



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue
Social dialogue, Industrial Relations

Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee (SSDC) on Personal Services

Steering group meeting on 13 September 2012, Brussels

Minutes

1) Welcome and approval of agenda

The meeting was chaired by Richard Koffijberg (Coiffure EU). The agenda was approved.

2) State of play concerning the implementation by EU legislation of the agreement on health and safety

Mr Schwarz (European Commission) provided an update on the Commission's work. To support its assessment of the agreement and an eventual decision to make a proposal to Council, the Commission needed more information and data. The Commission will therefore launch a cost-benefit analysis of the agreement. Over the summer months the Commission had received additional critical letters from UK organisations.

Mr Monggaard (UNI Europa) argued that a lack of dissemination and information about the agreement was causing the problems and misunderstandings. Mr Vos (Coiffure EU) highlighted that the on-going discussions were of a political nature around the use of the treaty provisions on social dialogue. He wondered whether the social dialogue committee should develop a fall-back position in case implementation of the agreement by directive would fail. Mr Monggaard argued to stick to what has been signed. Mr Röhr (Coiffure EU) preferred awaiting the developments and the Commission's study; if changes were needed later they could always be discussed then.

3) State of play concerning social partner projects

a) Project on capacity-building of the social dialogue in selected areas

Ms De Marchi (UNI Europa) presented the project, which has the objective to promote the agreement and to build the capacity of the social partner. It would be organised around 4 regional workshops. Mr Vos and Mr Monggaard welcomed the application and thanked Ms De Marchi for her work.

b) PROBES project on involving beauticians in the personal services social dialogue

Mr Palmieri presented the project, which has the aim of involving national employers' organisations of the beauticians' sector in European social dialogue and in addressing new Member States. The project is supported by the Academy Avignon, CEPEC, UNI Europa and CNA.

Mr Monggaard reiterated UNI Europa's support, although a financial engagement is not possible. He sees this project as a bridge-builder into the social dialogue committee, possibly leading to the incorporation of the beauty care sector in social dialogue.

Mr Vos highlighted that about a third of Coiffure EU's members also represent beauticians. However, Coiffure EU's Board of Directors decided not to support the project, since this project was not Coiffure EU's responsibility: Coiffure EU represents hairdressing businesses.

4) State of play concerning the cooperation with Eurofound

Mr Monggaard commented on the draft terms of reference of Eurofound for a limited study in maximum 4 countries about working conditions and industrial relations in the hairdressing sector. The budget would be EUR 30 000.

Mr Vos pointed out that the budget does not allow for a large study, but he welcomed the initiative. The work of Eurofound should be coordinated with the study of the agreement that the Commission will launch.

The two sides agreed that the Eurofound study should cover France, Germany, Poland and the UK.

5) Considerations about how to maintain the vitality of social dialogue

Mr Vos reminded participants about the task force on this topic that was launched earlier in the year. He argued that work needs to continue to identify topics for social dialogue. Mr Monggaard agreed that ideas should be developed. It was agreed that the task force would meet for the first hour of the next social dialogue meeting on 31 October.

Mr Marino (Coiffure EU) suggested that the committee should work on the enlargement of its representativeness. He also highlighted that it was the only sectoral committee composed of SME representatives, so it was uniquely placed to see social issues from the point of view of SMEs.

6) Update on the European Hairdressing Certificate

Mr Monggaard underscored that the social partners were now ready to publish all the details. Final issues will be discussed between the sides and the social dialogue committee will be informed at the next meeting on 31 October.

7) Any other business

Mr Schwarz informed participants about the upcoming reductions in staff at the European Commission. The effects on European social dialogue were discussed at the Liaison Forum on 1 October.

Mr Koffijberg thanked the participants and closed the meeting.