



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

Brussels, 1 February 2013

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT**

Minutes Meeting of 12 November 2012

1. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr Lehninger (chair of the committee, workers). The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the previous meeting (18 September 2012) were approved.

2. European agreement concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time in inland waterway transport: state of play

Ms Durst (Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, DG EMPL) informed the social partners that the launch of a "Study on the costs and benefits of the implementation of the European Agreement on working time in inland waterway transport – A comparison with the status quo" was under preparation. The terms of reference of the study would be sent to the social partners once a contract was signed.

3. Job profiles

Given the work rhythm of the Commission's common expert group on professional qualifications and training standards, ETF considered it important to keep each other informed on progress. Since the Rhine Commission, the Danube Commission and UNECE¹ were also working on the issue of training, certification and common minimum standards, any duplication of work should be avoided.

EBU shared the view that the group's objective to come up with draft proposals for the Commission in April 2013 was very ambitious. ESO added that another difficulty was the fact that the entire work was done in English and that no entrepreneurs were part of the expert group. EBU wondered whether the social partners could provide a joint input to the expert group's work.

¹ <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc3/sc3.html>

Both sides of industry had the impression that the quality of training in Europe was decreasing and the requirements increasing. There was also a trend to low-cost training for instance in the Philippines. The social partners decided to dedicate their next meeting (1 February 2013) to the issue "training and certification" with a view to come to a joint position, at least on a number of criteria. An agreement on the number of sailing days would also be welcome.

4. Harmonisation of manning requirements

After the last meeting, the Commission had sent again the Impact Assessment and Evaluation Study regarding the "Legislative harmonisation of manning requirements in Inland Waterway Transport" (finalised in February 2009). The social partners agreed to look at these documents together and to continue discussions on the issue next year.

5. Social security legislation

The social partners referred to the next CASS² meeting on 30 November. The extension of the Article 16 Agreement to other countries would be a good thing. According to the Rhine Commission, there were third country nationals sailing on the Rhine without being covered by any social security regime. This loophole needed to be urgently addressed.

6. Promotion of IWT jobs

According to the social partners, the campaign "Be your own captain"³ met with good response by youngsters. All industry actors had taken up the campaign. However there was a risk that the title of the campaign creates false expectations.

7. Improvements of on-board working and living conditions and access to port side facilities

Both sides of industry recognised that there were problems, for instance with automatic (remote) door openers at locks.

8. Unfair competition in IWT

This was a wide area and the participants mentioned various problems such as the non-respect of collective labour agreements, the use of temporary agency workers (from third countries, which is not allowed in every country) or crewing agencies, insufficient control by labour inspectorates and immigration offices, the absence of law of the flag, huge fiscal differences, the abuse of "cabotage" operations which were not cabotage operations according to the EU Regulation⁴.

9. Any other business

The social partners reported on the follow-up to the discussion on the Danube Strategy. ETF would participate in the first Annual Forum in Regensburg (see minutes of last meeting).

² <http://www.ccr-zkr.org/12050300-en.html>

³ <http://www.becaptain.eu/>

⁴ http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/internal_market/single_market_services/124063_en.htm

Participants 12.11.2012

Employers (3 ♂, 1 ♀)

EBU

Mr Grulois (BE)

Mr Koning (NL)

Mr Leandri (FR)

ESO

Ms Beckschäfer (DE)

Workers (10 ♂, 3 ♀)

ETF

Mr Biesold (DE)

Mr Bleser (LU)

Mr Bramley (ETF)

Ms Chaffart (ETF)

Mr Jung (LU)

Mr Kerkhof (BE)

Mr Kerkhofs (BE)

Mr Kiepe (DE)

Mr Lalak (CZ)

Mr Lehninger (AT)

Ms Latron (FR)

Mr Pauptit (NL)

Ms Sokolova (BG)

European Commission

Ms Durst (DG EMPL)

Mr Dieter (DG MOVE)

Ms Winiarska (DG EMPL)

Others

Ms Tournaye (CCNR) – Observer