



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS and EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES DG

Social dialogue, Social rights, Working conditions, Adaptation to Change  
**Social dialogue, Industrial relations**

**Subject:** Draft minutes of the meeting

**Meeting:** Sectoral social dialogue committee, **Extractive Industry**  
Plenary

**Time and place:** 06.03.2007  
Centre Borschette, 36 Rue Froissart, Brussels

**Translation:** EN, FR, ES, HU, DE, PL (passive)

### List of participants:

1. ALVAREZ LIEBANA Juan Carlos
2. ALTNER Vlastimil
3. ANTUNA RUENES José Maria
4. BELLEN Marleen
5. BONNY Carlotta
6. BORKOWSKI Zygmunt
7. BOZOVA Rozka
8. CHWILUK Andrzej
9. DAMM Jean-Pierre
10. DIERCKS Thorsten
11. FOLKESSON Lars-Erik
12. HEBESTREIT Corina
13. HULIK Gitta
14. KANEV Ivan
15. KRISCHE Ernst-Ullrich
16. KUNKEL Joerg
17. LESNIEWSKI Krzysztof
18. MOSER Marina
19. MUZAK Jiry
20. POOT BAUDIER Valentine
21. PYBUS David
22. RABI Ferenc
23. RENUCCI Jean – François
24. ROTHLEITNER Bernhard
25. STANITZ Karoly
26. STRAZYSKI Slawomir
27. WYART-REMY Michelle
28. ZOLTAY Akos

Dorota Dlouchy EMPL F.1

## **1. Welcome and approval of the draft minutes of the last plenary meeting (9 October 2006)**

President welcomes all participants and the representative of the EC.  
Minutes are approved unanimously without any changes or comments.

## **2. Election of the new president of the SSDC IE.**

Mr. Jean – Pierre Damm representing EMCEF is elected to be a new president of the committee. Mr. Akos Zoltay is elected to be a new vice-president. Former president Mr. Akos Zoltay thanks all the members of the committee for their input and support.

## **3. Approval of the detailed work plan for 2007**

The document stipulating the main issues to be tackled in the upcoming year was circulated. The president proposes to clarify what are the main objectives and actions to be undertaken under each headline.

**TU DE** proposes to allocate specific topics to different WGs. Next WG will take place on **31 May** and during this session discussion on the questions of **Energy policy, climate change and trading of emission' quotas** could take place. **Health and Safety** issues could be dealt during the session on **3 September**, and then on the October plenary session, the results obtained in these seminars could be discussed and validated.

**Eurocoal** supports the idea of focusing on these two issues. Especially the matter of the climate change is fundamental for the whole industry and particularly for the Coal industry. Eurocoal reminds that the European Commission has already informed that by the end of 2007, they will come up with the draft directive on carbon capture and storage. So, **Eurocoal** wants to be very active in this field.

**TU DE** informed that TU would like to introduce presentations on the industry situation in **RO and BG** on the respective WGs. The presentations should be prepared by both sides EMPL and TU.

The president moved to the issue of the **REACH directive**. As it is very broad topic, he asked what the objectives of the SSDC in this field are.

**Euromines** reminded that the REACH directive was adopted and is going to be implemented in the next 3-5 years depending on the sector. A number of products used in the extractive industries were exempted from this regulation, so the committee is concerned only with a small number of products included in the directive. Yet REACH still will have a profound impact on the industry. Particularly, in case of the products that are in strong competition with non-EU producers, so-called "free-raiders". The Social Partners should highlight that some non-EU producers could not comply with REACH. This could seriously undermine the competitiveness of the European industry. This issue could be put on the **plenary in October**, as a point of information on the developments in this area. **Euromines volunteers to prepare a presentation on the state of play in the REACH implementation.**

President welcomes the proposal and invites Euromines to make such a presentation in October.

Next item: **waste directive**. President asks members to provide their opinion whether this point should be left as a priority one. TU DE reminds that there was a difference of opinion whether the SSDC should act here or not.

Euromines confirms that the question of the waste directive should be discussed also among the employers. This piece of legislation has been adopted and is currently in the implementation phase. The reason this point was kept in the agenda, is that within next 12 months the majority of the technical implementation issues will be addressed and some of them may need to be discussed in this forum. As examples, Euromines puts the guidance notes on the financial guarantees and the mines inspections that should be adopted by May 2008. Euromines believes that the second half of this year may be too early to reopen the subject as the process has been delayed. But the **beginning of 2008** may be a good time to re-examine the subject.

President proposes to put this item with a question mark on the agenda of the **December WG**.

Next item: consultation on **musculoskeletal disorders**. President suggests to put this item under the common heading Health and Safety to be discussed on the next WG. Same concerns the item dealing with statistics on accidents in the industry. But the question is what should be done with such data. Should it be put in the archives or become a basis for some actions in terms of the prevention.

TU DE once again proposes to deal with all the health and safety issues in September not in May. Members agree with the proposal.

Next item: **cooperation with NGOs**. TU DE shortly presented the way the industry cooperates with NGOs in Germany, stating also difficulties. It is proposed to come back to the issue during the plenary in October.

Euromines agrees that the subject is important particularly at the European level. Representative of the organization informs members that “Friends of the Earth” decided to establish a post of the policy officer dealing with the dirty mining. It may be interesting to invite the person occupying this post together with representatives of other organizations to the committee and have a discussion, for example to the plenary session. Member should start to put the ideas whom to invite, with whom the dialogue should be commenced to the Bureau, and then the Bureau could come up with the proposals how to proceed in one of the next meetings.

Members agree with this proposal.

Next item: **website**. Mrs. Herbestreit (Euromines) states that although the issue was discussed several times, there is no progress on the issue. Euromines proposes to prepare a first ‘draft’ of the website and to present it to the committee on the one of the next meetings. The organization will look also into the funding possibilities.

Eurocoal makes point to add formally climate change and RO and BG presentations to the Working programme. Likewise, the committee should not limit these presentations only to RO and BG, but also EU-10 countries such as Poland could have presentations.

It is decided that the point will be called “Presentations of the EI in Europe”

Follow-up:

- 31 May WG focused on Energy policy
- 3 September WG: Health and safety issues

- During the Working Groups presentations on PL, RO and BG will be delivered by respective countries representatives, presentations on other EU-12 countries welcomed
- October plenary: Euromines will prepare a presentation on the REACH implementation.
- The discussion on waste directive implementation will be put on agenda either in December WG or early 2008 meeting depending on circumstances.
- Consultation on musculoskeletal disorders will be put under the health and safety heading and discussed on Sept 3
- Cooperation with NGOs: during one of the next meetings Bureau basing on members suggestions will come up with detailed proposals how to deal with this issue.
- Website: Euromines will present draft proposal.

#### **4. Presentation on CSR by Jean – François Renucci, EMCEF**

This point was moved to the second part of the meeting.

#### **5. Presentation on the Uranium in Czech Republic by Mr. Jiry Muzak - point of information.**

Presentation is enclosed to the minutes. In his presentation Mr. Jiry Muzak focused on the problem of the water and soil contamination caused by the uranium extraction and the way this problem is tackled in the Czech Republic.

The presentation was followed by the questions.

#### **6. Presentation on the exchange of young workers by Mr. Joerg Kunkel**

Presentation is enclosed to the minutes.

**Mr. Kunkel (TU DE)** puts together the ideas from the last meeting and proposes actions to be taken in order to accomplish the objectives of the project.

The main idea is to send workers abroad for certain limited period of time. The internet can be used as placement clearing house.

The programme should be beneficial also for the employers. According to the speaker, it will be beneficial, as the companies are active in several member states and the multinational competencies of the employees such as language skills, ability to work in multinational environment are very sought for. Thanks to this programme, the EI can become more attractive for young people.

In order to make the exchange of workers a reality, TU DE proposes to set up a project group, small team having clear mandate that could examine the issues in-depth and propose further steps. This team should come up with sector specific proposal: finding out what can be done, defining the concept and financing possibilities (such as EU). Their work should be then presented to the plenary. The objective is to develop the sector specific concept of the exchange of workers by 31 December 2007. The suggestion is to have a team of 2 representatives from each side + the representative of EC.

**Euromines** underlines that it is easier from the formalistic point of view to design such a programme for workers that finished their education then for the young people still in formal education. Mr. Kunkel agrees with this point of view.

**IMA** proposes to setting up a common group for CSR project and for this project.

President proposes to set up a team for this project and later on, if there is a need and possibility to merge the teams.

**Polish TU** makes a point that while designing the concept the particularities of EU-12 should be taken into the consideration (gap in salaries, social dumping and so on). This is the reason why it would be beneficial if representatives of EU –12 were actively involved in the project team.

#### **4. Presentation on CSR by Jean – François Renucci, EMCEF**

The secretariats will deal with the set up of the team project. Mr. Renucci informed the committee on the intention to apply for EU funds in order to finance this project. There must be decision taken whether to apply for the funds from line 04.03.03.03 managed by DG EMPL (deadline 31 August 2007) or to apply for the research to be done by Dublin Foundation. Mr. Renucci also informed that while drafting this application, his intention is to use experiences of the SSDC Electricity that carried out similar project in 2006.

Representative of the Commission informed about the differences between funding from line 03 and Dublin Foundation research.

The committee decided to submit application for line 03. Euromines offered its' resources to assist EMCEF in drafting the project proposal.

#### **7. AOB**

Soil protection – Euromines presented stay of play concerning the directive. The main issue is whether this problem should be dealt at national or EU level. Following the discussion it was decided the joint opinion on this document can be prepared and this possibility together with addressees of such an opinion should be discussed during the next WG.