



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

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

**SECTORAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
CIVIL AVIATION**

**Meeting of the Committee
Thursday, 12 July 2007**

Concise Minutes (adopted on 4 June 2008)

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

The agenda was adopted after a slight change in the order. The minutes of the previous plenary meeting (14 June 2006) were also adopted.

2. IAHA's participation in the Sectoral Dialogue Committee

Ms Durst (DG EMPL/F.1) informed the meeting that the International Aviation Handlers' Association (IAHA¹) had officially requested to become a recognised European social partner organisation. The exam of the representativeness criteria had shown that the last criterion - have adequate structures to ensure the effective participation in the work of the committee - was incompletely fulfilled and had to be reinforced in the near future (IAHA was in the process of setting up a European Chapter in order to be able to deal in a more efficient way with European policy matters; the European Chapter would consist of the main European ground handling companies and mandate Chairman, Secretary-general and/or other senior officers to carry out negotiations on their behalf).

The member organisations of the Sectoral Dialogue Committee welcomed IAHA's step and decided to formally accept them as new member of the committee. However, in order to be sure that IAHA can indeed act at European level, this decision would be made effective after the creation of IAHA's European Chapter (possibly in October). Until then, IAHA would be invited as observer to the relevant meetings of the committee.

3. Designation of the chairperson and the vice-chairperson for the next two years

The workers' side proposed Mr Ballesteros (ETF) as new chairperson of the committee. The employers' side designated Mr Clarke (ERA) as new vice-chairperson. Both nominations were welcomed. Mr Ballesteros took over the chair from Ms Desseaux (employers' side, CANSO) and thanked her for the professional work for the committee. The new chairperson presented two principles which would guide his presidency: consensus between the parties and co-operation between the plenary meetings (work which would be done between the meetings).

¹ <http://www.iahainfo.info/home/index.html>

4. Presentation of the Cabin Crew Study

AEA, ETF and EGOA presented the study which had been finalised two weeks ago. The idea had been to get a picture of the situation. How the social partners now would use the results remained to be seen and would be discussed in the air crew working group. Meanwhile the report should be disseminated as widely as possible, also via a press release².

5. Report from the Just Culture Conference

The conference (Bucharest, 19-20 June 2007³) had produced a joint statement. The project group would meet on 5 September in order to assess the conference and to discuss its follow-up. It would also think about the terms of reference of the just culture working group. ERA wondered about the status of the working paper on just culture presented on behalf of the European Community and others to the ICAO Assembly Commission⁴. ECA stated that the main problem with regard to just culture was judiciary and raised the question whether the social partners' consensus could feed into further legislation (occurrence reporting). These two points would be raised later with DG TREN.

6. Adoption of the work programme 2007-2008

The work programme, prepared at the steering committee and in the different working groups, was adopted.

7. Information on the DG TREN work programme

Mr Calleja, Director of the Air Transport Directorate of the European Commission, was invited to address the following issues: the Commission's vision for European aviation (including EU/US agreement), just culture and the possible revision of Council Directive 94/56/EC and of Council Directive 2003/42/EC, the future of the aviation regulation, and the regulatory package for airports. By way of introduction, Mr Calleja expressed his satisfaction about the structured dialogue DG TREN had with stakeholders, and stated that these were not only listened to, but also directly involved (EU/US negotiations, ICB, SESAR Joint Undertaking, hearings...).

In the Commission's view, the European civil aviation industry presented well in 2006, compared to other regions and compared to the European market 15 years ago. As far as the future was concerned, the single market still needed to be improved (revision of the third package), and other reforms were under consideration (slot allocation, ground handling, airport charges). Other future challenges relevant for the industry were: climate change (possible measures: acceleration of the Single European Sky, research, emissions trading scheme, SESAR), airport capacity, and the external market.

On just culture, the director explained that the working paper presented to ICAO was another tentative to push in favour of transparency and sharing of information, as cornerstones of aviation safety. There was still a lot of resistance within this international organisation. At the European level, the Commission intends to propose the compulsory

² <http://wwwaea.be/dbnetgrid2/htmleditor/UploadFiles/Pr07-019.pdf>

³ <http://www.canso.org/Canso/Web/events/industry+events/European+Just+Culture+Conference.htm?archive=true>

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air_portal/international/icao_council_en.htm

dissemination of information and the creation of a European database, which would be analysed by EASA.

As far as the report of the High Level Group for the future European Aviation Regulatory Framework was concerned, Mr Calleja qualified it as important that the report had been agreed unanimously. The recommendations of the report were a rich source for follow-up and discuss Commission proposals to make the air traffic management system more efficient.

In the following exchange of views, the workers' side let know that they did not share the speaker's optimism with regard to the industry. The more and more responsibility was put on the employees, whose situation became the more and more precarious. Safety was best achieved through stable jobs. ETF also stressed that the workers had not been represented in the High Level Group, which was easily recognisable in the report.

Regarding ICAO, Mr Calleja stated that the Commission was not proposing anything new. He called upon the social partners to use their contacts in order to achieve progress. All parties were particularly interested in the new proposals on incidents and accidents, and it was decided to organise a technical meeting with the Mr Salvarani, responsible Head of Unit for this file, to be held in August.

IACA reported that according to an EY study, the emissions trading scheme would lead to a loss of 40 000 jobs in civil aviation. Mr Calleja made clear that such figures were very doubtful and he backed the Commission's proposals in the area of climate change.

Mr Gantelet (DG TREN/F.1) updated the participants on the current social study for which the final report was expected by end October. This study aimed at getting a better idea about the situation and possible trends. Its results would depend a lot on the responses to the survey. It would not propose as such policy measures. The Commission representative also referred to some points which had already been taken into account, such as leasing/wet leasing and principle place of business.

The chairperson concluded that the social partners' work programme would be sent to DG TREN, that a meeting on incidents/accidents would be arranged, and that in his capacity as chairperson of the committee, he would soon seek a meeting with Mr Calleja.

8. Any other business

The remaining meetings for 2007 are planned for: 12/10 (ground handling), 22/10 (air crew expert group), 22/11 (ATM), 29/11 (air crew).

Annex: *List of participants*

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| Employers: <u>ACI Europe:</u> Vanessa Hlove <u>AEA:</u> Jean-François Certain Athar Husain Khan Emmanuel Jahan <u>CANSO:</u> Marie Desseaux Vanessa Rullier <u>ERA:</u> Andrew Clarke <u>IACA:</u> Koen Vermeir <u>IAHA (Observer):</u> Luc Meurrens | Workers: <u>ECA:</u> Martin Chalk Ignacio Plaza Philip von Schöppenthau <u>ETF:</u> Antonio Ascenzi François Ballesteros Enrique Carmona Yann Collier Robert Hengster Elka Komitova Olivier Joffrin Klaus Lorenzen Josef Maurer Tuomo Oksanen Jean Ramel Olivier Sekaï |
| European Commission: Elisabeth Aufheimer (DG EMPL/F.1) Daniel Calleja (DG TREN/F.1) Ellen Durst (DG EMPL/F.1) Gilles Gantelet (DG TREN/F.1) | Others: Jan Ahlskog (EGOA) Ukko Metsola (EGOA) |