



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Governance
Social dialogue

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
LIVE PERFORMANCE

**MINUTES
WORKING GROUP MEETING
18/09/2015**

Chair: Anita Debaere (Pearle*)

1. Opening of the meeting – Approval of the draft agenda – Approval of the draft minutes of the meeting of 21 April 2015

The draft agenda was approved.

The draft minutes of the meeting of 21 April were approved.

2. Update on employment and social affairs

Stefaan Ceuppens (SC) provided an update on EU initiatives with relevance to the employment and social domain, including the Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market; the Better Regulation Agenda that was adopted by the Commission on 19 May; a report of the European Economic and Social Committee on the cultural and creative industries; and the social partner consultations on work-life balance and on information and consultation of workers – the latter resulting in negotiations by the social partners of the SSDC for central government administrations.

He also updated the committee on the activities of the "thematic groups" that were created in the context of the "new start" for social dialogue.

See the presentation in [annex](#).

3. Presentation of the new AGORA tool for reimbursement of meeting attendance

Rares Bularca explained the features of the new IT-tool for the registration to SSDC meetings and the management of the reimbursement process (see presentation in [annex](#)).

4. Health & safety

a) Feedback on the launch of the OiRA tool and next steps

Dearbhal Murphy and Anita Debaere informed the committee that phase 1 of the ongoing OiRA project was completed and that the next phase of communication and promoting is being started, to culminate in a conference in June 2016.

b) Update on state of play of project on focal dystonia in UK

Dave Webster and Mark Pemberton presented the outline of the "guidance document" that is currently being developed by the UK social partners (see presentation in [annex](#)). The document will hopefully be finalised before the December SSDC meeting.

5. Training & skills

a) Finalisation of the work of the ESCO reference group "Arts, culture, entertainment, sports and active leisure" and next steps

Angeliki Dedopoulou presented the online consultation on media occupations that would be launched in October 2015 – and which has a certain degree of overlap with the arts/culture occupations – while Katarzyna Wywiał-Przada and Chris Van Goethem informed the committee on the state of play of the work of the reference group "Arts, culture,...".

The clean-up process and translations should be finalised by the end of 2016. Some concern were expressed regarding: the quality of the translations, the links with existing national systems, future maintenance, and the degree of take up by targeted stakeholders (education, public employment services,...).

See the presentations in [annex](#).

b) Update on the sector skills council project project – Presentation by one of the national partners

Maarten Bresseleers presented the activities of the Podiumkunsten.be, the Flemish joint committee supporting employment and skills development in the performing arts sector. The labour market statistics that are established are used amongst others to make the case for public funding for the sector. MB also pointed to a number of possible fields of collaboration between national and European social partners.

See the presentation in [annex](#).

c) Presentation of European Alliance for Apprenticeships

Sigve Bjorstad presented the EAfA, which goal is to strengthen the quality, supply and image of apprenticeships in Europe¹. Apprenticeships can be a way to bridge some of the skills gaps that are identified by sector skills councils, and the best practices collected by the SSC could be shared in the context of the EAfA.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1147>

6. Mobility

a) Update on the outcomes of the work of the expert group on taxation

Dick Molenaar informed the committee that the report of the expert group is being finalised and that the issues of performing artists, as well as proposals for possible solutions, are well reflected in it. On the flip-side, the report has become quite technical. It was suggested that a summary of the relevant parts might be useful for lobbying purposes by the social partners vis-à-vis the European institutions, the OECD and national governments.

b) Travelling with musical instruments

Silke Lalvani informed the committee that the USA is revising its rules on ivory trade, which should result in easing the CITES restrictions for musical instruments. A joint Pearle-FIM-EILA letter was sent at the beginning of September to the EU Member States to request for the Musical Instrument Certificate to be put on the agenda of the next CITES meeting in January 2016 in Geneva and the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) from 24 September to 5 October 2016 in Johannesburg (see letter in annex).

Thomas Dayan updated the committee on the ongoing debate regarding the revision of the Regulation on air passengers' rights, which is currently blocked at the level of the Council. As regards travelling with musical instruments, a possible compromise seems to be the inclusion of a "considérant" in the introduction while deleting the specific article – which would probably be a significant step backwards compared to the initial proposal.

Pearle offered to share a "tips and tricks" document on the issue.

c) Visa for performers travelling to USA

Dave Webster explained that, following the meeting with the US Embassy in January 2015, the social partners have provided the US attaché with examples of difficulties encountered, notably for performances at a music conference or showcase for promotional purposes only. A guidance note for use with US officials has been elaborated².

d) Presentation on Visa package (recast visa code and touring visa)

Tobias Muellensiefen explained that the Commission's proposals for a touring Visa and a revised Visa Code are currently being discussed in the European Parliament and the Council (see presentations in annex).

The social partners are very supportive of the Commission proposals. Since several proposed amendments would re-introduce complicating elements, Pearle* called upon the workers to join them in their lobbying efforts. The latter agreed to elaborate a joint statement, if concerns regarding decent working conditions are included.

² <http://www.musiciansunion.org.uk/Files/Guides/Playing-Live/MU-and-BU-Visa-guide>

7. Public funding

a) Presentation of draft joint statement: exchange of views

The draft joint statement was discussed; social partners aim to adopt it at the December plenary meeting.

b) National updates

Slovenian and French delegates reported on the cuts in public funding for the cultural sector in their countries.

8. Follow-up of EU initiatives: TTIP

While it seems that TTIP will have no impact on the cultural sector, it was proposed to remain vigilant and keep it – as well as TiSA – on the agenda of the committee.

9. AOB

Leonard Paduret drew the attention of the committee to the ongoing conflictual situation at the Romanian public radio and television institutions, including: concerns about the independence of the institutions; court cases regarding dismissals of some 700 employees in 2013; appeal to the Parliament to change the applicable legislation in order to guarantee appointments to the managing boards on the basis of objective – not political – criteria.

Annexes

- Point 2 – Presentation ongoing activities in the field of employment and social affairs
- Point 3 – Presentation AGM (Agora)
- Point 4b – Presentation Guidance document focal dystonia
- Point 5a – Presentation ESCO – Online consultation media sector
- Point 5a – Presentation ESCO – Sectoral reference group arts
- Point 5b – Presentation Sociaal Fonds voor de Podiumkunsten
- Point 6b – Joint letter Pearle-FIM-EILA
- Point 6d – Presentation Proposal for a 'touring visa'
- Point 6d – Presentation Revision of the Visa Code

Annex: List of participants 18/09/2015

<u>Employers</u>	<u>Workers</u>
<p>Pearle* Ms Alexandra BOBES (FR) Ms Joëlle BOULLIER-DEBUF (FR) Mr Maarten BRESSELEERS (BE) Ms Anita DEBAERE (EU) Ms Liesbeth DEJONGHE (BE) Mr Momchil GEORGIEV (BG) Mr Samir GURUNG (EU) Mr Italo INGLESE (IT) Mr Sébastien JUSTINE (FR) Mr Geza KOVACS (HU) Ms Silke LALVANI (EU) Ms Cristina LOGLIO (IT) Ms Anna MARKS (PL) Mr Mark PEMBERTON (UK) Mr Zdenek PROKES (CZ) Mr Pierre RENAULD (FR) Ms Ilka SCHMALBAUCH (DE)</p> <p>17 employers representatives (8 women, 9 men) (3 EU, 4 EU-13, 10 EU-15)</p>	<p>EURO-MEI Ms Angeline BARTH (FR) Ms Hanna HARVIMA (EU) Mr Aldis MISEVICS (LV) Mr Pier VERDERIO (IT)</p> <p>FIA Mr Marten GUNNARTZ (SE) Ms Dearbhal MURPHY (EU) Mr Marko SIMCIC (SI) Mr Cristian SOFRON (RO)</p> <p>FIM Mr Thomas DAYAN (EU) Mr Loris GROSSI (IT) Mr Maciej PACUŁA (PL) Mr Leonard-Octavian PADURET (RO) Mr Willibert STEFFENS (DE) Mr David WEBSTER (UK)</p> <p>14 workers representatives (3 women, 11 men) (3 EU, 5 EU-13, 6 EU-15)</p>
<p><u>Other participants</u> Mr Dick MOLENAAR (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, NL) Mr Chris VAN GOETHEM (TEAD, BE)</p>	
<p><u>European Commission</u> Mr Sigve BJORSTAD (EMPL.E.3 – VET, Apprenticeships and Adult Learning) Mr Rares BULARCA (EMPL.A.2) Mr Stefaan CEUPPENS (EMPL.A.2) Mr Tobias MUELLENSIEFEN (HOME.B.2 – Visa Policy)</p>	