

Condensed results of the meeting

Meeting: Plenary Meeting of the Shipbuilding SSDC
Date: 8 December 2010
Place: Centre Borschette, Brussels

Present: See enclosed list of participants

1. **Opening and introduction: Jenny Braat, Chairwoman** - welcomed the participants and opened the meeting.
2. **Minutes of the SSDC WG on 27 October 2010** – adopted without further comments.

3. **Policy Work Group**

Market developments

- Reinhard Lüken presented the latest market developments (full presentation enclosed) and referred to current policy issues, including the review on the framework for state aid to shipbuilding, OECD negotiations and the consultation on EIB transport lending policy.
- Enrique Calvet Chambon reported that the EESC has decided on a follow-up initiative to its opinion on the crisis in shipbuilding. The new initiative would commence in the first quarter 2011 and focus on the review of the shipbuilding state aid framework. Another opinion was planned on the negative impact of trade policy and he invited the EMF to provide input.

Europa 2020 and the new EU Industrial Policy strategy

- Fabrice Terrac, representing DG Enterprise of the Commission, explained that the focus of the new EU strategy on industrial policy (Communication of the Commission) was on sustainable growth. It was not a withdrawal from previous policies, many of the sectoral activities (e.g. LeaderSHIP) would continue. Key areas included improving the business environment, improving access to raw materials, innovation and green growth. New Commission activities included a study on future opportunities for green growth in shipbuilding which would be launched in January 2011. He stated that after the breakdown of the OECD negotiations the EU/Korea Free Trade Agreement (chapter on subsidies) was effectively the only remaining instrument for the EU to push for a level playing field. He encouraged the social partners to participate in the consultation on the EIB transport lending policy.

Policy priorities

- **Follow-up to joint action with the European Parliament (EP):** The chairwomen felt that the response from the EP President to the SSDC letter of June 2010 provided an opportunity for a fresh contact with the EP. She proposed to organize a lunch meeting with relevant MEPs. The EMF expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of initiative by the EP and underlined that any

action at the European level must be underpinned by contacts of SSDC members with their national MEPs. EMF also proposed to involve the EESC in follow-up activities with the EP. Enrique Calvet Chambon criticized the level of participation and the lack of visibility of the SSDC in recent years. There was a need for the SSDC to establish an action plan that should also involve other institutions (e.g. EP, EESC etc.). It was concluded that the Secretariats should draft an agenda for an MEP lunch meeting before Christmas and find a date.

- **Shipbuilding framework for state aid:** The SSDC adopted a joint statement (enclosed).
- **Sulphur emissions:** CESA underlined that it did not support attempts (by ship owners) to water down SOx reduction targets. The ship owners' initiative highlighted however the dangers of a shift to road transport and could be used to steer the discussion towards providing incentives for green shipbuilding. It was agreed to consider a joint initiative on the subject at the next meeting.
- **EIB consultation on transport lending policy:** The SSDC agreed to mandate the Secretariats to produce a joint statement at an opportune moment. The statement should address unacceptable practices of giving EIB loans to European ship owners for orders placed outside Europe.

4. Skills and Qualifications Work Group

- **Sector Skills Council:** The members agreed to submit a proposal for the Phase 1 of establishing a sector skills council consisting of identification of stakeholders and stocktaking on existing national skill councils. The next grant application deadline would be in March 2011 and CESA would be the official applicant for the grant. SSDC members were encouraged to identify research institutions that could conduct the study.
- **Presentation by DG Markt on the study on the "Professional Qualifications Directive in Practice":** The presentation was delivered by Jürgen TIEDJE, HoU from the EC, Internal Market. He explained that the study focused on the application of the Professional Qualifications Directive in the context of the revision of this Directive. The study was expected to be completed in September 2011 and the Commission was planning a Green Paper in October 2011. The Directive and the associated database aim at facilitating the free movement of citizen in the EU by listing regulated professions and providing information on national contact points for citizen.

5. Social Standard Work Group

- The Chairwoman presented the first draft of three chapters (preamble, image of the sector, fundamental and human rights). Enrique Calvet Chambon felt that the chapter on fundamental and human rights was not only irrelevant for shipbuilding in Europe but would create a negative image (for example by implying that child labour was still practiced in Europe). François Ziegler of the Commission stated that it would not be necessary to repeat provisions of the fundamental rights charter. A solution could be to make reference to this charter (as a "whereas"). It was agreed to refer the draft paper back to the steering group.

6. Image WG

- The discussion revealed that a broad European Shipyard Week with events at the national level was not likely in 2011. Ruud van den Bergh suggested focusing on a Brussels event in cooperation with maritime regions. The EMF remarked that a Brussels event did not correspond to a European Shipyard Week. It was agreed to try and realize a European Shipyard Week and to discuss the format at the next meeting.

7. Rotating Presidency

- As from January 2011 the EMF would take over the rotating presidency of the SSDC. Ruud van den Bergh was confirmed as SSDC chair and Jenny Braat as co-chair.

8. AOB and next Meeting

- Indicative dates for the SSDC meetings in 2011:
 - 03.02 – work group
 - 05.05 – work group
 - 23.06 - plenary
 - 28.09 - plenary
 - 09.11 - plenary
 - 16.12 - plenary

Andrea Husen-Bradley, 21-12-2010