



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

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

SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE CIVIL AVIATION

Meeting of the Steering Group 2 April 2007

Minutes (adopted on 17 April 2008)

Chairperson: Ms Desseaux (employers)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, adding the clarification of the status of the just culture working group under point 4.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the last plenary meeting

Some comments were made on the draft minutes of the last plenary meeting (14 June 2006). The minutes would be adopted at the next plenary meeting.

3. Information on the DG TREN work programme

Not represented today, DG TREN had prepared a non official paper in advance of the meeting, referring to the main future initiatives of the DG. The social partners agreed to have a proper exchange with DG TREN another time. They noted that the paper did not include important initiatives such as the study on slot allocation, the activity related to denied boarding, the emission trading scheme and the EU/US political agreement.

4. Evaluation of the work programme 2005-2006

Representatives of the different working groups updated the meeting about the implementation of the work programme and about issues where results had not been progressed as foreseen. These findings fed into the discussion of the future work programme.

5. Discussion of the next work programme on the basis of a draft

Air traffic management (ATM):

Apart the items on the engineers' competence scheme and functional airspace blocks, ETF stressed that a lot of work was going on with SESAR which would have social consequences. It was therefore not possible today to take a final decision on this part of

the work programme. CANSO stressed that they had not agreed yet to deal with SESAR at the social dialogue level. ECA proposed to include a follow-up activity to the follow-up conference. It was agreed to decide about the exact wording before adoption.

Just culture:

Following the proposal at the last plenary meeting, the former Just culture ATM subgroup had been widened to the other social partners of the civil aviation sector and was now a general working group. The terms of reference would be adapted at a meeting on 5 June (preparatory meeting of the joint conference). The Commission representative confirmed that the working group would meet again as social dialogue working group if there was a work programme going beyond the organisation of the conference (work co-financed by an EC grant). Until now, the working group had met once (4 October 2006). The parties agreed to add "review the conference outcome to establish any future work programme" to the Just culture part of the work programme.

Ground handling:

ETF reported that the employers' side had supported the project proposal on training and qualifications in the ground handling sector introduced in March under the social dialogue budget heading. AEA took note of the three proposed points for the work programme (stemming from the adopted minutes of the working group meeting of 11 October 2006) but doubted that there was an automatic link between safety and social dialogue. The work programme for ground handling was agreed.

Air crew:

The current work programme of the working group was updated, subdividing the work on the social partner agreement review into two steps, adding possible follow-up steps to the other items. On workplace health promotion, ERA reiterated that it would not be acceptable to focus only on stress, as discussed at the last air crew working group meeting. Both sides of industry confirmed that the point "Mobile staff in consolidation processes" had until now been a "sleeping case". However, the new EU/US agreement would make cross-border mergers within the EU even more probable and it would be important to look at best practices on how to make these mergers a success. It was however clear that the working group should set its priorities. It was not possible to address all five items at once.

Future of the industry:

The parties noticed that the drafting group which met in October to reformulate the text had not produced anything. They also said that the paper was not relevant anymore because outdated on a number of issues. It was unanimously agreed to not keeping this item on the new work programme.

Conclusion:

The Commission representative would update the draft which would serve as a basis for adoption of the work programme at the plenary meeting.

6. Preparation of the plenary meeting

The Commission representative reminded the objective of a plenary meeting which was to bring together delegates of both sides of industry from possibly each EU Member State. She referred to the last plenary meetings during which few national delegates from the employers' side had participated and asked the social partner organisations to confirm the added value of a plenary meeting to them. She also announced that the planned date (7 June) was unfortunate because it coincided with the Transport Council meeting and would make it impossible to DG TREN to be represented at an appropriate level.

The parties considered DG TREN's presence at director level as very important and decided therefore to hold the plenary at another date (12 July). The agenda of the plenary meeting would include the designation of the new chairperson and vice-chairperson, the presentation of the cabin crew study, a report from the just culture conference, the adoption of the work programme 2007-2008, an item on IAHA's participation in the sectoral dialogue committee and an exchange with Mr Calleja Crespo (DG TREN) on specific points of the DG TREN work programme.

7. IAHA's participation in the sectoral dialogue committee

It was agreed to invite IAHA to the plenary meeting since they had announced to submit their official application to become full member of the committee.

8. Representativeness study

The Commission representative informed the social partners that in 2008 the Commission would, as part of its regular work¹, update the representativeness study for the civil aviation sector (dating from 2000).

List of participants

Employers: <u>ACI Europe:</u> Vanessa Holve <u>AEA:</u> Athar Husain Khan <u>CANSO:</u> Marie Desseaux Vanessa Rullier <u>ERA:</u> Andrew Clarke <u>IACA:</u> apologies received	Workers: <u>ECA:</u> Deren Derya Philip von Schöppenthau <u>ETF:</u> François Ballestero
European Commission: Ellen Durst (DG EMPL/F.1)	

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/represent_en.htm