



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

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

Brussels,
D(2007)

**Steel social dialogue committee
Steering group
Brussels
17 November 2006**

1. Opening and welcome

The meeting is chaired by Peter Scherrer, General Secretary of EMF, who welcomes participants. The draft agenda of the meeting is adopted

2. Round table on the actual concentration process within the steel sector

Exchange of ideas and views on the processes of consolidation and delocalisation of decision centres and on newcomer countries as key actors, such as Brazil, Russia, India and China in the steel market.

According to EUROFER, the consolidation process is the outcome of three factors:

1. Globalisation has strengthened the negotiation power and it is now possible to compare prices immediately
2. Steel production is a cyclical activity
3. Steel output must fit to the market's needs

Consolidations schemes are either vertical or horizontal.

EMF deems necessary to more involve trade unions with restructuring decisions. EMF suggests that the steel social dialogue committee should send recommendations on restructuring issues to the Commission.

EUROFER is a bit sceptical about the output that such recommendations could trigger, since concentrations are set out in an European legal framework. Nevertheless, EMF fears that restructuring plans are decided without bargaining and that social partners have no control on industrial choices.

3. Brainstorming on content and goals to be achieved

EUROFER underlines the need to attract young people in the Steel sector but Attractiveness is not enough and the social dialogue committee is called on thinking about working conditions and health and safety issues that are also prerequisites for attracting skills and competences.

EMF deems that this is important to know what the committee wants and what it does not want. European social partners do not want to start collective bargaining but want to anticipate social consequences related to health and safety issues, at instance.

The European social partners agree on the need to enhance the image of the sector

4. Agendas for the working groups on health and safety, training structural change, joint policy statement

EUROFER suggests developing working methods in order to deliver added-values in the working groups.

EMF wants that their workers are more protected and more equipped in view to face labour market and to anticipate changes, through better qualifications and training programmes. The ESCC training programme was a good example on improving new production methods. This permitted to save Steel activities in Italy. It was an asset for both industry and workers

EMF circulates a paper on the draft agendas of further working groups devoted to Health and Safety and life long learning

Health and Safety

1. Presentation of work done in the IISI working group: Mr Nobuhiko Takamatsu general manager Benchmarking technology and environment (IISI)
2. Presentation and discussion of EMF issue paper
3. Approaches to Health and Safety in some Eu companies
4. Evaluation of potential added value of the Steel social dialogue Committee in the Health and Safety field
5. Next Step

Life long learning

1. Introduction to EMF priorities by Pr Fairbrother, Cardiff School of social sciences
2. Presentation of ESTEP WG5 (people) activities and possible coordination, by Christian Mari (EUROFER) and Enrico Gibellieri
3. Evaluation of potential added value of the Steel social dialogue committee iin the field of Life long learning
4. Future work

EUROFER deems that these draft work programmes are good and it underlines the need to identify exactly the target of these activities. Ergonomics issues should also be tackled, due to the demographic changes and the necessity to maintain aging workers in companies.

Social partners agree on considering that there is no need to schedule a permanent working group devoted to joint policy statements. These issues will be addressed through an "ad hoc" working group, when necessary.

5. Time table for the meeting in 2007

1st semester

21 February 2007: wg

08 May 2007: wg

25 June 2007: pl (*to be changed at the request of EUROFER*)

2nd semester

23 November 2007:wg

19 December 2007: pl