



**Minutes of the Ground Handling Working Group meeting
21 January 2021**

Karsten John Kristensen (3F DK), vice-president of the civil aviation sector in ETF, was nominated as Chair of the Ground Handling working group; he chaired the meeting.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of the draft minutes of the last meeting

ETF will provide written comments on the draft minutes of the last meeting in January 2020.

3. Update on legislative items by the social partners:

a. EASA Rulemaking Tasks.0728

Members of the EASA group RMT 7.28 reported that EASA work on is on hold.

b. Regulation 2020/696 of 25 May 2020 amending Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 on common rules for the operation of air services in the Community in view of the COVID-19 pandemic

ACI informed about the delegated Act from 16 December 2020 on the temporary extension of exceptional measures to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic with regards to selection of ground handling service providers.

With regards to the ground handling Directive 96/67/EC, Marek Jahudka (MOVE aviation policy) informed about the extension of the temporary measures until end of 2021 (adopted on 1st January). The need to further extend the temporary measures after 2021 is under reflexion, views of social partners on this are welcomed.

c. Revision of Ground Handling Directive 96/67/EC

Marek Jahudka explained the state of play of the legislative process for the review of the Directive. A study on ground handling (by Steer) was carried out as an input for the evaluation of the Directive by the Commission.

ASA drew the attention that the interviews for the study were conducted before the pandemic. The need to further consider the change of the situation in the evaluation and possible further revision was discussed. Complementarity with EASA works should also be considered. Social partners offered to provide additional inputs to this reflexion.

The possibility to organise an ad-hoc social dialogue meeting to further discuss the situation and needs was agreed. Social partners asked whether it would be possible to receive a background paper to steer that discussion. DG MOVE indicated that the outcomes of the study are not yet available, therefore this type of background would not be available.

The chair concluded that the principle of a dedicated meeting was agreed. Details for the organisation will be clarified between social partners' secretariats and Commission's services.

4. Update on ongoing work of the Ground handling social dialogue

a. Job Losses Study

ETF presented the results of the job survey on the workers' situation due to the pandemic in 8 countries. Overall, according the estimations, 58,5% of airport-based workers are currently 'out of work' which is quite alarming (see slides).

ASA indicated that the situation of smaller companies would even be worst. It would be useful to improve collection of data on the employment situation with a possible role of EASA or the Commission. ACI mentioned the ETUC report. ETF suggested to allocate more funding (a project) to data collection.

ACI also suggested to collect data on state aids as the repartition for ground handlers is too low.

The chair concluded that all organisations agreed on the need to collect more concrete data.

b. Common minimum standards on training and quality of service, report on progress, by ACI and follow-up

ACI introduced the state of play of the social partners' joint document on minimum standards on training and quality of service discussed between social partners at their last meetings. This topic is developed in parallel with the work by EASA and ICAO; for which the timeframe for finalisation is by 2024. The pandemic has put the work on hold.

ETF indicated that the EASA's work is broader on training than the social partners' document. However, the social partners' document is a good basis for partners own inputs as a joint declaration.

ASA agreed and indicated that EASA and social partners' works are complementary. However ASA insisted that that all organisations could contribute to finalise the paper to be presented to the Commission by the end of 2021 and demonstrate the contribution by the social partners on that topic.

ERA wondered the added value as it would be to support the EASA without more concrete outputs.

ACP asked whether the two themes of the paper should not be developed separately.

ACI replied that the aim is to focus on the social dimension of quality of services.

The chair concluded that social partners will provide their own position in the framework of the social dialogue. It was decided to finalise a social partners' joint document by the end of 2021, comments by all organisations to ACI.

c. Other items foreseen in the Ground handling social dialogue work programme 2021

ETF suggested to work on new technologies and digitalisation (e.g. travel documents) that would be interesting to discuss amongst social partners.

ETF indicated that they are currently finalising their discussions on the Directive 2001/23 on transfer of undertaking. ETF can share their outcome with the other organisations as a basis for a joint discussion.

It was discussed that the other topics on the work programme, e.g. on baggage weight and air pollution in airport, are still relevant for the social partners work programme even if the pandemic could delay the work on some issues.

The chair concluded that the work programme is agreed with an additional topic. The revised draft will be circulated by social dialogue unit also for approval by the whole committee.

5. Up-date of the social dialogue project

ETF indicated that the social dialogue project is developed to support the social partners' committee work programme. Next meeting is on the 4 march.

6. Reskilling of workers in transition

ETF indicated that this point is complementary with the discussion on training and process of digitalisation of ground handling operations which have increased with the pandemic. Therefore the needs for upskilling and reskilling have also increased.

ACI drew the attention to the EU funding available under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and invited ETF to contact the national authorities to include ground handling needs in National Plans, which should be submitted to the European Commission by April.

7. AOB

- Sylvie Finné provided a short overview of the current initiatives and consultations in the employment field.
- Minutes will be circulate for written approval

List of participants 21 January 2021 WEBEX

Employers 7	Workers 21
A4D	ETF
KRASA Matthew	COATES Eoin
DECLERCK Sofie	NEMECKOVA Michaela
KELLY Sinead	
ACI	CHAIR
DE BRUIJNE Bastiaan	KRISTENSEN Karsten John
ACP	GASTINGER Philip
OLLONGREN Hans	VANDEN EYNDE Bjorn
	CHATTERJEE Rhea
AIRE	COATES Eoin
Not represented	NEERINCKX Eline
	MODONESI Daniela
ASA	MANSI Luigi
GAMBA Fabio	CARMONA Enrique
	ABELA Kevin
ERA	HALL Jimmi
KNOEPFLE Klaus	BAY-KLAUSEN Hendrik
	NEUMAIER Mira
	DAGUE Didier
	RICHARDSON Oliver
	CHAKER SEKO
	WIMMER Christian
	ISRAEL Quiros
	VENTURA Susana
	IVANOVA Valentina

European Commission:

Marek Jahudka (DG MOVE)
 Agota Ollos (DG MOVE)
 Sylvie Finné (social dialogue)