



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS DG

Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change
F1 : Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations

MINUTES OF THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE CULTURE AND LIVE PERFORMING ARTS SECTOR, 15.06.2007

Chair : Ms. Bianca Busuioc (EAEA)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda of the meeting is adopted.

2. Adoption of the minutes of last meeting

The minutes are adopted. After debate, it is agreed that the Commission will be in charge of drafting minutes and that these will be circulated shortly (1 week) after each meeting.

3. Links with DG EAC

Bianca Busuioc explains that the Commission adopted recently a Communication on Culture. Fabianne Metayer (DG EAC) presents the Commission Communication on Culture, adopted on 10th May, highlighting the Commission's will to put in place a structured dialogue with the sector and to create an Interservice Working Group. The Commission also proposes to set up an Open Method of Coordination (OMC) in the area of culture. The next steps will be taken by the European Parliament and the European Council, which will pronounce themselves on the Commission Communication. A Cultural Forum will also take place in September in Lisbon, under Portuguese Presidency. Information on the initiative is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/culture>.

Social partners appreciate the presentation and the possibility to have regular exchanges with representatives from DG EAC in the framework of the SDC. They show interest for the OMC, the Cultural Forum and the mapping exercise, and express the commitment of the Committee members to be involved and contribute to these exercises. Social partners formally adopt the Committee Joint Statement on Culture.

4. Enlargement project

Bianca Busuioc reports that the project proposal has been accepted by the Commission. The project will encompass two main parts: in the first place, two social dialogue conferences will be organised in Bulgaria and Romania. The second part will consist of visits of social partners from Bulgaria and Romania to their counterparts in the EU-15.

5. **Skills and Training: presentation on the state of play of the Theatre Technical Training (TTT) project**

Bianca Busuioc presents the state of play of the TTT project.

6. **Mobility: feedback on joint letter addressed to the Commission on visa problems when touring the USA**

Social partners recall that this is a major concern for the Committee and that they have not received yet any response from the concerned European Commission services to the letter they sent explaining the problems encountered by the sector. It is agreed that the letter will be re-sent to Commission services and that a Commission expert will be invited to participate in the next SDC working group meeting to explain to social partner the Commission initiatives in this area.

7. **Presentation of available support for social partners' capacity building under the new ESF regulations**

Heinrich Wollny (DG EMPL) delivers a Power Point presentation on the topic (**attached as Annex I**). As it concerns social partners, the most important modification in relation with the previous version of the ESF is that now Member States have to propose to the Commission their operational programmes for the next 7 years, including a provision to allocate funds for social partners' capacity building. The system is decentralised (managed as from 2008 by national or regional authorities).

8. **Health and Safety at Work: state of play of guidelines for the implementation of the noise Directive**

Angel Fuente (DG EMPL) delivers a presentation on the topic. He recalls that the Directive was adopted in 2003 and that social partners in the Culture and Live Performing Arts have made a paramount contribution to the preparation of guidelines for the implementation of the Directive. The project is now completed, translations in all languages (except for RO and BUL) were received in February and versions were "cleaned" with the translators. The final versions in all languages (except for RO and BUL) should be ready in September.

9. **Green Paper on Labour Law**

Social partners present their joint contribution to the Commission consultation on the topic (**attached as Annex II**). They recall that a good work was carried out and a common position was achieved on a very sensitive issue. They express their wish that the paper is not put now on a drawer, but that the Committee will instead continue working on it.

10. **AOB**

There was not discussion on any other business

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS: 13th September (WG), 12th October (WG)