



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

## SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIAL CLEANING

9 February 2015  
Working group meeting  
Minutes

Chairman: Tim VAN RIE (European Commission)

### 1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The Chairman welcomed the participants. The draft agenda was adopted.

### 2. Adoption of the draft minutes of the meeting of 29 October 2014

The draft minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

### 3. Adoption of the work programme 2015-16

The social partners adopted the work programme for 2015-16 (annex 1), including the modifications discussed at the previous meeting (adding the question of 'quality' to socially responsible public procurement; the clarification on the code of conduct developed by Dutch employers in close collaboration with trade unions and public authorities).

In line with the work programme, Ms Harvey (UNI Europa) proposed to scheduled member presentations on the effect of the crisis on the cleaning sector; on undeclared work; and on working conditions in the sector. Mr Lill (EFCI) welcomed the proposal. The social partners agreed to liaise at secretariat level to identify speakers for the next meeting.

### 4. Planned update of the 'Best Value Manual' for the cleaning sector – state of play and future needs in view of the envisaged joint project

Mr Van Rie provided an overview of the Commission's budget lines to support social dialogue, including changes introduced in the 2014 calls for proposals (annex 2). The Commission expected to publish the 2015 call for proposals in March, with a deadline in June.

Mr Lill (EFCI) noted that since the establishment of the sectoral social dialogue committee in 1998, the EFCI and UNI Europa had completed several joint projects: the industrial cleaning training kit (2000), a handbook on ergonomics in cleaning operations (2002); selecting best value guide (2004); health and safety in office cleaning sector (2004-05); modernisation of work organisation (2007-8); improving European social dialogue in the cleaning industry: examination and renewal (2009-

10); and most recently the OIRA (Online Interactive Risk Assessment tool (2013-14). Ms Harvey underlined the value of these tools as evidence of successful cooperation between social partners at European level.

Mr Lill and Ms Harvey jointly presented a project proposal to update the Best Value guide I (annex 3). The aim of the proposed update is fourfold: Actualisation of the legal context following the adoption of the new public procurement directive in 2014, taking into account the fundamental changes that have occurred in the cleaning industry over the last 12 years, enlargement of the scope to private clients and making reference to the 2010 Commission guide on Buying Social. The presentation covered the contents of the guide, promotion and dissemination. On project management, the social partner secretariats emphasised the role of national members in the working group (to develop the guide), and of the broader steering committee (providing input on developments in the cleaning sector).

The social partners agreed to jointly develop a project proposal to be presented for funding in 2015.

#### **5. Daytime cleaning: discussion on further joint initiatives**

Following the awareness raising events on daytime cleaning in the Commission premises (2013 and 2014) with the Commission Office for Infrastructure (OIB), the social partners discussed further joint initiatives to promote daytime cleaning at European institutions, especially ways to contact the Commission offices in Luxembourg and the Parliament offices in Brussels in order to repeat this exercise.

#### **6. UNI Europa presentation regarding the transposition of the new EU Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement in several Member States**

Ms Harvey reported on the state of play for the transposition of the new public procurement directive, with regard to process, involvement of trade unions and issues of particular interest. The overview covered the transposition in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the UK (annex 4).

During the discussion this overview was complemented with comments on Italy (where the bill is being discussed in Parliament, with social partners actively promoting their views) and Spain (where transposition is at an early stage).

Ms Harvey informed the committee that UNI Europa envisaged an update over the course of 2015. The employers welcomed the presentation and looked forward to exchanging further information on the progress of transposition.

#### **7. EFCI/UNI Europa lobbying activities on the Commission legislative proposal to establish a European Platform to enhance cooperation in the prevention and deterrence of undeclared work**

- Presentation of UNI Europa/EFCI joint position of 28th November 2014 by Anna Harvey and Andreas Lill

Ms Harvey presented the joint position of November 2014. The text calls for clear procedures to select the sectors to be involved in the European platform, and argues in favour of the involvement of the sectorial social partners of the cleaning industry.

- **Report by the EFCI on the state of play of the legislative procedure**

Mr Lill informed the committee of the state of play in the legislative procedure: The Council had adopted a common approach in October 2014. In the European Parliament, discussions were ongoing in the Employment Committee, with an indicative plenary sitting date scheduled in May 2015.

The social partners agreed to follow up on the process, with particular attention to social partners' involvement in the proposed platform.

## **8. EFCI statistical survey 2014 (data 2012)**

Mr Lill provided an overview of the updated EFCI figures on the industrial cleaning sector, based on a survey among national members (annex 5). Turnover had increased substantially between 1989 and 2012 (from 12.8 Billion € to 64.5 Billion €), with outsourcing of cleaning activities playing a major role. The sector was also shown to become more diverse: while office cleaning remains the largest activity (50%), different activities of facility management represent a growing share.

The number of companies in the sector had decreased between 2008 and 2010, but reached a new peak in 2012 (176.900 companies). Across Europe (and particularly in southern European countries) the large majority of workers are employed by companies with 10 employees or less. The data suggest that employment in the sector had decreased between 2008 and 2010, and remained fairly stable up to 2012 (3.32 million employees). While the large majority of workers in industrial cleaning are in part-time work (approximately 67% in 2012), this share had decreased (down from 70% in 2001). Over the same period, the average number of working hours increased from 19 to 23 hours per week.

The workers' delegation welcomed the presentation, highlighting certain national developments. Mr Lill indicated that changes in the methodology imply that a degree of caution is needed in interpreting large changes in national data. Across countries, however, the data provide a robust picture of the evolution of the sector.

The Commission informed the social partners of analytical work undertaken by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound). Ms Harvey suggested that in-depth presentations on certain countries could be envisaged. The social partners agreed to further discuss developments in the sector, based on analytical reports that are available and through presentations by national members.

## **9. Any other business**

- Ms Harvey informed the committee that further work on the Cleaners' charter was ongoing at the level of UNI Europa.

- The Commission reported on the Liaison Forum of 22 January 2015, including the High Level Conference on a New Start for Social Dialogue on 5 March 2015 (report foreseen at the next meeting).

- The next working group meeting is scheduled on 27 April, the plenary meeting on 9 November 2015.

## **Annexes**

- European Social Dialogue for Industrial Cleaning Sector - Draft work programme 2015-2016
- Supporting European social dialogue and expertise in Industrial Relations in Europe Calls for proposals (European Commission)
- European Sectoral Social Dialogue on Industrial Cleaning Selecting Best Value. Buying Quality Cleaning Services: Planned joint EU-funded project to actualise the 2003 Best Value Guide (ECFI and UNI Europa)
- Transposition of the EU Public Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU – State of Play: UNI Europa Property Services – overview of responses to survey Nov-Dec 2014.
- Main results - EFCI statistical survey 2014 (data 2012)