



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

12 March 2007

Summary minutes (adopted on 15 June 2007)

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

Mr PREUMONT (employers) stood in for the Committee Chairman in his absence. The agenda was adopted. Following a number of amendments, the minutes of the last meeting (6 November 2006) were also approved.

(2) Implementation of the agreement on the European licence

Mr HARA (SNCF) announced that, the following week, a letter would be sent to all those working in human resources management asking for information on the current provisions applied to cross-border traffic (physical, psychological and professional ability, driver assistance). It would be a good idea for the ETF to undertake similar action (ETF would receive a copy of the letter sent by the CER). The deadline for the CER was the Human Resources Committee meeting in May – the situation could therefore be reviewed at a working group meeting in June.

(3) Follow-up to the project on equal opportunities

Ms TRIER (ETF) gave a progress report on the project "Representation and improved integration of women in the different occupations in the railway sector". The draft recommendations had been amended and would be translated into EN, FR and IT. The ETF would formally ratify the draft text on 16 May in Warsaw. ETF wanted to know whether the CER was willing to officially sign the joint document at the conference in Rome on 12 June. The CER asked for a copy of the final text within the week, so as to be able to submit it to the Directors of International Affairs. The President of the SNCF confirmed that, all being well, she would participate in the conference.

(4) Freight restructuring project

Mr HARA gave a progress report on the project "Joint studies on the impact of the reorganisation of the rail freight services on employment". Following an invitation to tender, the company "Transit" had been chosen to carry out the work. The first meeting would be held on 20 and 21 March.

(5) Follow-up to the project on employability

Mr METTE (DB) reiterated the idea of adopting joint recommendations and publicising the project results more widely. The ETF pointed out that the main objective of the second project was to put the theoretical conclusions drawn from the first project into practice. The worker representatives feared that the term "employability" would lead to more flexibility. The adoption of concise joint recommendations at the plenary meeting would only be possible if a definition of employability could be found. The CER wanted the project conclusions to be discussed at undertaking level. Everyone agreed that there would be no plans for follow-up to the project this year.

(6) Discussion on the next work programme

The social partners discussed and updated the preliminary draft work programme for 2007-2008. A number of points were discussed in greater detail, such as what would be the aim of the discussions on the main incidents or accidents between the signatories to the licence agreement (Article 16).

As regards clause 11 of the agreement on the conditions of use, the ETF thought that the provisions of the agreement needed to be assessed now and not in two years' time, as proposed by the CER. This would be discussed at the next negotiation meeting (20 March).

For clause 10 of the agreement, Mr INGLESE (FS), at the request of Mr PREUMONT (CER), presented an idea for a project which would involve assessing the situation in a number of undertakings (traditional and new) by means of questionnaires and also on-site visits. The ETF thought it was better first to send out a questionnaire so as to gather all available information on the application of the agreement as quickly as possible. If a project proved necessary, it could always be launched in September – the ETF considered that the disadvantage of a project was that the results not only be available until the end of 2008. Mr INGLESE was appointed as the rapporteur for the working group. He would draft a short explanatory document on the project idea.

The EIM was very interested in a project on the ERTMS because it would involve a significant change in working patterns (man-machine interface). The ETF said it could draft a document by June.

(7) Preparation for the plenary meeting

The agenda for the plenary meeting would include, among other items, the appointment of the new Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee, the adoption of the work programme (the ETF would submit other proposals before then) and the updating of the Committee's rules of procedure.

(8) Other business

RAILTRAINING study: the Commission representative gave a brief progress report on the study launched by DG TREN and on the workshop which would be held on 14 June, to which the social partners would be invited. The social partners asked for an overview of the initial findings of the study to be made available before the workshop.

Rail Agency visit: the Commission representative recalled the proposal made by Mr LE RESTE (ETF) to visit the Agency. One of the social dialogue meetings could be

organised on location (Lille or Valenciennes) rather than in Brussels, on condition that the Agency provided a room and interpretation facilities. The CER considered that the aim would be to go to Lille to meet those responsible in the Agency for human resources/social aspects and find out about the work programme for qualifications, safety, language matters and certification. The ETF agreed on the subjects but thought it important to go to Valenciennes to see the Agency offices, in order to meet those responsible for the working groups (who often did not know about European social dialogue) and discuss three specific points in the Agency's work programme: working conditions, safety and interoperability. The CER, the EIM and the ETF agreed that, ideally, the visit should take place before the summer. The Commission representative asked the social partners to inform the Commission of the possible dates and the languages which would be needed, so that it could contact the Agency. The meeting venue for 15 June should therefore be changed to either Lille or Valenciennes.

Next meetings: 17 April (plenary), to be confirmed, 15 June (venue to be changed for a visit to the Agency?), 20 September, **11 October** and 5 December.

Participants 12 March 2007:

Employers:	Mr HARA (SNCF) Mr INGLESE (FS) Mr METTE (DB) Mr MOREIRA DA SILVA (REFER) Mr PREUMONT (CER) Mr ROBSON (EIM)
Workers:	Mr GREIVELDING (ETF) Ms TRIER (ETF)
European Commission:	Ms DURST (DG EMPL/F.1)