



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT**

**Minutes
Working group meeting of 28 April 2015**

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting was chaired by Mr Koning (EBU), chairman of the committee. The agenda was adopted. At the request of Mr Bramley (ETF) the High Level Conference on European Social Dialogue was added under the item 'Any other business'.

2. Adoption of the minutes of last meeting (30 January 2015) and matters arising

Mr Koning (EBU) stated that point 5 of the minutes is not precise enough. Mr Rusche suggested that EBU will revise point 5 of the draft minutes accordingly.

3. Information by the Commission

a. Update on the PLATINA 2 project (DG MOVE)

Mr Vanderhaegen gave a presentation on the PLATINA II project. As social partners were informed by Ms Rousseau about the work package (WP) 3 "jobs and skills" of the PLATINA II project, Mr Vanderhaegen focused on the other work packages. The PLATINA II project is an EU funded (€ 1,999,995 Mio) research coordination project which contributes to the implementation of the NAIADES II Action Programme (Commission policy programme to promote IWT) and which provides technical and organisational support for policy actions. The PLATINA II project integrates the relevant stakeholder groups and is based on strong interrelations with existing initiatives. The project started on 1 November 2013 and lasts till 29 February 2016 and the consortium of 12 partners from 7 countries is coordinated by the Austrian waterway authority "via donau". PLATINA II covers 4 thematic areas work packages (WP 1-4 Markets & Awareness, Innovation & Fleet, Jobs & Skills and Infrastructure).

WP 1 Markets & Awareness will identify and attract new markets for inland waterway transport and stimulate multimodal supply chain integration as well as synergistic actions between operators. In terms of new markets the study has focused so far on specific (untapped IWT potential) market segments. Another study focussed on the market structure. On the 18 June 2015 the second PLATINA II Advisory Committee meeting will take place in Brussels and the Commission will give detailed information about the ongoing studies.

WP2 (INNOVATION & FLEET) will define measures to stimulate innovation take-up and greening of the fleet, undertake technology forecasts, enhance the knowledge basis on external cost performance and consolidate research and innovation needs.

WP4 (INFRASTRUCTURE) will identify ways to close the data gaps on IWT infrastructure in Europe, provide tools for the integration of IWT into multimodal European corridors (there are 9 TEN), monitor and support the implementation of River Information Services and identify future logistics applications as well as facilitate the exchange of good practices on efficient and effective inland waterway maintenance.

WP5 (TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT) is the focal point for project management, dissemination and networking of external stakeholders through a structured NAIADES dialogue.

For additional information referring to the Platina II Project, project manager Mr Bäck (andreas.baeck@via-donau.org) can be contacted. ([please see also the website www.via-donau.org](http://www.via-donau.org))

Mr Rusche asked if there will be an interactive discussion on the second PLATINA II Advisory Committee meeting on 18 June 2015. Mr Vanderhaegen pointed out that the Commission is highly interested in the feedback of the partners and stakeholders.

b. Working Time Directive

The Working Time Directive has been published and it is now up to the Member States to transpose it before 1.1.2017. Social Partners are requested to pro-actively monitor the transposition and report back to the SDC. If need be, Social Partners can assist/facilitate the transposition and Member States can also ask assistance from the EC. As the transposition period is quite short, social partners are requested to keep an eagle eye.

4. Working groups

a. Working group on living and working conditions

Ms Chaffart pointed out that there has been no working group meeting since the last SSDC meeting due to time constraints. However, a meeting should be fixed very soon in order to meet the deadline of the social dialogue call for proposal which will be on 15 June 2015. To launch a project application, a lot of preparation work has to be completed.

Mr Rusche said that the working group on unfair competition meets early May. Thus, this opportunity can also be used for discussing the issue. However, he underlined that the number of people working on the employers' side to launch such a project application is very limited.

Ms Beckschäfer agreed to that. At the moment ESO faces strong challenges. She referred to the crewing regulations and issues linked to education and training. It is important to set the right priorities.

Ms Chaffart summarized that social partners own the work programme and given the currently high workload, the project should be postponed.

b. Working group on crewing

Mr Rusche referred to the last meeting in which it was agreed that EBU take the lead, steer the process and organise a meeting.

CCNR gave social partners the opportunity to have a closer look at the findings in terms of crewing which were discussed at the roundtable meeting of 5 November 2014. CCNR informed the social partners in writing (letter of 24 April 2015) about the

issue of manning requirements. However, the letter was not received by all social partners.

Mr Koning pointed out that this letter is an invitation to social partners to come up with a joint position.

Ms Moosbrugger confirmed that the letter, which sums up the outcomes of the roundtable, was sent out on 24 April 2015. Now the social partners are requested to follow up. Delegations confirmed that the letter does not come up with a host of solutions which have not yet been discussed by the social partners. Mr Bramley underlined the importance of the letter as a concrete proposal which helps identify where the problems are. Nonetheless the letter does not indicate a deadline by when a reply is expected.

Ms Moosbrugger said it is an open letter to give social partners sufficient time to react. The content of the letter will be brought up in all of the different working groups. Therefore the November meeting was mentioned as the deadline. Nevertheless a quick response would be appreciated.

Mr Koning stated that the "working group" on crewing was established to deal with the issue. The working group meeting "unfair competition" on 12 May 2015 should be used in addition to discuss the content of the letter too. This should help social partners to agree soon on a common position and to formulate a response.

(During lunch break a copy of the letter was handed out to each participant)

c. Unfair competition – social partners to report on collection of cases on unfair competition

An "unfair competition" working group meeting will take place in Bonn on 12 May 2015. The agenda will be fixed on the basis of this SSDC discussion. The outcomes of the working group meeting will be discussed in the next SSDC.

5. Social security European inland waterways: social partners' initiative regarding IWT social security

Mr Koning stated that social partners addressed a letter to CAS early February 2015. On 31 March 2015 the Administrative Centre for Social Security met and decided to organize an additional meeting to come up with a proposal on 2 July 2015.

At the moment there is not too much to discuss according to Mr Bramley. Nonetheless he informed about the discussion and results of the meeting in February. The discussion was very fruitful concerning the issue as to how the achieved system of the Rhine states can be extended to the (other) Member States of the EU and maybe to the EFTA states. Liechtenstein has become an observer of the working group. Mr Bramley sees a good chance to move things forward under the Luxembourg Presidency during the second half of 2015.

Mr Koning said that a European solution has been found. Now it is important to find the right way to present this solution to the Administrative Centre for Social Security. The main question that arises is whether the Directive 883/2004 should be amended during the meeting on 2 July 2015 or whether it is sufficient to have an interpretation of that Directive. In any case there should be a result. Social partners agree that the same legislation should apply to all those who work on the same vessel.

6. Draft agenda for the next meeting

The participants agreed to keep an identical agenda for the next meeting. In addition, item 3 will be extended by the point "Implementation process IWT Council directive on Working Time".

7. Any other business

Next date

The next SSDC IWT will be on 12 October 2015.

High-level conference 'A social agenda for transport' on 4 June 2015

The involvement and contribution of social partners in this conference, which is organised by DG MOVE and DG EMPL, was discussed.

Presentation Mr Strohbach informed the social partners about the outcome of the high level event "A new start for social dialogue" which took place in Brussels on 5 March 2015.

Social partners emphasised the autonomy of social partners and that social dialogue should be linked closely to all European Commission policies. Proper resources needed to be made available for a well-functioning social dialogue. In this respect the cutting of the number of SSDCs was seen critically.

Participants 28.04.2015

Employers (4 ♂, 1 ♀, 3 different Member States) EBU Mr Koning (NL) Mr Rusche (DE) ESO Ms Beckschäfer (DE) Mr Kester (NL) Mr van Lancker (BE)	Workers (9 ♂, 4 ♀, 9 different Member States) ETF Mr Bramley (ETF) Ms Chaffart (ETF) Mr Karavatchen (UK) Mr Jerabek (CZ) Mr Schatz (CH) Mr Kraijenoord (NL) Mr Kerkhof (BE) Mr Kerkhofs (BE) Mr Kiepe (DE) Ms Latron (FR) Mr Melvan (HR) Ms Zec (HR) Ms Obreshkova (BG)
European Commission Mr Marc.Vanderhaegen (DG MOVE) Mr Strohbach (DG EMPL) Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine Ms Moosbrugger Ms Braat	

