



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

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

RAILWAYS SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Plenary meeting of the committee

17 April 2007

Concise minutes (adopted on 5 December 2007)

(1) Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the last year's plenary meeting (19 May 2006) were also approved.

(2) Designation of the president and vice-president of the committee

Mr Nigl (employers) was designated new president of the sectoral dialogue committee. Mr Le Reste (workers) was designated new vice-president. He was thanked for his constructive chairmanship over the last two years. The new president presented the priorities for his chairmanship: agreement on drivers' licence, evaluation of the agreement on working conditions, equality of chances, and the exchange with the railway agency ERA.

(3) Information by DG TREN

Mr Castelletti, the new head of unit of the railway interoperability unit within DG TREN, presented the latest developments, focussing on the third railway package, the follow-up of the report on the implementation of the first railway package, the development/revision of TSI (technical specifications for interoperability), and the RAILTRAINING study.

Both sides of industry shared their views on future priorities. The president drew the following conclusions from the exchange of views with the Commission representative: further dialogue with DG TREN on the (evaluation/implementation of the) first railway package after the summer break, possibly an extra meeting or a bilateral exchange on the RAILTRAINING study before the workshop of 14 June.

(4) Adoption of a joint declaration on the internalisation of external cost

CER, EIM and ETF adopted a joint declaration on "Internalisation of external cost in transport for an acceleration of Community activities" in which they call upon Europe's politicians to act immediately and ask the Commission to publish its report assessing the external costs well before the deadline of June 2008. They call upon the Member States

to use in the meantime all possibilities of the existing Eurovignette Directive and to charge trucks beyond the trans-European network.

(5) Joint recommendations on employability

Since the draft text of these recommendations was not available sufficiently in advance of the meeting, they were not adopted yet despite the fact that in principle the text was already agreed upon. The objective was fixed to adopt it by mid-June.

(6) Follow-up of the two social partner agreements

Mr Hara (SNCF) informed on behalf of CER about the latest state with regard to the implementation of the agreement on the European drivers licence (the proposal was that all provisions of the future EC Directive on a licence - part of the third railway package - would be put into practice by the CER member companies as soon as the directive would be published) and announced that a report on the implementation would be sent to the Commission by the summer 2007. In order to do so, a survey on the practical implementation of the fundamental provisions of the agreement had been sent to the directors of human resources of the CER in March (the results were expected by June). The sectoral dialogue committee's president stated that if an agreement had been concluded, the signatory parties should indeed implement it. Therefore, the CER member companies should demonstrate that they apply the agreement's provisions. ETF stressed that the social partner agreement had more provisions than the requirements of the future EC directive. ETF hoped to see the CER's report already in June.

As far as the agreement on working conditions was concerned, Mr Inglese (FS) presented on behalf of CER a draft project on the follow-up of the agreement, especially its clauses 10 and 11. ETF was open to consider such a project on the follow-up and evaluation of the agreement, provided that it would not postpone its implementation. ETF's political demand was to implement the agreement immediately. CER, however, was not keen to push for an implementation of the clauses they wished to change through the current negotiations. ETF was invited to make comments on the project proposal which was intended to be presented at the 31 August deadline (VP/2007/001 call for proposals).

(7) Work programme

The parties evaluated the work programme 2005-2006 (reports by Mr Greivelding for working group I, and Mr Preumont for working group II). The work programme 2007-2008 was adopted, after CER had confirmed that for the time being, they were not ready to address the certification of training centres in the social dialogue.

(8) Adoption of the revised rules of procedure

The rules of procedures were adapted to the changes with regard to the European social partner organisations (EIM) and the number of delegates (EU-27).

(9) Any other business

It was decided to organise the meeting with the railway agency on 15 June combined with a meeting of the steering committee and working group I.

Next planned meetings: 15 June, 20 September, 11 October and 5 December 2007.

17 April 2007

Participants:

<p>Employers:</p> <p>Ms Abu-Dayeh Ms Atanasova Mr Bakalar Mr Bence Ms Galetova Mr Geene Mr Hara Mr Holemans Mr Humlin Mr Inglese Ms Karr Ms Kubincova Mr Kuczynski Mr Leandri Mr Leeb Mr Ludewig Mr Nigl Mr Mette Mr Preumont Mr Raym Mr Robson Ms Vetzkova</p>	<p>Employees:</p> <p>Mr Africano Mr Arminger Mr Bartl Mr de Chateauvieux Mr Dera Mr Dowbor Mr Dusek Ms Dvorakova Mr Gamez Ramirez Mr Greivelding Mr Kedzierski Ms Komitova Mr Le Reste Mr Leventis Ms Marzola Mr Ottonelli Mr Papp Mr Piteljon Ms Tamas Mr Tanner Ms Trier Mr Verleysen Mr Voitl Mr Wacsin</p>
<p>European Commission:</p> <p>Mr Castelletti (DG EMPL E/2) Ms Durst (DG EMPL F/1) Mr Grillo (DG TREN E/2)</p>	