



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue
Social dialogue, Industrial Relations

**SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE
ROAD TRANSPORT**

DRAFT minutes of the working group meeting

25 April 2014

1. Adoption of the agenda and minutes of the plenary meeting dd. 19 November 2013

The meeting was chaired by Mr CAUSSE (employers). The agenda was adopted, taking into account some modifications to the timing and order of the agenda points. The minutes of 19 November 2013 were adopted.

2. Updated Work Programme 2013-2014

The work programme was adopted, taking into account a number of discussed changes, notably the inclusion of references to the rest facilities in the context of the European Parking Network.

3. European Conference "Road Haulage Transport: Harmonising European Social Policies"

Mr PARILLO (ETF) introduced this agenda point by saying that the conference – held on 16 April 2014 - proved that the real experts are the social partners, and not external experts. It is particularly important to stress this in the light of the appointment of the new Commissioners. Furthermore, he stated that ETF is not in favour of new regulations, but advocates enforcement of existing legislation. Both Mr NEMEC and Mr NIELSEN (IRU) pointed at the importance of the cooperation and trust witnessed during the conference, and the recognition of the social partners as main stakeholders. In this context, Mr NEMEC urged the Commission to develop a social code for the sector, following an information round by the Commission services. The social partners also underlined the importance of a framework for the agency that is to be created. According to IRU the Commission should be steered towards a wider scope for the terms of reference of the agency, avoiding a narrow focus on safety only. However, ETF is not in favour of general issues (such as other means of transport) being included in the tasks of the agency.

Mr CAUSSE concluded by welcoming the recognition of the profession during the conference, and stressed the importance of control measures and the education thereof.

4. Trends and prospects of jobs and working conditions in transport.

Mr PEDRET CUSCO (DG MOVE) presented the outcomes of this study (presentation attached). The study provides an insight in the different sectors and job types. It also covers issues such as demand and supply of labour and skills, attractiveness, training and certification. Mr PEDRET CUSCO stressed that – although the study contains policy

suggestions by the consultant– it is not approved by the Commission yet at present, and will be subject to further evaluation, and will not necessarily result in legislation.

Mr CAUSSE pointed at the importance of evaluating the attractiveness of the sector and the lack of young workers, related to working conditions. Also the increased importance of technology and the resulting training needs are important issues to be discussed. Mr PARILLO pointed at the total responsibility of the entire value chain in the context of price reductions and social dumping. To this, Mr NIELSEN replied that the shortage of drivers problem is more complex and not only related to wages. By way of example, he mentioned that in Bulgaria drivers are underpaid but no shortage of drivers can be noticed. So, in his view, other underlying causes exist, such as the resources spent on training and the impossibility to obtain a drivers licence from an unemployment agency. Mr PEDRET CUSCO pointed at the budgetary opportunities offered by the European Social Fund and suggested to the social partners to liaise with their respective governments in this area.

The British trade unions added that for many drivers there has been no reduction of working time in practice down to 40 hour a week. To summarise the discussion, Mr CAUSSE pleaded for fiscal and social harmonisation rather than the ongoing coordination at EU level.

Ms TILLING (ETF) criticised the fact that the statistical data used in the study do not reflect the current problems since they date from 2010 already. Mr PEDRET CUSCO replied that the data used provided reliable information on labour conditions. In reply to a question from ETF, he also pointed at the scientific value of the Labour Force Survey statistics, which are not sectorally demarcated, but linked to occupations.

5. Driver's training : outcomes of the public consultation

Mr LAZZERI (DG MOVE) presented the outcomes of the public consultation conducted between July and October 2013. The majority of respondents belonged to the road transport service sector and training organisations and most contributions came from the UK. 91% of respondents agreed with the importance of driver training. A more detailed overview of the replies can be found in the presentation attached. Mr LAZZERI stated that no particular difference could be discovered between the contributions of individuals and organisations. The employers' organisations questioned the usefulness of the results emanating from a form of direct democracy, where figures are not weighed. Mr LAZZERI replied that public consultations are a compulsory element of the impact evaluation procedure and executed according to procedures set by the SG and equal for all DGs. He also said that all legislative modifications will depend on the results of the ex-post evaluation which will lead to the problem definition and particularly then on the results of the impact assessment. UITP remarked that with an alignment of the exemptions to Regulation 561/2006 public transport would be excluded from the CPC requirements and pointed at the joint declaration of UITP and ETF of 8 April 2014 on Directive 2003/59. Both sides of industry pointed at the differences in training needs and in national situations. Mr LAZZERI also stated that the new directive should be flexible and adaptable to different needs.

6. Representativeness study : Final report

Following the presentation by Eurofound during the plenary meeting of 19 November 2013, Mr Pablo SANZ (NOTUS) now presented the final outcomes of the representativeness study (presentation attached). The main conclusion was that ETF and

IRU are to be considered as the main sector-related EU social partner organisations, whilst UITP, CER and CEEP ought to be seen as important EU-wide employer organisations. The findings were found to be clear and satisfactory to ETF, IRU and UITP.

7. AOB

The social partners discussed the outcomes of the Commission report on the road haulage market COM(2014)222. Ms TILLING expressed ETF's disappointment with the content of the study which lacks figures needed for future policy choices. More in particular, data are needed for anticipating changes such as shortages linked to demographic aspects. Also, in the field of wage gaps, the links with social security issues are not well reflected. In short, the conclusions of the report are not in line with the social partners' opinions. Mr NEMEC (IRU) added that the report is long overdue and it does not contain a satisfactory underlying message. On the positive side, however, it should be pointed out that the report does not present a conflicting message either. The UK employers added that the report lacks information and evidence that can be the basis for liberalisation creating sustainability. Ms WHITTAKER (DG MOVE) reacted by saying that the report is the basis for further discussions at the level of the European Parliament and the Council. DG MOVE also suggested that a follow-up discussion could be organised in a meeting of the Sectoral Social Dialogue once the social partners have finalised their positions. Mr CAUSSE concluded this agenda point by stating that the report presents the appropriate questions, but the issues should be solved in a joint effort.

Participants 25.04.2014

Employers (17 ♂, 5 ♀)

Mr Causse (FR)
Mr Csanyi (HU)
Mr Dekindt (UITP)
Mr Doumani (GR)
Ms Gregersen (IRU)
Mr Kenanidis (GR)
Mr Kothy (DE)
Mr Larsen (DK)
Mr Mannaerts (BE)
Ms Mets (ET)
Mr Nemeč (IRU)
Ms Maître (FR)
Mr Molsio (FI)
Mr Mazilu (RO)
Mr L. Nielsen (DK)
Mr M. Nielsen (IRU)
Mr Pardo (ES)
Mr Saile (DE)
Mr Salmon (UK)
Ms Spenik (BE)
Ms Vasarainen (FI)
Mr Yarsley (UK)

Workers (15 ♂, 6 ♀)

Mr Atema (NL)
Mr Brown (UK)
Ms Coulet (FR)
Mr Falk (SE)
Mr Johnson (UK)
Ms Gällhagen (SE)
Mr Goument (FR)
Ms Kluskens (ETF)
Ms König (SE)
Mr Kos (AT)
Mr Kucharski (PL)
Mr Llosa (FR)
Mr Michalak (PL)
Mr Miladinov (BG)
Mr Minchev (BG)
Mr Nassar (SE)
Mr Parrillo (BE)
Mr Teunissen (NL)
Ms Tilling (ETF)
Mr Verestoy (HU)
Ms Volkers (DE)

European Commission

Mr Scheerlinck (DG EMPL)
Mr Pedret Cusco (DG MOVE)
Ms Whittaker (DG MOVE)
Mr Lazzeri (DG MOVE)

Invitees

Mr Sanz (NOTUS)