



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS DG

Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change
F1 : Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations

Brussels, 15/02/2007

**MINUTES OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND LIVE PERFORMING ARTS SECTOR, 15.01.2007**

Chair : Mr. Bianca Busuioc (FIA)
Commission representative: Ms. Marta Pradanos (DG EMPL/F1)

In attendance:

PEARLE

CAILLE, Francois
DEBAERE, Anita
DEJONGHE, Liesbeth
DONAGHY, Willy
GEORGIEV, Monchil
PULFORD, Richard
SCHMALBAUCH, Ilka

EEA (Euro-MEI / FIA / FIM)

BUSUIOC, Bianca
DAYAN, Thomas
PADURET, Leonard
SCHUMAN, Jimmy
SODER, Raimo
SOFRON, Christian
STUDINGER, Johannes

1. Approval of the agenda

The draft agenda of the meeting is adopted.

2. DG EAC Transversal policy

Valérie PANIS, from DG EAC, Unit C1 (Culture) delivers a presentation on the topic. She explains that her participation in the meeting today is not an isolated initiative, but the first step of a closer cooperation between DG EAC and the Committee. She refers to a number of ongoing initiatives:

- **Reflection on the cultural economy:** a study on the topic was published last year, and the Commission intends to continue the exercise in the framework of a debate with Member States about the requirements to develop an economy of cultural diversity. The four key elements for that are the importance of reliable statistics, the contribution of culture to the economy, the role of SMEs and the training of culture professionals. The debate will also take place in the Council. The Commission's objective is to draft a common agenda in the area of culture, which includes both the Commission and Member States' goals. Social partners are invited to work on the topic both at the European level and the national level to help identifying the contents of this common agenda and make sure that their interests are correctly reflected.
- **Communication on culture:** its adoption is foreseen for spring 2007. The objective of the Communication is to promote the acknowledgement of the cultural dimension in other Community policies, for example trade, competition, internal market, regional policy etc.
- **UNESCO convention on cultural diversity:** next 18th March the convention will come into effect in 39 States plus the European Community. Current efforts are mainly addressed towards Asia and the Middle East.

- An "appel d'offre" will be launched in order to find a contractor to prepare a **study on mobility of workers in the sector**. The objective will be to identify national policies favouring mobility.
- Finally, The Culture Commission of the EP (Mrs. Gibault) is preparing a **report on the juridical status of the artists**, associating DG EAC and DG EMPL to the process.

Social partners express interest in cooperating with the Commission on the UNESCO Convention. In response to some questions, VP explains that the next step on the Cultural Economy exercise will be to draft a common agenda with Member States. DG EAC leads the internal process pushed forward in the framework of a Commission inter-services group.

3. Preparation of the enlargement project in Bulgaria and Romania

Bianka Stege, from DG ELARG, Unit D1 (Institution Building, TAIEX, Twinning) delivers a presentation (attached) on the TAIEX Instrument, explaining that seminars can be organised within 2-3 months, although it is better to organise them quite in advance (minimum 3 months). Bulgaria and Romania are very high in the list of priorities. In response to social partners' questions, BS further clarifies several procedural issues: requests can be submitted any moment of the year, TAIEX responds within 3-4 weeks, and several instruments can not be merged under a single application.

After the presentation, social partners debate on whether using TAIEX or the social dialogue budget line (04.03.03.01) to finance an enlargement project in 2007. The social dialogue budget line has been used in the past, which offers the advantages as the procedure is already known. Johannes Studinger points out, however, that the management of the project was very time-consuming and that a different solution could also be considered. Finally, it is agreed that the project proposal will be presented under the March deadline of the social dialogue budget hearing, and coordinators will prepare the proposal for that date.

4. Follow-up of the 2005-2006 enlargement project

Social partners agree to focus in 2007 on Rumania and Bulgaria. JS mentions that some follow-up will be done directly with national organisations, a number of which could become UNI members. There are also some national organisations which are PEARLE members. UNI and PEARLE secretariats agree to coordinate on this point.

5. AOB

Social partners will send in the coming days the visa letter to Commission services.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS: 5th March (WG), 15th June (PL)