



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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

Brussels, 3 July 2012

**SECTORAL DIALOGUE  
COMMITTEE  
ROAD TRANSPORT**

**Concise minutes of the Working Group meeting  
7 February 2012**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Sugic (workers, chairman of the committee). The agenda was adopted.

**Further exchange of views between social partners on the White Paper<sup>1</sup> and on a list of topics**

Following-up on the first exchange held at the plenary meeting in November, workers and employers presented their list of topics.

ETF: reasonable price for transport; co-liability of freight forwarders; cabotage and posting of workers; health and safety (for instance night work in urban areas); work-life-balance.

IRU: correct application of existing legislation; posting of workers; no tolerance with regard to illegal employment practices; appropriate transport price (provided that not in contradiction to competition rules); level playing field in taxation amongst all modes of transport; serious research development and investment in clean vehicles to remove externalities at source instead of a "flawed and totally impractical forced modal shift strategy".

On the basis of their points, IRU suggested drafting a joint statement which could launch a more detailed work in a working group. ETF agreed that it was a good way to start working on a text and to take IRU's proposal as a basis, combining it with ETF's points. Some workers' delegates added some aspects to the debate: simplification of legislation to render controls easier (fewer exceptions); moral and immoral ways of employment practices; better working conditions to attract workforce (reduce working time, increase basic salary). PL workers' delegates presented their concrete working conditions for illustration. Both sides agreed that illegal practices were unacceptable and should be fought against. The workers highlighted that some "good" employers go bankrupt because they don't want to accept certain practices. The employers' side acknowledged that some unwanted conditions affecting the sector were the result of a fiercely competitive market and severe and undue price pressures from some transport buyers.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2011\\_white\\_paper\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2011_white_paper_en.htm)

The social partners agreed that the two secretariats would sit together before the next meeting (2 May) in order to merge the two lists of topics.

### **Follow-up of the joint statement on the review of the tachograph regulation**

The Commission's proposal to amend Council Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 with a view to improve the tachograph system<sup>2</sup> was now in the ordinary legislative procedure<sup>3</sup>. IRU wished to find out today if there was scope for joint lobbying on the basis of their previously agreed joint statement on the review of the digital tachograph. ETF expressed their disappointment with the Council's agreement: which they considered as a step back compared to the Commission's proposal (namely in the fields of the list of exempted vehicles, the link with GNSS signal and remote download). IRU proposed that on this issue, ETF start drafting a text and taking IRU's points on board (available on paper). ETF could already state that they agreed with IRU's point (b) on the adaptation to technical progress. ETF announced that they had no clear position on the integration of the driver licence and the digital card. ETF wished to come to a statement on three or four major issues or it would not be worth adopting a joint statement. IRU agreed to give a further try to finding agreement, but in view of the great efforts that had already been spent trying to find common accord on these points, if both sides could still not find a nucleus of points together (outside the meeting), each side would regrettably have to go on with separate lobbying and there would be no reason to bring the issue of joint lobbying back onto the social dialogue agenda.

### **Update on the status of the STARTS project**

The participants were informed on the status of the project "Skills, training and the road transport sector (STARTS)" (VS/2010/0715). The first workshop took place last June. Meanwhile the project had successfully been extended by six months. The final workshop was planned for 3-4 April 2012. IRU said that it was still possible to complete the questionnaire online on the project website<sup>4</sup>.

### **Driver shortages, image and recruitment in road transport sector**

The social partners discussed this item of their work programme for the first time. ETF suggested putting together the elements mentioned during the exchange on the White Paper (see above). IRU considered that one should have a joint statement to describe the causes of the recruit deficit. The employers' side already presented their first ideas which related both to possible government and social partner action. Both sides of industry agreed that certain structures of the profession might have to be rethought. IRU was in favour of meeting in a small working group to prepare future joint work.

### **Consideration of items for the next meeting**

The social partners considered the issues for the agenda of the next meeting (see draft agenda of 2 May meeting).

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<sup>2</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0451:FIN:EN:PDF>

<sup>3</sup> [http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/decision-making/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/decision-making/index_en.htm)

<sup>4</sup> [http://starts.iru.org/en\\_home](http://starts.iru.org/en_home)

*Participants 7.2.2012*

**Employers (14 ♂, 3 ♀)**

Ms Antignac (FR)  
Mr Causse (FR)  
Mr Csanyi (HU)  
Ms Egervall (SE)  
Mr Gentze (DE)  
Ms Ilie (RO)  
Mr Kramer (NL)  
Mr Larsen (BE)  
Mr Mannaerts (BE)  
Mr Moisio (FI)  
Mr L. Nielsen (DK)  
Mr Ribeiro de Campos (PT)  
Mr Saile (DE)  
Mr Usonis (LT)  
Mr v't Veen (NL)  
Mr Viccars (IRU)  
Mr Zoheeb (BE)

**Workers (18 ♂, 6 ♀)**

Ms Coulet (FR)  
Mr De Jong (NL)  
Mr Diamante (IT)  
Ms Gällhagen (SE)  
Mr Garcia Revuelta (ES)  
Mr Goument (FR)  
Ms König (SE)  
Mr Johnson (UK)  
Ms Malinowska (ITF)  
Mr Miladinov (BG)  
Mr Motowidelko (PL)  
Mr Parrillo (BE)  
Mr Peeters (BE)  
Mr Sauerstam (SE)  
Mr Schönauer (AT)  
Mr Sugic (FR)  
Mr Teunissen (NL)  
Ms Tilling (ETF)  
Mr Todorovic (ETF)  
Mr van Ravesteijn (NL)  
Ms Volkers (DE)  
Mr Was (PL)  
Mr Wolff (LU)  
Mr Wozniak (BE)

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Ms Durst (DG EMPL)