

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT

WORKING GROUP 23 JANUARY 2019

MINUTES

Chair: Mr George Koltsidopoulos

1. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The SSDC approved the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SSDC MEETING OF 09.10.2018

The SSDC approved the minutes of the above meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING – WORK PROGRAMME

a. Shipboard living & working conditions

i. Health and Safety: Working group on seafarers' Health and Safety

ETF informed that there was great interest in unions about this work. ETF expressed concern that there is too strong focus on individual life-styles and well-being and invited to look at causes and aim advancing the existing minimum standards (MLC). ETF suggested reviewing and discussing research in this area¹.

ECSA recalled that the initial focus on promotion of healthy lifestyles was agreed in the first meeting of the working group (9 October) and recorded in the note setting out common understanding. ECSA considered important to first identify problems, followed by achieving effective solutions. ECSA believed the working group has a potential to achieve positive outcomes.

The next meeting of the working group will take place on 24 January.

ii. Communication facilities for seafarers: report on ECSA/ICS survey and discussion on possible ways to improve provision and appropriate use

ECSA informed about the survey being conducted jointly with ICS and shared interim data². ECSA will undertake further analysis when survey is closed. ECSA noted the key concern being a need for companies to adopt policies in this respect. ECSA proposed to ETF to examine this jointly, in partnership with ICS.

ETF appreciated interim data, although were expecting a wider response rate. ETF looked forward to receiving a full report and would involve ITF.

¹ The Seafarers International Research Centre http://www.sirc.cf.ac.uk/Health_and_Safety.aspx

² Based on 270 responses covering full range of ships (68% of which EU-flag ships): 80% provide internet (87% in EU-flag ships); 58% offer internet for free; 42% charge for use (range not known). 27% do not have written policies.

Both sides agreed to maintain the item on the agenda and further discuss when the final report will be available.

Staffan Ekwall, DG MOVE expressed interest for the data to feed into the study on social dimension, currently undertaken by DG MOVE.

b. Quality shipping

i. Map Mar - Joint social partners project proposal on data collection on maritime professionals –update

Both ETF and ECSA were pleased on the project award and look forward to the results it will deliver.

ii. Women in shipping – follow-up of the joint declaration of intention

The social partners signed a joint declaration that was announced in the conference on “How to attract women to the transport sector” on 27 November 2018.

The social partners acknowledged receipt of the letter of Commissioner Bulc. ECSA considered that the letter contained some unduly negative elements. ETF read the letter positively and expressed willingness to take the issue further and discuss practical actions with ECSA.

Staffan Ekwall, DG MOVE informed about the ongoing work at EU level: DG JUST work to review gender equality policy, the Women in Transport – EU Platform for change, toolkit and studies. He also informed of the plans of DG MOVE to establish an expert group on social dimension covering all transport modes. He emphasized that participation of women needs to be seen from a wider angle of attractiveness of the sector; and the work on the ground, at company level, is crucial. Mr Ekwall encouraged the social partners to be in forefront and draw inspiration from best practice in other sectors.

Both sides agreed to mandate the Secretariats to start work and propose actions for the next SSDC meeting (in May).

iii. 2018 Amendments to ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC 2006), as approved by the ILO 170th Conference, Geneva, 5 June 2018 – follow up to letter to Commissioner Thyssen notifying of intention to modify Social Partners’ Agreement on MLC – next steps

The social partners await Commission’s response to plan next steps. Kristīne Krivmane, DG EMPL informed that the response is under preparation.

c. Maritime Safety and Security

i. Migrants at Sea: Consideration of possible joint initiatives

ECSA called for a joint action at high level highlighting importance of ensuring safety of crews of merchant ships involved in rescue of migrants and refugees, linking with international social partners ISC and ITF. ECSA had drafted a statement that could serve as a basis for the joint statement.

ETF informed that based on a declaration adopted at a conference held by its affiliate CGT, France in November 2018 that focused on criminalisation, ETF adopted a statement on Sea Rescue in the context of the migrant crisis³. Both sides agreed to align and mandated the Secretariats to agree on a draft.

ii. Stowaways: Consideration of possible follow up to Commission response

ECSA informed that they have done some research on incidents. Although number of incidents is small, ECSA considered that the messages included in a joint letter sent to Commissioners Bulc and Avramopolous remain valid.

4. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DIGITALISATION IN SHIPPING

ECSA expressed willingness to support ETF efforts on socio-economic impact of digitalisation. ECSA thanked ETF for its position paper and supported several elements of the paper. ECSA also referred to a study⁴ conducted by the Hamburg School of Business Administration on behalf of ICS, regarding the potential effects of autonomous ships on the role of seafarers and the global shipping industry. The study indicates that there will be no shortage of jobs for seafarers in the next two decades. The study appears to be consistent with the outcomes of the ITF report on the topic.

ETF was encouraged by the overall positive response of ECSA. ETF recognised that based on recent research the narrative with regard to impact of digitalisation on shipping needs to become more positive. ETF emphasised that workers need to be part of the debate. It was agreed that the Secretariats will ensure follow up.

5. REPORT ITEMS

a. Education, training and certification of seafarers (STCW matters): Proposal for the revision of Directive 2008/106 on the minimum level of training of seafarers and Directive 2005/45/EC on the mutual recognition of seafarers' certificates by Member States

ETF updated on the progress of trilogue negotiations: EP EMPL Committee adopted a report. In some areas it diverges with the general approach of the Council.

³ <https://www.etf-europe.org/an-etf-statement-on-sea-rescue-in-the-context-of-the-migrant-crisis/>

⁴ <http://www.ics-shipping.org/docs/default-source/resources/ics-study-on-seafarers-and-digital-disruption.pdf?sfvrsn=3>

b. Commission's work on its report to Council and EP on the implementation and application of Regulation 5.3 of the MLC regarding labour supplying countries (pursuant to Article 6.2 of Council Directive 2013/54/EU) - update by the Commission

Staffan Ekwall, DG MOVE informed that there has been no change further to update given in the previous meeting. ECSA took note and await further information in the next meeting. ETF expressed disappointment about lack of progress and not meeting the deadline of 31 December 2018, as per Directive, for delivering the report.

c. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code) – update on the negotiations and joint lobby efforts

ECSA invited ETF to join in lobbying efforts and encourage national associations to lobby national governments and MEPs. ETF was keen to lend support and will address its affiliates.

d. Brexit: Joint Letter to Member States and Commission

ECSA called for lobbying individual Member States to continue to grant recognition to the UK COC holders. ETF agreed to join and possibly target CY, DK, MT and NL.

e. SkillSea project: update

Both sides agreed on the importance for the project to succeed. The Consortium meeting will take place on 6 February.

f. Reduction of Administrative Burden – Single Window file – Update on negotiations

ECSA informed that EP TRAN Committee voted to support compromise package on 10 January. ECSA called for support of ETF and its affiliates. ETF reaffirmed support and agreed to renew joint efforts.

g. Directive 92/29/EC on the minimum safety and health requirements for improved medical treatment on board vessels – update on comitology procedure

Kristīne Krivmane, DG EMPL⁵ informed that following the update provided in the previous SSDC meeting, the meeting of the Technical Progress Committee could be organised before summer 2019. Both ETF and ECSA expressed disappointment about lack of progress and requested to be updated in the next meeting.

⁵ On behalf of Jan-Willem Ebeling, DG EMPL

h. Romanian Presidency Programme

ETF expressed disappointment about the Romanian Presidency not being able to attend the SSDC meeting. ECSA took note of the Presidency priorities, as shared by mail.

The next SSDC meeting will take place on Monday 20 May 2019.