

**Meeting of the Steering Committee**

**10 April 2006**

**Summary record (adopted on 6 November of 27 July 2006)**

**(1) Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting  
(24 November 2005)**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Le RESTE (workers). The agenda was adopted and the minutes of the previous meeting approved.

**(2) Dialogue between the European Railway Agency (“the Agency”) and the  
Sectoral Dialogue Committee**

On the basis of the dialogue with Mr Marcel VERSLYPE, Executive Director of the Agency, at the previous meeting, the social partners discussed various facets of the future dialogue with the Agency, i.e.:

- Political level: formal participation by the Executive Director once a year, either at the plenary meeting or at the Steering Committee meeting;
- Technical level: participation by a representative of the Agency at each meeting of the working groups, either on a permanent basis or depending on the items on the agenda, with or without contributions by the Agency;
- Involvement of the social partners in drawing up the Agency’s work programme and action by the social partners within the Agency (in the Administrative Board and working groups);
- Highlighting to the Agency the importance of formal consultation when topics had a social aspect.

The parties were in full agreement that the social dialogue was a separate matter from the Agency's priorities and work. Nonetheless, it was important to remain informed and to be able to identify areas in which the social partners could make a constructive contribution or propose their own initiatives.

It was decided to send a joint letter to the Agency which would express the Committee’s desire to base their working relationship on a positive approach whilst emphasising the importance and seriousness of consulting the social partners.

**(3) Preparations for the plenary meeting**

The parties drew up the draft agenda for the plenary meeting on the basis of a proposal submitted by the ETF. This could include the adoption of a joint statement on the Commission’s assessment report on the first railway package. A brief exchange was held

on the mid-term review of the White Paper on transport<sup>1</sup>, particularly on dropping the objective of adjusting the balance between modes of transport. There too, a joint document could be envisaged.

The ETF wanted to take stock of the implementation of the licence agreement at the plenary meeting. The REC preferred to wait for the Council's adoption of the common position before implementing future provisions of the directive. The ETF expressed its disappointment at the non-implementation of the agreement, particularly those clauses which were not part of the future directive. According to the unions, the very least that the management of companies which were members of the REC could do was to sit round the table with their respective unions and discuss the agreement. The REC pointed out that it had no means of forcing its members to comply with the agreement. It was decided that a general item entitled "follow-up of agreements" would be included on the agenda.

#### **(4) Other business**

The ETF suggested looking into the need to take action, at European level, on the issue of the terrorist threat (railways, local public transport). The REC reported that it had set up a temporary working group on this matter.

The issue of safety in public transport was also raised. The Commission drew attention to the work carried out by the "local public transport" working group which counted the REC and the ETF as members. These recommendations<sup>2</sup> could be distributed to a wider audience.

The social partners updated the schedule for the work programme.

The Commission was asked to provide information concerning the work being carried out on collective bargaining<sup>3</sup> announced in the Social Agenda.

Participants 10.4.2006 :

Employeurs :	M. HARA (SNCF) M. INGLESE (FS) M. METTE (DB) M. PREUMONT (CER)
Travailleurs :	M. BARTL (ETF) Mme CLAUWAERT (ETF) M. GREIVELDING (ETF) M. LE RESTE (ETF) Mme TRIER (ETF)
Commission européenne :	Mme DURST (DG EMPL F/1)

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/transport\\_policy\\_review/doc/2006\\_transport\\_policy\\_review\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/transport_policy_review/doc/2006_transport_policy_review_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/dsw/dspDetails.do?id=71&d-1588-p=1&d-1588-s=&d-1588-o=null](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/dsw/dspDetails.do?id=71&d-1588-p=1&d-1588-s=&d-1588-o=null)

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_dialogue/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/index_en.htm)