



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

Brussels, 16 December 2013

SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE
ROAD TRANSPORT

**DRAFT concise minutes of the plenary meeting
19th November 2013**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Causse (employers). The agenda was adopted, with the comments of IRU. The minutes of 24 June will be adopted by written procedure. The trade union side regretted the lack of DK and HU interpretation.

1. Sectoral Dialogue Committee on Road Transport working programme 2013 – 2014 – evaluation;

Going through topics to be considered priority in the upcoming year, the worker side stressed the need for more attention to "Driver Shortages, Image and Recruitment in road transport" and "Illegal employment" (points 5 and 6 of the current work programme). With the respect to latter, for example the issue of bogus self-employment, particularly with regards to temporary agency work should be tackled – according to the trade unions. Adding potential new points to the work programme, social partners agreed to re-discuss the idea of a *social code*, and a joint ETF – IRU initiative (statement) addressed to the future Commission and European Parliament which could touch upon issues such as posting and third country professional drivers.

2. Representativeness study: a) the progress of the rep study (where we are with the study, updated timetable and what are the next steps); b) the list of organisations who received the questionnaire and the ones who already answered –Eurofound / NOTUS;

Ms Cerf (Eurofound) presented to the Committee the objectives and methodology of the currently on-going representativeness study for Road Transport and Logistics (see slides). Eurofound, together with NOTUS Consulting is currently at the stage of reviewing the contributions of national consultants, which is to be finalized by the end of January. Ms Cerf informed also about an evaluation meeting with the road transport social partners planned on 7-9 April; intended to discuss the draft overview report. Subsequently, Mr Sanz from NOTUS; the subcontractor of the study, gave an overview of countries and economic activities covered by the preliminary results, as per summary table circulated to the social partners. For most of countries examined so far, a multi-union industrial relations system with high level of employer fragmentation was confirmed. Although the level of involvement in collective bargaining policy is generally high, NOTUS found that only a third of employer and worker organizations are consulted on regular basis. In a following discussion, social partners asked a number of questions about missing national organizations, and about the fact that the companies were being directly contacted. In this respect, the IRU asked for a clear list from which it would be

evident which associations and companies have been contacted and which have replied to Eurofound. The ETF expressed their discontent with the fact that, from approximately 200 provided contacts, only 111 were actually part of the interviews. This, in the context where 3 trade union organisations (Finland, France, Sweden) were not at all contacted as part of the survey. Mr Parillo (ETF) and Mr Nielsen (IRU) stated that the EU social dialogue is there to represent voices of workers and employers, not companies. Mr Dekindt (UITP) recalled that reasons for including companies can be historical and geographical (linked to cities). The Chair asked for attention being paid not to undermine the profession and for that social partners' comments are taken into account by Eurofound.

3. Possible social partners initiatives in the framework of the 2014 European elections and new term of the European Commission – exchange of views;

The secretariats presented jointly the concept of a joint letter outlining the vision and priorities of the sector for the new Commissioners and MEPs, following European elections in 2014. IRU specified that the text should be kept to a short political statement, which would attract the attention to the sector and to work in the Parliament's Transport Committee. Chair stressed it is important to avoid marginalization and improve the image of the sector. As a next step, the secretariats are to create a working group, which could make concrete progress on the joint letter.

4. DocStop project presentation: initiatives to dealing with drivers' emergency health problems / TBC (speaker to be provided by the social partners);

Mr Bernickel (DocStop) presented the initiative of European network of emergency medical and dental assistants for mobile transport workers (see slides). The system works in a form of a call centre, which a bus or lorry driver can call and receive information about the closes doctor and a place to leave the vehicle. IRU, national associations mostly in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as a number of companies are currently supporting the action, but DocStop would like to cover all Europe with its network. In a follow-up comment, Ms Tilling (ETF) said that healthcare is among the 3 top concerns of drivers according to the recent ETF survey and that the trade unions would be interested to work in closer cooperation with IRU on this.

5. Legislation applicable to road transport – exploratory discussion between social partners;

Continuing a discussion from the first agenda point, the social partners exchanged on what could be further developed under a possible *social code* for the sector. The worker side pointed that there is a significant amount of existing social and fiscal legislation, which needs to be better applied, whereas social partners would not have guarantees that the joint code would be binding. IRU proposed to rather draft a list summarizing the existing European legislation coming from DG MOVE, EMPL and TAXUD. As a follow-up, secretariats will look jointly at enforcement possibilities/necessities.

6. Weights and dimensions – observations of the social partners;

Ms Tilling (ETF) opened the point saying that the digital tachograph could be better used to improve drivers' working conditions and contribute to the extension of co-liability to

all modes of transport. Mr Nemeč (IRU) pointed to problems with enforcement and long transposition period of the digital tachograph requirement. The worker side pointed also to problems with uneven weight distribution, while using electronic equipment to load the truck, and agreed with IRU on the problems in implementation. Answering to IRU's question on giga-liners, ETF stressed the need for more drivers' training and adaptation of requirements, if the Directive on new size of trucks was to enter into force.

7. AOB – information of the social partners on the CLOSER project submission.

The secretariats presented to the participants the main elements of a joint project CLOSER ("Combined Approach to the Road Safety"), which is intended as a continuation of TRACE 1 and was recently submitted to DG MOVE for funding.

Ms Winiarska (DG EMPL) informed the social partners about the upcoming Liaison Forum on 15 years of sectoral social dialogue on 11 December and asked for a sector's contribution in terms of a success story.

Participants 24.10.2012

Employers (10 ♂, 6 ♀)

Mr Andersson (SE)
Ms Antignac (FR)
Mr Causse (FR)
Mr Csanyi (HU)
Mr Dekindt (UITP)
Ms Godiksen (DK)
Mr Larsen (DK)
Ms Maître (FR)
Ms Mannaerts (BE)
Ms Mets (ET)
Mr Nemeč (IRU)
Mr Maziki (RO)
Mr L. Nielsen (DK)
Mr M. Nielsen (IRU)
Ms Vasarainen (FI)
Mr Yarsley (UK)

European Commission

Ms Winiarska (DG EMPL)

Invitees

Ms Cerf (Eurofound)
Mr Sanz (NOTUS)
Mr Bernickel (DocStop)

Workers (25 ♂, 8 ♀)

Mr Aarestrup (DK)
Ms Ahde (FI)
Mr Baugeon (FR)
Mr Brown (UK)
Mr Chanois (FR)
Ms Coulet (FR)
Mr Delville (BE)
Mr Dedic (AT)
Mr Diamante (IT)
Mr Fekete-Kertesz (HU)
Mr Johnson (UK)
Ms Gällhagen (SE)
Mr Goumens (FR)
Ms Heinisch (ETF)
Ms König (SE)
Mr Kucharski (PL)
Mr Lefebvre (FR)
Mr Michalak (PL)
Mr Miladinov (BG)
Mr Minchev (BG)
Ms Mizzau (IT)
Mr Parrillo (BE)
Mr Pasanen (FI)
Mr Revuelta (ES)
Mr Skronski (PL)
Mr Smidt (DK)
Mr Szekely (HU)
Mr Teunissen (NL)
Ms Tilling (ETF)
Mr Varga (HU)
Mr Verestoy (HU)
Ms Volkeis (DE)
Mr Wozniak (PL)