



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

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

SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE CIVIL AVIATION

Meeting of the Ground Handling Working Group 12 October 2007 Concise minutes

The meeting was chaired by Ms Durst (DG EMPL/F.1).

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of 26 June 2007 were adopted. AEA stated that a follow-up on the participation in the meetings was not necessary (see point 6 of the adopted minutes).

3. Discussion of the ETF working document on the clarification of certain provisions of the current ground handling directive

ETF presented their paper "The protection of ground handling workers' rights in a changing open-market" (which had been sent out the day before) with the hope to come to a joint text which would be a contribution for a possible "interpretative communication" of the ground handling directive. The IAHA representative stated that an interpretative document would mean that one would concentrate on the current rules, and not propose changes of the directive. He presented the IAHA working document "EU Ground handling tender process and selection criteria – Need to clarify EU rules" which was not yet an official IAHA position.

The parties discussed how to best define selection criteria beforehand, without putting into question the open market. Whilst ACI thought the definition of criteria should be kept at local level, the workers' representatives thought it would be more helpful to come to a European approach. The airports stated clearly that there was no support within their membership on European selection criteria.

The DG TREN representative announced that the Commission would prepare a report on the impacts of the directive on the parameters outlined by the Parliament (European Parliament resolution of 11 October 2007 on airport capacity and ground handling: towards a more efficient policy). The Commission was looking forward to any possible joint contribution by the social partners for the interpretation or review.

AEA announced that they would come up with a paper on subcontracting soon. The airlines stressed that the Parliament's report was to be seen in view of further liberalisation, which was AEA's objective. This position was irreconcilable with ETF's position to oppose any further liberalisation in the sector.

Despite these differences, the parties agreed that key issues would be identified at secretariats' level, with a possible joint input to the work requested by the Parliament.

4. Joint economic and social analysis of current trends of the ground handling supply chain

ETF presented their objectives with this future exercise, which was to anticipate how the complex sector (11 activities) would develop in the future, also against the background of new technologies (electronic check-in, etc.). Such an analysis would identify possible issues for the social dialogue. AEA could possibly agree with the general objective but announced they had to consult their members. AEA and ACI stated that this work should not overlap with the new study commissioned by DG TREN looking at the impacts of the introduction of the ground handling Directive on employment and working conditions, safety, security, quality and the number and quality of jobs in the Community. AEA could not agree with the breakdown as presented on the agenda. IAHA referred to studies already carried out touching upon the same subject. IAHA asked ETF to make their proposal more explicit. ETF asked the other organisations to send them their existing papers/studies.

5. Joint project on best practices on training and qualifications in the ground handling sector

ETF informed the participants about the project. The main event (conference) was planned for 24-25 June 2008 in Granada.

Participants

<p><u>Employers</u></p> <p>Ms Holve (ACI Europe) Mr Holzrichter (AEA) Mr Husain Khan (AEA) Mr Proveniers (ACI Europe)</p> <p>Observers: Mr Bellon (IAHA) Mr Meurrens (IAHA) Mr Schmitz (IAHA)</p>	<p><u>Workers</u></p> <p>Mr Ascenzi (ETF) Mr Ballestero (ETF) Mr Burke (ETF) Mr Carmona (ETF) Mr Collins (ETF) Mr Gentili (ETF) Mr Hortobagyi (ETF) Mr Lorenzen (ETF) Mr Ramel (ETF) Mr Sekai (ETF)</p>
<p><u>European Commission</u></p> <p>Ms Durst (DG EMPL/F.1) Mr Ktenas (DG TREN/F.4)</p>	