



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Employment and Social Governance
Social Dialogue

**SECTORAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
ROAD TRANSPORT**

**Urban Public Transport Working Group
Minutes of the meeting of 27 January 2021**

Due to the situation created by the COVID-19 crisis, the meeting was organised with the videoconference (INTERACTIO).

The meeting was chaired by Benoît Juery (Transdev - UITP) employers' representative.

1. Adoption of draft agenda and draft minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the last working group on Urban Public Transport (UPT) on 8 September 2020 were approved.

The draft agenda of the meeting was adopted.

2. COVID-19 and its consequences on urban mobility

Thomas Avanzata (UITP) presented the situation of the public transport networks since the start of the crisis. The expectation is that it will take about two years to be back at the pre-covid level of ridership. He highlighted the role of the EU funding available through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) to support the recovery and the importance to consider urban public transport in the national recovery plans. He stressed that the public authorities should actively support the sector in order to shape a future which should become more resilient and supported by joint work by the social partners. He also regretted that the modal shift and urban public transport is not enough considered in the EU approach.

Sabine Trier (ETF) insisted that the future mobility should focus on collective public transport, the national plans should also include employment measures. Lessons could be learned by the social partners regarding measures for workers safety, availability of protective equipment, in order to be better prepared also at company level (including on strengthening social dialogue). ETF also commented on the lack of strategic vision for the public transport.

Brigitte Ollier (UITP) confirmed the willingness to cooperate in a constructive social dialogue.

3. Digital transformation and social dialogue in urban public transport

ETF presented the content of the recommendation which builds on the joint UITP/ETF project and report.

ETF and UITP indicated that the joint recommendations are currently in the final stages of development. They will include many good joint proposals. However, there are still issues to be discussed before to agree on a final text. Possible adoption date in March/April.

4. Clean Bus Development European Platform – enabling the transition to clean buses

Aida Abdulah from UITP presented the strategic lines for the development of clean bus fleets and how the platform supports this development, notably through social dialogue. A workshop is planned mid-2021 and final seminar in 2023. (see slides)

5. Women employment in the urban public transport

UITP updated about the results of the survey conducted amongst UITP and ETF members (see slides).

A key aspect to be further explored is the impact of the social partners' joint recommendation on "Strengthening women employment in the urban public transport" from 2014. Results of the survey on that topic should still be further analysed.

IRU indicated that they are also conducting a similar survey, the results show a difference in the participation of women for the different parts of the transport. It was suggested to exchange about the results.

Sabine Trier added that ETF conducted also a study on the reasons for the underrepresentation of women in transport. The future discussions amongst social partners should be about better implementation of their joint recommendation.

6. Communication on Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy

Joshua Salsby (MOVE) provided an introduction about the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy (SSMS) adopted on 9 December 2020 (see slides).

Piotr Rapacz (MOVE) complemented the information regarding the evaluation of the 2013 urban mobility package that should be published in the coming weeks. The revision of the urban mobility strategy is foreseen for the 3Q 2021. It will be an urban mobility package including different initiatives. A public consultation will be launched, most probably in April.

On the SSMS social partners regretted the lack of focus on the public transport and modal shift.

Thomas Avanzata (UITP) indicated that the Commission is focusing too much on multimodality and technical developments underestimating the need in terms of local

mobility and public transport. He stressed the role of public authorities in order to organise the various operators.

Sabine Trier (ETF) referred to the ETF position paper on urban public transport. Targets are missing regarding the use of public transport. Too much emphasis on new mobility services without addressing the evolution of working conditions. ETF also expressed concern about the public service obligations (PSO).

As the meeting did not allow a proper discussion of the future of urban mobility, Sylvie Finné questioned about the opportunity for a specific meeting with the social partners on the next mobility package. This proposal was welcome.

7. Information by DG EMPL

There was no time for the presentation on the priorities in the employment and social field for 2021 slides were sent to the participants.

8. Working programme 2021-2022

The work programme needs to be updated for instance to include actions regarding the employment situation after COVID. However there was no time for the discussion. The work programme will be adopted by writing procedure.

9. AOB

Next meeting is foreseen on 22 September 2021.