



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

ATM working group meeting 23 November 2006 Minutes (adopted on 1 March 2007)

Chair: Morning session: Ms Desseaux (CANSO), afternoon session: Mr Magee (ETF)

1. Adoption of the agenda and adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

The agenda and the minutes of the last meeting (5 July 2006) were adopted.

2. Information by DG TREN

Mr Tytgat (DG TREN) presented information about SESAR and the new high level group on the future of aviation regulation in Europe¹. He stressed the importance of social dialogue to contribute to the modernisation of the Single European Sky (SES). He announced the Commission's communication on the mid-term review of FABs (early 2007) and the coming adoption by the Commission on the charging regime after the Singly Sky Committee's favourable opinion.

As far as SESAR was concerned, ETF said it was difficult to see how social dialogue could be included in the governance structure. However, development phase D2 seemed to be more promising with regard to the possibility to contribute and impact. Mr Tytgat confirmed that there was a lot of information to digest and proposed to dedicate a part of the next meeting on questions related to governance and human aspects of SESAR.

The workers' side was not satisfied with the fact that no staff representative had been nominated for the high level group. Both sides of industry considered the five years' period for the establishment of FABs as a very short period compared to the huge changes which would occur. One should give a real chance to the bottom-up approach.

Mr Tytgat referred to the Commission's mandate to assess progress by 2008. He committed to transfer ETF's concerns on the composition of the high level group to the chair.

As far as the next meeting was concerned, he wished the social partners to come with own proposals and not only to react.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air_portal/2006_09_20_conference_en.htm

3. Functional Airspace Block (FAB) development

ETF informed the group about its participation in the SEE FABA stakeholder forum in Belgrade two months ago. ETF had two main demands: that a social forum be established for this project, and that social partners be part of the management committee. The SEE FABA Management Committee decided to grant access to all documents, to establish a social forum and to involve workers' organisations in the work package on social issues including the co-chair of this work package, but refused to grant observer status. This decision should guarantee an adequate level of involvement of workers' organisation, consistent with the bottom-up approach. The Commission underlined that the management committee was under the responsibility of the member states.

The participants were updated on CEATS and BUL-ROM.

4. Follow-up of the Palermo Conference

The report:

The social partners' report had been largely disseminated electronically². ETF suggested organising a press conference to further draw the attention on this important work. According to Mr De Vos (DG TREN), this could be organised around the publication date of the Commission's communication on the mid-term review. (The originally proposed date was meanwhile changed to 24 January 2007.)

Consultation arrangements:

CANSO would need more time for internal consultation to react to ETF's draft position on the subject. This would be done by January.

Palermo II Conference:

CANSO informed the meeting about the new project co-financed by the European Community. Some practical information was exchanged.

5. Just culture

Mr Clarkson (workers) and Mr Josefsson (employers), co-chairs of the enlarged working group, informed the meeting about progress. With the help of the European Community, CANSO would carry out another project which would prepare a workshop on just culture which would probably take place on 19-20 June 2007.

7. Common training and competence scheme for engineers

Mr Findlay (IFATSEA) reported back from the group which had met on 31 October and which had agreed that licensing would need a lot time and need legislation. A next meeting would take place on 4 December.

Mr De Vos referred to the impact assessment which had been carried out on the idea of an extension of licensing to other professions. One of the conclusions had been to foresee a competence scheme supervised by the service provider, but also by the NSA. To do so, one could envisage amending the common requirements. Mr Kavanagh (IAA) confirmed

² Also available in the social dialogue texts database:
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/dsw/dspMain.do?lang=en

that the introduction of a competence scheme would bring a substantial amelioration of the situation. Mr De Vos announced he would involve the social partners in the preparation of the piece of legislation in question. A first draft would then be sent to the member states in January. He would then report back to the social partners.

8. Gender issues

CANSO informed the participants that the questionnaire had been sent out to all CANSO HR departments across Europe in August. Until now, there were four replies only. CANSO would send a reminder before Christmas and report back to the next meeting.

9. Any other business

Ms Durst (DG EMPL) recalled the two objectives of the sectoral dialogue committees:

- (a) be consulted on developments at Community level having social implications, and
- (b) develop and promote the social dialogue at sectoral level³

and called upon the parties to better use their meetings and the presence of 30 delegates for the second aspect. The social partners referred to the special context of the Single European Sky and to the fact that a lot of work took place outside of the meetings. The Commission representatives nevertheless had the impression that one could better "exploit" the meeting opportunities, for instance to hear from others' experiences and exchange good practises.

The next meetings of the ATM working group are planned for 1 March and 4 July 2007.

³ See Article 2 of Commission Decision of 20 May 1998 – 98/500/EC
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/sectoral_en.htm

List of participants

<p><u>Employers:</u></p> <p>Mr Boivin (DSNA) Mr Calderin (AENA) Mr Cerny (ANS CZ) Ms Desseaux (CANSO) Mr Gregory (NATS) Mr Harperink (LVNL) Mr James (NATS) Mr Josefsson (LFV) Mr Kavanagh (IAA) Mr Maguire (IAA) Ms Plamadeala (ROMATSA) Ms Rullier (CANSO) Mr Salazar (ENAV)</p>	<p><u>Workers:</u></p> <p>Mr Burgues (ATCEUC) Mr Clarkson (Prospect) Mr Dick (ATCEUC) Mr Dinu (ATCOR) Mr Etienne (ETF/CFDT) Mr Findlay (IFATSA) Mr Graham (Prospect) Mr Gustavsson (ST) Mr Joffrin (ETF) Mr King (ETF) Mr Kulev (UTWS Bulgaria) Mr Liorzou (UNSA) Mr Magee (ETF) Mr Markov (UTWS Bulgaria) Ms McFadden (ECA) Mr Neering (IFATCA) Ms Ni Riada (Impact) Mr Nicolson (ETF) Mr Rubini (FIT-CISL) Mr Sereny (ATCOR) Kim Wanner (DATCA)</p>
<p><u>European Commission:</u></p> <p>Mr De Vos (DG TREN/F.2) Ms Durst (DG EMPL/F.1) Mr Tytgat (DG TREN/F.2)</p>	