



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social dialogue, Social rights, Working conditions, Adaptation to Change
Social dialogue, Industrial relations

Meeting: Sectoral social dialogue committee, **Gas, Plenary Meeting**

Time: 17.11.2008 9.30- 17.00

PARTICIPANTS

TRADE UNIONS	EMPLOYERS
1. BAUR Didier (FR)	1. BASIU Simona (Eurogas)
2. BAUER Andreas (AT)	2. GENTGES Peter (DE)
3. GOUDRIAAN Jan Willem (EPSU)	3. IFFLAENDER-WEBER Marina (FR)
4. BRODRICK Ellis (UK)	4. KRUSAA Peter (Denmark)
5. HAKKINEN Jussi (Finland)	5. NAGY Katalin (HU)
6. MACAK Erik (EMCEF)	6. SZTAJER Joanna
7. MUSOI Catalin Valentin (RO)	7. ROLAND Chantal (A)
8. RIBEIRO Luis Antonio (PT)	
9. LAZARIS Vasilis (GR)	
10. Zierold Corinna (Be)	
11. SANDER Werner (DE)	
12. SZEGEDI Andrasne (HU)	
13. SZEKELY Tamas (HU)	

Commission:
BUSUIOC Bianca EMPL F.1

MINUTES

1. Opening

The Chair (Didier Baur) welcomes the participants

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda is adopted without comments.

3. Approval of minutes (April 2008)

Minutes are approved without changes.

4. Internal market for gas

- Update (European Parliament, European Commission and Council

- Reaction to joint letter?

The Secretariats discussed the text on their side, especially the question related to employment. Jan Willem Goudriaan explained that the text supported 2 amendments of EP's text related to employment and role of social partners Eurogas made some changes on which EPSU agreed and they are currently collecting the signatures for this joint letter (illness of EPSU colleague delayed the process) – it's still a timely exercise, as the French Presidency has not yet sent its common position to the EP yet (expected for January 2009). Jan underlined that the Commission supported the comments on the 2 amendments.

5. Strategic Energy Review and Competencies

- Reaction to joint letter?

Didier Baur thought the letter is obsolete, as the Energy Package was adopted. This Package contains 46 instruments, which do not touch the social aspects, neither the training ones. Therefore, discussion within the SD committee on these points is needed, in order to ensure that the employment and training dimensions are taken into account.

Eurogas explained they held a meeting on 13/11 and decided to create more task forces on various issues on ESR 2. Eurogas welcomed the Package but was concerned about the place given to natural gas in this Package. The forecast until 2050 is not positive for natural gas and they hope to release a position before end 2009. ??? 2008 ?

Jan Willem Goudriaan said that the ESR 2 does not say anything about the labour market, skills shortages etc. He thought the issue should be tackled within the SD Committee and that the Commission should address this issue.

Peter Gentges thought that the letter is indeed obsolete, but the minutes should take account of the commitment from both sides to concentrate on employment and social issues in the next discussions. Eurogas agreed these are issues to be addressed in the future. Jan Willem stated that work on skills will be pursued. He thought that the Commission should consult this committee in advance of its legislative initiatives. Didier Baur asked whether a joint letter to be addressed to the Commission and the EP could be sent. There was agreement on both sides on this point.

Jan Willem Goudriaan asked about Eurogas' position on obligatory gas stockage, considering the Commission's opinion that this is too expensive. Eurogas explained they were not in favour of gas stocks, because they would harm the commercial side of their business. Eurogas has a task force working on this and there will probably be a press release on this issue that Eurogas could forward to EPSU.

6. Demographic change and competencies project

- update

Eric Macak asked whether the Commission can confirm their project was accepted. Bianca Busuioc said they should receive a letter soon, confirming their project was accepted. Jan Willem Goudriaan said the project includes a meeting of the Steering Committee on 4/12, and members of the Steering Committee should be soon nominated on both sides.

7. Work programme 2009

Didier Baur asked who will be in charge of each topic in the work programme.

Jan Willem Goudriaan explained that EPSU prepared an overview of the issues and has some ideas on how EPSU wants to tackle them. He made a PowerPoint presentation of the issues included in the 2009-2010 work programme. (to send it by email)

- ESR 2

- Demographic change project

- Internal Market for gas – follow-up regulation

- Energy Community

- Restructuring

- Equality-diversity

- CSR

Martina Ifflaender-Weber said that Eurogas distinguishes between restructuring and reorganisation (the latter being due to economic decisions). She considered that the social partners should have a proactive approach to skills monitoring and more general to the issue of migration of labour.

Didier said that restructuring goes beyond the simple economic management of an enterprise. Both sides should discuss and agree on what they understand by restructuring and how to

pursue work on this subject. Eric Macak asked Eurogas to send EPSU their definition of restructuring.

Peter Gentges delivered a presentation on H&S (to send it by email).

(1) EU level – safety at work – there are many legislative instruments, but the organisation patterns vary in the MS. A survey could be undertaken by this Committee, to see the differences in the gas sector.

(2) – Safety at work statistics in MS – we should develop comparability between statistics

(3) – Safety culture – set an experts group.

Jan Willem Goudriaan said that EPSU needs to reflect on both proposals (H&S and restructuring). It is agreed that EPSU will fill in the content on CSR and Equality issues, while Eurogas will fill in elements on restructuring and H&S. This will be finalised in the future meeting in March 2009.

The work programme 2009 was adopted.

8. President of the SSDC – 2009

Didier Baur ended his mandate and Peter Gentges from Eurogas will chair the committee in 2009.

9. AOB

Jan Willem Goudriaan underlined that both sides would like to keep the provisory dates for 2009, even if the meetings will have to be externalised.