in late May/ beginning of June. In order to publicize the results, the general forum will be organised in the second half of 2009.

Mr Hubert gives also short information on the Anticipedia project.

Responding to the question about the expected SPs involvement, Mr Hubert says that SP were invited to both sectoral and multisectoral meetings. F3 would like to know what are the SP expectations concerning this study. It would be good if SP could provide consultant with any information that believe is useful. Moreover, SPs are welcomed to provide Commission with the names of the potential experts: people having knowledge about HR policies; they can be from the industry. Experts can come also from outside of the Union.

6. Presentation by Mr Carmelo Cedrone from Economic and Social Committee (rapporteur on the package) on the views on social aspects of the 3rd liberalisation package of the Committee

Mr Cedrone presented his proposals for the opinion of the ECOSOC on the package. Mr. Cedrone believes that the full internal market in the Energy should be introduced. Package as it stands now, as proposed by the EC, is not courageous enough.

Mr Cedrone reminds that the question of the energy security and supply is an international one, so all member states should act together. He expresses also his personal view that there should be possibility for some member states to start a closer cooperation in energy as it is the case in the field of the monetary policy.

He adds that one tries to avoid negative consequences for employees, but it must to be done within the reason, in order not to block the 3rd package.

The proposal of the ECOSOC opinion supports the EC package. It underlines that current situation in the electricity and gas sector is unsustainable and the deregulation of the sector should go forward. Energy should be included in the internal market and become a common

policy. In the view of the ECOSOC the full unbundling is a necessity, which on the other hand does not mean a forced privatization.

According to Mr Cedrone there is also no difference in respect to unbundling between gas and electricity sectors. In both cases grids can be separated.

As far as Agency is concerned, it should control the operations of networks in Europe, but the Treaty prohibits it to some extent. In any case, the operation of the Agency should be transparent and its activities should be consulted with all stakeholders.

The debate followed the speech of Mr Cedrone.

EPSU states that as far as ownership unbundling is concerned, the SPs are of different position that ECOSOC. Also, there is concern that package does not take into account its social consequences; implications for workers and consumers.

EPSU and other SPs agree with the importance of the transparency of operations of the Agency.

Eurogas reminds that the package in place was implemented in some member states as late as in 2007. The industry needs some stability, certainty.

7. Presentation of the results of work of Dr. Gentges and Mr. Goudriaan on the draft detailed description of the objectives of the “Study on demographic changes, skills and competencies – outlook for the next decades”.

The draft project proposal was distributed among members. Dr Gentges presents the project objectives. The main challenge is the availability of the data, thus external consultant will be contracted.

There is connection with the study on skills run by DG EMPL, but here more focus will be given to gas sector itself and possible consequences of demographic change.

The proposal will be submitted under budget line 01. The steering committee of the project will include representatives of the both sides of SSDC.

Eurogas will be a leader of the project.

8. Joint declaration on the Memorandum of Understanding of Social Issues in the Context of Energy Community.

EPSU describes the background of the document proposed by TUs. Also, information on Energy Community Workshop on 27 May in Vienna is given to members of the SSDC. Focus is given particularly to the session that will be managed and owned by Social Partners.

Eurogas replies that the internal consultations on the document are ongoing and the response will be given at the plenary session.

Eurogas will also contribute to the workshop in Vienna.

EPSU underlines the importance of the interpretation at the workshop.

9. Actions to take

1. EPSU proposes to start discussion on the work programme 2009 at the next meeting.
2. Secretariats will prepare a list of experts that could participate in the "anticipation of skills" project
3. EPSU suggests to send a common letter/position to Mr Cedrone
4. Secretariats will work on the project proposal to be submitted under DG EMPL budget line
5. Eurogas will finish internal consultation on the declaration on the Energy Community and will present their position at the next plenary.
6. Secretariats will work on the SPs session in the framework of the Energy Community.

10. Any other business

Next meeting plenary session will take place on 10 April.