



European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Local and Regional Governments

Working group meeting

5 May 2017

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome and announcements

2. Minutes of the plenary meeting 25 January 2017

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Closing of Joint EPSU-CEMR project (2014-2016): videos “testimonials” and animation on digitalisation

The final video¹ produced in the framework of the joint project was showed during the meeting. It was agreed that EPSU, CEMR and their respective members' organisations will circulate the video to their affiliates and promote on social networks.

4. CEMR-EPSU activities on gender equality

- Debate between participants based on a draft paper presented by CEMR and EPSU members' organisations

During the debate, CEMR and EPSU members' representatives pointed out several relevant issues: the need to mention the impact of structural funds reforms on gender equality and work-life balance; and the importance of gender equality for public services provision, going beyond addressing gender segregation. Also raised was the question regarding the constraints that affect local finances, not always due only to the implementation of austerity policies. Participants made clear that is necessary to link gender equality to measures on work-life balance and to public procurement rules that take into account gender balanced and social criteria. Further, gender budgeting was raised as an issue that need to be addressed in the Guidelines. The glossary attached to the Guidelines (Annex 1) and the summary of existing national legislation (Annex 5) should be updated.

¹ “Digitalisation in the public sector”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYEoQQo86wY>.

- **ACTION**: The Committee agreed to give a mandate to the Steering Group to prepare an updated draft version of the guidelines by mid-September, and then circulate this version to the SSDC by the first October, in order to collect possible comments and amendments from members during the following month. Finally, the consolidated version will be presented for adoption at the Plenary Meeting on 10 November.

5. European pillar of social rights

- Update on the Social Pillar by the European Commission, Secretariat-General Stefano Martinelli (DG EMPL) presented the main features of the so-called “social package” issued by the European Commission on 26 April. It is composed by several documents concerning the creation of a European Pillar of Social Rights: a Commission communication on the European Pillar of social rights; a Commission recommendation establishing the European Pillar of social rights; a Proposal for an interinstitutional proclamation endorsing the European Pillar of Social Rights; a Staff working document: explanatory fiches on each principle (20 principles being proposed); a Staff working document: summary report on the public consultation.

The package also includes a Social Scoreboard for the European Pillar, a Commission guidance on how to interpret the Working Time Directive, and two public consultations: on the revision of the Written Statement Directive and on possible action addressing the challenges of access to social protection for atypical and self-employed workers people.

6. Evaluation of Health and Safety Framework

The European Commission, DG EMPL, Unit E3, presented the Communication on Health and safety [COM(2017) 12 final] released on 10 January 2017². The goal of the Communication is to better protect workers against work-related cancer; to help businesses, in particular SME's and micro-enterprises, in their efforts to comply with the existing legislative framework; and to put a bigger focus on results and less on paperwork.

7. Next CEMR-EPSU joint project

- Debate and exchange of views on CEMR's proposal

The next joint project proposal, that will be submitted by CEMR, focuses on the involvement of social partners in the European Semester and on support to their capacity building. The main goal of this project is to increase CEMR and EPSU members' awareness about the functioning of the European Semester mechanism and to strengthen capacity-building of

² <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2709>.

social partners at national level, in particular in those countries where social dialogue practices are less common and the role of social partners in the national and local policy making need to be more structured and embedded in the national governance procedures. Participants stated the importance of focussing on capacity building of social partners in the next joint project proposal; also, it was highlighted the need to have exchange of the different practices in Member States.

- **ACTION**: CEMR Secretariat will draft a project proposal and circulate it together with a model of letter of commitment. CEMR and EPSU members will have to send this letter back to CEMR Secretariat duly filled in by 19 May, in case they want to be actively associated to the project.

8. **A.O.B.**

- Next meetings

The next meeting of the social dialogue committee in 2017 will be held on the following dates Thursday 10 November (plenary meeting).

- CEMR-EPSU joint work programme 2018-2019

- **ACTION**: It was agreed that the Steering group will draft a proposal for the CEMR-EPSU joint work programme 2018-2019, that will be discussed at the Plenary meeting on 10 November.

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