



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 ROAD TRANSPORT

Working group meeting Driver training issues and follow-up activities of the ILO tripartite meeting 7th February 2008

Concise minutes

The meeting was chaired by Mr Sugic (workers).

Driver training issues

The Commission representative informed the meeting about the state of play regarding the transposition of Directive 2003/59/EC on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers¹. Not all national legislations had been translated yet. However, it seemed as if for the initial qualification, half of the Member States had chosen option (i) combining both course attendance and a test; whilst the other half had chosen option (ii) involving only tests. The social partners deplored DG TREN's absence preventing them from discussing further details.

IRU presented a paper agreed by its social affairs committee called "Draft joint EU social sector dialogue project on the organisation of driver training". The draft should be fine-tuned by a joint steering group. ETF put the project idea in a wider context, mentioning the lack of drivers and the unattractiveness of the profession, and thought that it should go beyond a study and lead to a concrete result (such as common guidelines or joint recommendations). In IRU's view, the study would speak for itself. The parties also exchanged views about who should pay for driver training. IRU expressed its willingness to engage in a project which would aim at finding collective agreements on driver training. Once such a compendium of current practices would be available, IRU would review them with the objective to come to recommendations. The parties concluded that a small group would concretely prepare the project proposal.

Follow-up activities of the ILO tripartite meeting on labour and social issues arising from problems of cross-border mobility of international drivers

Mr Meletiou (International Labour Organisation) presented the ILO project called "Implementation of follow-up activities of the tripartite meeting on road transport" (see

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32003L0059:EN:NOT>

detailed slide presentation). In the following debate, the social partners focussed on ongoing border-crossing problems at the EU-Russian border. While ILO was approaching the issue from a labour and social perspective, there were areas such as the facilitation of visa processes/control in the road transport sector which were more difficult to address. The social partners still felt that there was an urgent need to act on the immediate problem (long queues at border-crossings, lack of facilities) and agreed to jointly address their demands to the European Commission. The ILO representative agreed with the need to alleviate the problem by providing facilities; this would however not address the root of the problem. Mr Meletiou was warmly thanked for his presentation and interest in the exchange of views.

Any other business

IRU referred to the remaining guidance notes on the implementation of Community rules on driving times and rest periods of professional drivers, to be finalised by the Commission's legal working group², and proposed that the social partners, at their next social legislation working group in March, look at other items such as the possible conflict between provisions regarding working time and driving time & rest periods.

Annex: List of participants 7.2.2008

<p><u>Employers</u></p> <p>Ms Antignac (AFTRI) Mr Causse (FNTR) Mr Csanyi (MKFE) Mr Gentze (BGL) Mr Henry (FNTV) Mr Kramer (TLN) Mr Larsen (DTL) Ms Maître (FNTR) Mr Marques (ANTRAM) Ms Pogonowska-Szuszkiewicz (ZMPD) Mr Ribeiro de Campos (ANTRAM) Mr Viccars (IRU) Mr Yarsley (FTA)</p>	<p><u>Workers</u></p> <p>Mr Benjamins (FNV Bondgenoten) Ms Brocker (FCPT/Syprolux) Mr Dickson (ITF) Ms Hertogs (ETF) Mr Lindgren (Swedish Transport Workers' Union) Ms Malinowska (LTWF) Mr Parrillo (CSC Transcom) Mr Peterson (Transport Union Estonia) Mr Rydh (SEKO) Mr Sauerstam (SEKO) Mr Schönauer (VIDA) Mr Smidt (3F) Mr Sugic (CFDT) Ms Tilling (ETF) Mr Wolff (FCPT/Syprolux)</p>
<p><u>European Commission</u></p> <p>Ms Durst (DG EMPL F/1)</p>	<p><u>Others</u></p> <p>Mr Meletiou (ILO)</p>

² http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road/policy/social_provision/social_driving_time_en.htm