



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

6 February 2012

**MINUTES OF THE 05/12/2011 PLENARY SESSION MEETING OF
THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE**

Those present:

Trade union representatives:

Mr Gerald Kreuzer, PRO-GE, AT
Ms Paula Alves da Silva, FITAG-UGT, ES
Mr Bernard Moreau, CGT-THC, FR
Mr Tamas Keleti, TU-Textile-Clothing, HU
Mr Marcello Guardianelli, FEMCA, IT
Ms Alena Narovcova, OZ-TOK, CZ
Mr Luc Triangle, EU
Ms Krisztina Vujkov Tomor, BDA SDT/C, HU
Mr Michal Menes, FNSZZPL, PL

Employers' representatives:

Ms Stéphanie Le Berre, EU
Mr Francesco Marchi, EU
Mr Janos Tomor, Hungarian Light Industries Association, HU
Ms Yvonne Hendrych,
Ms Eva Maria Strasser, Austrian textile, clothing, shoe, leather association, AT
Mr Hans-Joachim Blömeke, DE

External experts:

Mme Dominique Lund, Comité Européen des fabricants de Sucre

European Commission

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion:

Ms Nataša Kokić
Ms Susan Bird

1. Approval of the draft minutes of the last meeting and the draft agenda

The draft minutes have not yet been finalised. The draft agenda has been adopted (but slightly adapted during the meeting).

2. Adoption work programme 2012

EURATEX presented a proposal for the work programme 2012 which underlines the importance of trade, industrial and social policy.

Social partners highlighted the importance of the study on textile labelling, fashion industry, vocational education training and the importance to work jointly. As regards the fashion study – DG ENTR will be invited at the next meeting.

Euratex and ETUF-TCL agreed on all points of the work programme which had been adopted accordingly.

3. GSP developments

The GSP legislation is currently reviewed. Social partners expressed their disappointment as representatives of DG TRADE could not attend this meeting. It will be checked if DG TRADE could give an update to Social Partners at the next meeting.

4. Code of conduct: discussion on follow-up

ETUF-TCL presented the state of play of play of the Code of conduct which had been discussed within ETUF-TCL, including a possible review. It was suggested inviting an academic speaker for the next meeting to present research related to the Code of conducts which would allow social partners to present their comments.

Before reviewing the Code of conduct that has been signed in 1997, it will be necessary to have a clear picture of the implementation at the national level and to look into developments of the Code of conducts in Europe during the next 5-10 years.

5. CSR + implementation in SD activities Introduction by Susan Bird, Unit C2, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Ms Susan Bird (DG EMPL) presented the new Commission Communication on CSR (the presentation is attached).

Social partners have discussed several items (such as visibility, sectoral stakeholder multiplatform, the product chain, the importance of SMEs).

6. Managing of Change and the role of European Social Partners - Introduction by representative from SDC 'Sugar' - Ms Dominique Lund, Comité Européen des fabricants de Sucre

Ms Dominique Lund made a presentation (attached) followed by a discussion on sugar reform and the social mobilisation due to the job loss in sugar industry.

Ms Lund underlined that all issues have been discussed openly between social partners during their committee. If restructuring takes place, it is important that EC policies remain consistent.

Ms Lund also explained how to successfully write implementation reports and stressed the importance of regular meetings (1-2 a month) with EFFAT.

7. Ongoing joint projects: state of art

ETUF-TCL

a. European Skill Councils

A European Skills Council for Textile, Clothing and Leather will be established on 6 December 2011 – this is a very important point for EU textile and leather federations (ETUF-TCL, COTANCE and Euratex).

The Skills Council will be managed by the three social partners and they will establish a network of experts. The Sector Skills Council web portal will also be launched on 6 December and it will be accessible for all experts allowing an exchange of best practices.

b. Climate change

This project which is coming to an end deals with the impact of the climate change on the textile sector with the leather sector being associated. Around table will be organized on 10 January 2012 where the experts from Euratex, Cotance and ETUF-TCL will meet to discuss a draft report. The final conference will be held on 26 January 2012.

Euratex underlined the importance of involving Social partners in projects related to knowledge, research, and innovation. It will also be important to organize training in companies, especially SMEs. This could be done through joint projects.

ETUF-TCL can only deal with projects as of May 2012. Euratex might take the lead in proposing the projects.

8. AOB

Croatia has signed the Accession Treaty on 9 December 2011 and Croatian members should be included only in plenary sessions. More information on budget procedures however needs to follow.

ETUF-TCL explained the creation of a new federation during May 2012.