



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

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

RAILWAYS SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Meeting of the steering committee

15 June 2007

Concise minutes (adopted on 5 December 2007)

Preliminary remark

The meeting was preceded by an exchange between the social partners and the European Railway Agency. This meeting, chaired by Mr Verslype, Director Executive of the European Railway Agency (ERA), allowed the Agency representatives to better know the role and functioning of the European social dialogue and the social partners to know the Agency's work programme, in particular with regard to qualifications, safety, linguistic questions, certification and working conditions. The Agency's slide presentation was sent to the participants.

As far as the future exchange between the sectoral dialogue committee and the Agency was confirmed, Mr Verslype concluded that:

- The Agency was open to dialogue with social partners;
- Each institution/entity had its specific role and the dialogue with social partners did not replace the role of the sectoral dialogue committee;
- The external experts nominated by the stakeholders and social partners played an important role in the regular exchange;
- Each proposal coming from the sectoral dialogue committee was more than welcome.

Both sides of industry thanked the Agency for the fruitful exchange and for hosting the meeting. They looked forward to the forthcoming cooperation.

(1) Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr Nigl (employers). The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the last steering committee meeting (12 March 2007) were also approved.

(2) Joint recommendations on employability

The text which had been presented at the plenary meeting was adopted. The secretariats would prepare the final version for signature. The date of adoption would be 15 June 2007. The chairman announced he would forward the text to the directors of human

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/sectorial24_en.htm

resources of the CER. The same was proposed for the "Joint recommendations for a better representation and integration of women in the railway sector" which had been adopted in Rome on 12 June 2007¹.

(3) Agreement on working conditions

Mr Inglese (FS) presented on behalf of CER a new outline of the project on the follow-up of the agreement (clauses 10 and 11), with which ETF broadly agreed. ETF underlined the importance of a qualitative – not only quantitative – assessment. The objective was to get to know what would happen on the ground. The parties agreed on the following approach which still needed to be fine-tuned: questionnaire and visits to five or six countries/companies (possibly more if visits were done in smaller groups). The employers' side would make a concrete proposal in July to which the workers would be invited to react.

(4) Agreement on the European drivers licence

Mr Hara (SNCF) updated the participants on the latest state with regard to the implementation of the agreement on the European drivers licence. The survey amongst CER members had shown that the provisions regarding health and safety conditions (annex I of the agreement) and professional aptitude requirements specific to train drivers (annex II) were broadly implemented within CER. ETF reiterated that the body of the agreement contained further commitments which had not been covered by the CER survey. As far as the classification of the social dialogue text was concerned, the Commission representative referred again to the criteria of the typology of European social dialogue results². CER confirmed that they would, together with ETF, prepare a report to the Commission on the implementation of the agreement. In CER's view, the future directive would render the agreement "obsolete". Therefore, the classification of the social partner text should be reconsidered. The Commission representative remarked that obviously the signatory parties were not unanimous (any more) about the nature of their joint text and the obligations deriving from it.

(5) Information about the RAILTRAINING workshop

The parties exchanged their impressions regarding the workshop of 14 June which had mainly been a brainstorming session for the benefit of the consultant. In their view, it was problematic that the study limited its work to training centres. The actual aim of the exercise was not clear: was it to create a market for training centre facilities?

(6) Any other business

Next planned meetings: 20 September (working group II), 11 October (working group I) and 5 December 2007.

¹ Social dialogue texts are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/dsw/actListSectors.do

² http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/typology_en.htm

15 June 2007

Participants:

<p style="text-align: center;">Employers:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ms Abu-Dayeh Mr Hara Mr Inglese Ms Karr Mr Nigl Mr Preumont</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Employees:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr Greivelding Mr Le Reste Mr Piteljon Ms Trier Mr Wacsin</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">European Commission:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ms Durst (DG EMPL F/1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">European Railway Agency:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr Verslype (Executive Director) Mr Guido Mr Holvad Mr Lindström Mr Mette Ms Patacchini Mr Pichant</p>