



Brussels, 08 February 2017

Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Professional Football

Minutes of the Working Group Meeting Labour Market Regulations

6 February 2017

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Rigopoulos (UEFA). The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (29 August 2016) were approved.

3. Improving the system of intermediaries

The task force discussed how to approach the theme and is now planning to see how intermediaries/agents work in other industries but also to look at sports in other world-regions. For that ECA is looking to establish contacts.

A study will be necessary; however, the content will need to be further clarified. One option would be to restrict the work to an assessment of whether/under which conditions it would be possible to set up a register. Such – rather small scale – study would have to include legal expertise..

FIFPro referred to the system for screen actors (also in other sports), which in the US is delegated to agents, who are licensed by the trade union. In Europe it is more common that professional associations give out the licenses.

FIFPro considered the recent Dutch approach of the FA – to give quality certificates to agencies which then have to make sure that the agents comply with the standards – as not enough.

The EC study on 'Sports Agents in the European Union', which was finalized in November 2009, among other recommendations, suggested a follow-up study on the economic grounds for transfer fees, their impact on sport competitions and their compatibility with the provisions of Community and/or national law. As the work on other recommendations progressed and the work on the subject is continuing, however, it was not possible to give ad hoc a statement on the feasibility for such follow-up study.

In spite of the remaining open issues concerning the study, it was decided to continue with the proposed survey. Members of the committee were invited to provide comments on the questionnaire by the end of the week (10/02/2017).

EFAA (European Football Agents Association) was seen as a possible interlocutor, with whom discussions could be sought. Contacts informed the social partners that EFAA is planning 5 seminars in countries with bigger/more important markets to strengthen the cooperation with national partners. It was highlighted that, unless there were clear signals from either the legislator or the agents' clients, it might be difficult for EFAA to convince all their members of the usefulness of binding quality standards.

The FIFA TMS “Intermediaries in international transfers” reports were mentioned as a potentially useful source.

Social partners stressed that they are very much interested to cooperate and obtain information from the Commission on their intentions.

4. Next Meeting

There will be a steering group meeting on 25/05 (in spite of the fact that this is a banking holiday) in Stockholm and a working group meeting on 11/09 in Brussels. – A small format meeting shall take place around 14/03.

Participants 06/02/2017

<p>Employers (5 ♂, 2 ♀)</p> <p><u>ECA</u> Mr Diederik Dewaele (BE) Mr Daan de Jong (NL) Mr Martin Prochazka (CZ)</p> <p><u>EPFL</u> Mr Georg Pangel (AT) Ms Ornella Bellia (IT) Ms Laura Vilches (LaLiga – ES) Mr Mathieu Moreuil (Premier League -FR)</p>	<p>Workers (4 ♂)</p> <p><u>FIFPro</u> Mr Roy Vermeer (NL) Mr Wil Van Megen (NL) Mr Mads Øland (DK) Mr Stijn Ouderland (NL)</p>
<p>European Commission (1 ♂ 1 ♀)</p> <p>Ms Sigried Caspar (DG EMPL) Mr Ramunas Linartas (DG EAC)</p>	<p>UEFA (2 ♂)</p> <p>Mr Angelo Rigopoulos (IT-GR) Mr Julien Zylberstein (FR)</p>