



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Postal Services
Working group meeting on 03 February 2011, Brussels
Postal sector evolution working group
Minutes

The meeting was chaired by Mr Bailly (POSTEUROP)

1. Communication action plan

The Chair and Ms Meidinger (POSTEUROP) presented an overview of the activities.



PSE presentation
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The Chair reported on the meeting with Mr Lebrun, Head of Unit for New Skills for New Jobs, Adaptation to Change, CSR, EGF at the European Commission. The discussion with him led to the conclusion that the framework of European sectoral skills councils is not adapted to the postal sector, since there are no national observatories. Mr Lebrun invited the social dialogue committee to come back to him with ideas for the postal sector and the work in the field of skills and training.

Mr Baldwin (UNI Europa) pointed out that this issue would be discussed at the next working group meeting on 15 March.

The Chair reported on a further meeting held with Ms Ségol, Regional Secretary of UNI Europa, who would become General Secretary of ETUC in May. A meeting was also held with Ms Demetriades of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), during which the possibility of collaborative projects or research with Eurofound was discussed. Additional meetings will be scheduled with the International Post Corporation (IPC), Businesseurope, POSTEUROP and CEEP. A brochure and a PowerPoint-presentation on the social dialogue committee's work are also planned.

2. Website of the social dialogue committee

The Chair explained that the website (www.postsocialdialog.org) had some problems due to a virus infection. Ms Meidinger and Ms Ausprung (POSTEUROP) are updating it with a variety of materials, including short editorials. The next step would be to promote the website by publishing the invitations and agendas for the social dialogue meetings only on the website and sending out only emails with links to the website, instead of

circulating the invitations as email attachments. There should be two mailing lists, one general and one for the members of the social dialogue committee. The editorials would be written by the chairs of the working groups. The colleagues from Spain are drafting a first joint editorial of about 10 to 15 lines. If there are more information points that don't fit within this space restriction, they can be linked to on a separate webpage.

3. Progress of the project "social partners preparing for change"

The Chair announced that the postal operators from Sweden, Denmark and the UK would not answer the questionnaire, although the trade unions would reply. Several other postal operators are still expected to answer. The first seminar would be held on 24 and 25 March in Madrid, Spain.

Mr Baldwin (UNI Europa) pointed out that criteria needed to be defined to select the participants and to achieve a balance between employers and trade unions. Besides the invited participants, others could come as observers.

Ms Meidinger (POSTEUROP) asked whether it would be possible to increase the number of reimbursements.

Mr Schwarz (European Commission) stated that this would only be possible by shifting resources from another budget category. If this shift exceeds 10% of the budget in the respective categories, a contract amendment needs to be approved and signed by the Commission.

Mr Henry (POSTEUROP) was of the opinion that an increase in the number of reimbursements was not necessary, since additional observers could always attend at their own expense.

Ms Mir (UNI Europa) emphasised the importance of balance between employers and trade unions, so that the number of observers should be known in advance.

Mr Ramalhete (POSTEUROP) suggested clarifying this procedure on the invitations.

The Chair agreed and also pointed out that the limitations imposed by the size of the meeting rooms needed to be kept in mind.

4. Working meeting on the seminars in the context of the project

Mr Winiarczyk (Copenhagen Economics) presented an update on the progress of the work of the consultants.



Presentation BXL 3
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Ms Meidinger (POSTEUROP) presented an update on the progress of the overall project and the organisation of the seminars.



Project_draft_presentation_03022011.pdf

The ensuing discussion focused on the project budget, the deadlines of the various stages of work, the presentations to be given at the seminars, the documentation to be handed out, the logistics and timing of the seminars and the importance of a moderator for timekeeping purposes.

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking the participants and wishing them a good trip home.