



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change
Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations

SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE ROAD TRANSPORT

Working group meeting "Training", 24 March 2009

Concise minutes

The meeting was chaired by Mr Causse in his capacity of new chairperson of the committee. The designation of Mr Causse (employers) as next chairperson and of Mr Sugic (employees) as next vice-chairperson was indeed confirmed at the beginning of the meeting. Mr Sugic was warmly thanked for his chairmanship over the past years. The new chairperson would chair the next two plenary meetings

Training of drivers

At the social partners' request, Ms Canel (DG TREN/E.3) presented preliminary results of the transposition of Directive 2003/59/EC (slide presentation distributed after the meeting). This first analysis of the current state of play was not an official analysis of the European Commission.

The social partners raised some practical problems and concerns such as the complexity of different deadlines in the Member States, a lacking overview on different transposition choices, the overall costs for training and examination (especially in the new Member States), and the quality and mutual recognition of training. The Commission representative confirmed the importance of quality of training and invited the social partners to report on any irregular situation they were aware of.

Both sides of industry expressed their wish to be involved as observers in the work of the Committee (Article 12 of the Directive) like they were already involved in the Committee on social legislation¹. The Commission representative said that the committees followed different rules depending on their nature (for instance advisory, regulatory). The Committee set up under Directive 2003/59/EC was composed of the representatives of the Member States which could decide to invite experts for specific points on the agenda.

Regarding the report making an initial evaluation of the implementation of the Directive, which the Commission would have to submit before September 2011, Ms Canel informed the meeting that they had not yet started the work. The Commission would

¹ Committee set up by Article 18(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85

welcome any useful information and contribution from the social partners, for instance an assessment on how the drivers' interests had been taken into account when transposing the Directive. The Commission was very open to any exchange of information with the social partners and would also be interested in being associated with the planned social partners' project.

The social partners looked again at their document "Draft overview for an IRU/ETF project on EU driver training" (22 January 2009) and came to the conclusion that there were many points which would not be covered by the Commission's report. It was agreed that the secretariats would refine the proposal and determine the methodology (broad overview, questionnaire, case studies, etc.).

The social partners decided to jointly address the Commission on the following three points:

- request their participation in the Member States' Committee,
- jointly submit a list of subjects which should be taken into account in the Commission's evaluation report,
- ask the Commission to involve the social partners - in case it decided to seek the help of an external consultant to draw up the report - for instance by consulting them on the terms of reference and/or to involve them in the steering committee accompanying such a study.

Joint recommendations on training and employment in logistics

The social partners referred to the next meeting which would be dedicated to logistics. Both sides admitted that not too much had been done with the recommendations signed in March 2006. Instead of evaluating their impact now, it would be preferable to refine the recommendations and provide examples of what had been done. One should take into consideration that the sector was a fast moving one. While IRU wanted to keep the work focussed on road transport, ETF wished to engage a larger debate on freight transport logistics and to take the lead in this question. The parties agreed to establish a detailed agenda for the logistics working group meeting to take place on 30 April. Ms Durst (DG EMPL/F.1) suggested that the signatory parties define more clearly how the future follow-up of the joint text should be undertaken.

UITP/ETF project on training of drivers

ETF informed the meeting that UITP and ETF would organise, with the financial support of the European Community, a one-off conference in the second half of November. ETF and IRU agreed they should look at synergies in this area in the future.

Any other business

IRU suggested to taking stock of the economic crisis and possibly send joint signals to the Commission. It was agreed to firstly explore possibilities for common ground (at secretariat level) and then decide upon the best moment to address the issue in the social dialogue committee.

<p><u>Employers</u></p> <p>Mr Abel Marues (ANTRAM) Mr Causse (FNTR) Mr Csanyi (MKFE) Ms Freber (BGL) Ms Günzer (BDO) Mr Johansen (DTL) Mr Larsen (DTL) Ms Maître (FNTR) Mr Nielsen (IRU) Mr Ribeiro de Campos (ANTRAM) Mr Smith (CPT) Mr Viccars (IRU) Mr Visscher (KNV)</p>	<p><u>Workers</u></p> <p>Ms Chaffart (ETF) Mr Christensen (3F) Mr Collard (FNV) Ms Gällhaben (Kommunal) Ms Heinisch (ETF) Mr Holm (Norsk Transport-Arbeiderforbund, Observer) Ms Kapitanffy (KMSZ) Ms König (Kommunal) Ms Malinowska (LTWF) Ms Paas (FNV Bondgenoten) Mr Parrillo (CSC Transcom) Mr Peeters (BTB-ABVV) Ms Petrova (FTTUB) Mr Saverstam (SEKO) Mr Schönauer (VIDA) Mr Sugic (FGTE-CFDT) Ms Tilling (ETF) Mr Varga (KMSZ)</p>
<p><u>European Commission</u></p> <p>Ms Canel (DG TREN E/3) Ms Durst (DG EMPL F/1) Ms Toubeau (DG TREN E/3)</p>	