



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

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

### **Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Steel**

#### **Plenary Meeting Report**

**Brussels, 26 June 2007**

#### **I. Presentation of the joint EMF-EUROFER statement on the Commission proposal for the revision of the EU Emissions Trading System (Bernhard Kohl-EUROFER)**

1. The main points of the Commission's proposal to revise EU ETS and the possible impact thereof on the effects of the Directive on the European Steel Industry were set out.

2. It was agreed that social partners would contact MEPs individually to look for their support on EUROFER amendments concerning the Commission's proposal.

In this context, a voting recommendation will be prepared by Autumn to highlight the importance of each amendments to be sent to MEPs.

Also, it was suggested that an explanatory note be attached to this voting recommendation.

3. The EMF-EUROFER Joint Statement on the Commission proposal for the revision of the EU-ETS was approved during the meeting.

#### **II. Activities of the SSDC Working Groups (WG)**

##### **A) *WG Structural Change***

i. Presentation of the proposed survey project with EUROFOUND

In the WG, a discussion took place on the possibility of formulating a survey project that would be produced by EUROFOUND financed by the Commission. In this context, EUROFER delivered a background paper proposing to conduct company-specific survey related to EU ETS. The main objective of the study would be to show that the steel industry is subject to the risk of carbon leakage under the EU ETS Directive and that this unilateral approach could harm the competitiveness and survival of the European Steel Industry. The methodology: professional interviewers would meet EUROFER members on a management level. Contacts and interviews with the trade unions would also be arranged at the company level to survey the social economic implications of the EU ETS on the European Steel Industry.

However, EUROFER members had expressed some concerns on the approach (confidentiality). EUROFER would confirm its position without delay.

ii. Presentation and Discussion on the Commission's Communication on the Competitiveness of the Metal Industries (Karl Tachelet - EUROFER)

The Communication was considered to be useful and important to the European steel industry.

Although the document is broad in its scope, there is a need for more specific actions to be developed.

It was suggested that key points of EUROFER's draft on the Commission Communication be selected to provide a 1-page summary that could be used as the second joint EMF-EUROFER statement.

It was agreed to send this new document to the Commission, not only to DG ENTRE but also to DG EMPL and DG ENVI.

For the next Structural Change WG (22 September 08), a presentation on EMF-EUROFER position would be organized with representatives from the Commission followed by an exchange of views.

It was agreed that a brief joint press statement would be prepared.

**B) WG Health and Safety (H&S)**

i. Presentation on the follow up WG H&S activities (Nathalie Darge- EUROFER).

The following points were debated:

In the context of social statistics (employment figures), a discussion centred on the need to have a comprehensive view of the total number of employees within the European Steel Industry.

The importance was stressed of having a homogeneous definition of each data collected. Indeed, accidents at work were considered differently according to the country and based on their different working system.

A proposal was put forward to check Eurostat indicators to deal with the same definition on a European level.

On the basis of the presentation, Eurofer and EMF agreed as follows:

1. To produce a detailed matrix on basic statistics for the next Working Group, including the definition used by the different countries (Employment figures, Lost Time Injury).
2. Best practices should not only be presented but the WG must draw some specific conclusions to ensure practical actions.
3. It was confirmed on EMF side that a new Industrial policy adviser would be involved as from Autumn, at the latest, to work with Eurofer on this issues.

ii. Presentation on a best practice example: the global Arcelor-Mittal agreement on health and safety.(Bart Samyn- EMF)

This agreement showed the willingness to promote and improve H&S at work. Some examples were given: all statistics of plant incidents were registered on a daily basis, specific actions such as “Health and Safety day” were being organized every year.

The uniqueness of this agreement in the Steel Industry was stressed, due to its “global” effect. Some observations concerning the agreement were made by EMF representatives:

An evaluation should be conducted to ensure that the terms of the agreement were respected in each company.

In order to respect the procedures of the agreement, some financial support had to be made available in certain countries ( Eastern countries, developing countries, ...).

The Chairman pointed out some innovative actions proposed in the agreement (such as visit of plants in developing countries like Kazakhstan or in the East countries and report by workers of hazardous or other kinds of incidents concerning the plant to the Management).

### **C) *WG on Training and Life Long Learning***

Presentation on ESTEP WG5 “People” Activity and Initiatives.( Carl Meiler- ESTEP)

This WG5, being a new initiative, has already developed some activities (e.g. the preparation of a “Spring Steel School” (2010) to attract young graduates, the preparation of specific workshops focusing on information about ESTEP for students, research on calls-for-proposals,...) organized by 3 sub-groups ('Training WG', 'Recruiting WG', Research and Funding) .

Attention was brought to the fact that the WG “Training and Life-long Learning” was no longer active in the Sectoral Social Dialogue. The role of ESTEP was to take full responsibility for this issue as H&S and Structural Changes was under Social Dialogue Committee remit.

A proposal was made to check with the secretariat to ensure a better understanding of the situation to be discussed in the next Working Group.

### **III. Calendar of meetings in 2nd half of 2008**

It was reminded that dates must officially be confirmed by the Commission 1 month in advance.

22/09: WG Structural Change with representatives from the Commission

10/11: WG Health & Safety

#### **IV. Any Other Business**

The Commission (Unit DG EMPL) was preparing a new Communication on the situation of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue. In this perspective, a questionnaire (about 60 questions) would be sent to social partners in the near future.

It was agreed that the social partners would send minutes of the Plenary meeting to the Commission.

#### ***Enclosures:***

- (1) Presentation of the Joint EMF-EUROFER statement on the Commission proposal for the revision of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS).
- (2) Presentation and discussion on the Commission Communication on the Competitiveness of the Metal Industries.
- (3) Presentation on a draft EMF-EUROFER Joint Statement on the Commission Communication on the Competitiveness of the Metal Industries.
- (4) Presentation on H&S Working Group.
- (5) ArcelorMittal agreement on minimum requirements for Plant-level Joint Health and Safety Committees.
- (6) ESTEP presentation on WG5 initiatives.