



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change  
**Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations**

Brussels, 30 June 2009

### SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT

#### WORKING GROUP MEETING

held on 6 May 2009 in Brussels

#### DRAFT MINUTES

**The Chairman** welcomed members and noted that Nicholas Breczewski of DGEMPL would be joining the meeting to introduce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Consultation phase on the “exclusions’ of seafarers’ from certain EU legislation. The issue could be raised under AOB.

Members **agreed**.

It was **agreed** that ETF would prepare a draft record of the meeting, with ECSA’s internal note to be made available to assist.

A list of participants is **attached**.

#### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

**Agreed**

#### 2. Adoption of report of the last meeting (16/4/09)

The draft record as circulated was **approved**.

#### 3. Terms of Reference for the WG (consideration of input from Commission on version agreed by SP at last WG meeting)

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**The Chairman** noted that Terms of Reference had been agreed and that some suggested changes from the Commission had been proposed for consideration of the SP.

**ETF** considered the Commission's proposal helpful and appropriate. While the terms of the 2009 work programme were subscribed to, the planned Workshop was viewed as a key, but not sole, element of the training and recruitment WG activities. ETF shared the Commission's frustrations at the lack of concrete action and fully supported their amendments as they provided more focus to the work of the social partners.

**ECSA** noted that the TOR agreed at the last meeting represented a balanced approach between the SP and the Commission's amendments were at odds with and went beyond the clear goal of the agreed 2009 WG Work Programme which was to convene a joint Workshop to share information and best practice and to draw conclusions on the challenges facing the industry. The TOR as agreed had accommodated the Commission's wish to address the Council Conclusions.

**The Commission** noted that the record of the Plenary had indicated that the TOR were to be jointly developed with the Commission and stressed the need for specific action in the area. The Task Force announced in the 2009-18 Policy paper would be running in parallel to the Workshop initiative; the latter could be considered as the starting point which could lead to possible action. The social dialogue in this field was timely as the social agenda would be taken forward in 2010. The two major issues to be addressed were the manning crisis (in the sense of a shortage of qualified seafarers in some countries) and the need to enhance skills.

**ECSA**, while noting the increased laying up of ships due to the economic situation over the last year, stressed the need for enhanced training and recruitment in the longer term perspective. It was agreed that the Workshop could be seen as a stepping stone from which initiatives could be considered but it was crucial to start from a factual base.

**ETF** noted that the manning issue was for a future occasion and that there were areas where there was high unemployment of seafarers and, at least in Denmark, drop out rates were an issue.

**The Chairman** noted that as the proposed changes were not acceptable to ECSA, they could not be approved by the WG, and the Commission would withdraw their proposed amendments; the existing TOR agreed at the last meeting would therefore stand. The WG would report to the Plenary and any changes to the Work Programme for 2010 would need to be agreed at the Plenary meeting in December.

**ETF** indicated that while the statement expressed by the Chairman was the logical outcome, they were very unhappy with this conclusion. The UK and Danish ratings unions formally registered their disagreement with the conclusion.

#### **4. ETF/ECSA Workshop/Project on seafarer training and recruitment; outlining its objectives, content and timetable.**

**ETF**, in referring to the Work Programme, noted that in addition to sharing information and best practice and drawing conclusions, it would be helpful to see what did not work and to look at 3 or 4 case studies in depth. In the UK there had been a certain success in recruiting cadets even though the ultimate target had not been reached. Under the Budget line identified, applications had to be in by 1<sup>st</sup> September which effectively meant that the Workshop should be before Spring 2010. ETF had some experience in making proposals of this kind and this could be drawn on. It would be helpful if data was collected prior to the Conference by an outside person approved by ETF and ECSA and it would be useful to invite experts from maritime academies and those involved directly involved in national campaigns. Building on the career mapping project could be a possible outcome.

**ECSA** shared the view of having a few case studies and to learn from unsuccessful experiences, and that a full day event in late Spring date was logical. It was also agreed that a fact finding exercise was important and, to avoid unnecessary work, an update by an outside consultant of the work undertaken for the UK Presidency in 2005 on 'best practices' would serve the purpose well. Governments should also be invited and workshop discussion topics could include how to get in touch with young people to make them aware of the profession and the opportunities in the maritime cluster.

**The Commission** noted the different criteria under the Budget Heading 04.03.03.01, notably the award criteria on page 10, and stressed that in order to be successful it was necessary to show an international dimension and a commitment to follow up the workshop with initiatives; publication of material on the outcome (eg a brochure on 'best practice') would be helpful. It had been the Commission's intention to update the 2005 'best practices' paper and the proposal that the SP should undertake the work was fully supported.

**The Chairman** noted that there was a large measure of agreement between the SP and proposed that the two secretariats meet to develop a joint proposal for submission by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Members agreed.

## **5. AOB**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Consultation on 'Exclusions'**

**Mr Breczewski** introduced the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage consultation document sent to the SP mid April with a request for a response with 6 weeks. SP were requested to be as specific as possible when responding to the paper in relation to the various options for the different pieces of legislation.

**ETF and ECSA** reported that they were each in the process of examining the text and would be making separate submissions to the Commission in response.

## **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**28<sup>th</sup> September (WG)**

**7<sup>th</sup> December (Plenary)**