



Brussels, 23rd April 2012

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES**

**Minutes of the working group meeting
23rd of February 2012**

Chairman: Mr. Martin Isles (UEPG)

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted without changes.

2. Approval of the draft minutes from the last meeting

Draft minutes from the plenary session in December will be approved during the plenary session in April. It was agreed that if there are any comments these should be submitted by end of March.

3. Health & Safety

i) Revision of joint declaration on H&S – draft proposal – discussion and adoption

The discussion focused on the last points to be clarified regarding the wording of the final document as well as differences between linguistic versions in EN and FR. It was agreed that a final shorter version in English will be circulated in order to make final changes so that the declaration is ready for adoption during the plenary session in April.

ii) Safer-by-Design Initiative – Joint project proposal of the committee

UEPG updated the committee on the planned project proposal on Safer-by-Design Initiative and provided an confirmed that the project shall be submitted for the august deadline of the 01 budget line. The discussion also focused on the ways Social Partners could support the project. UEPG will coordinate the work of the committee regarding the project.

4. Ressource-efficient Europe for raw materials (presentation by DG ENV)

The presentation of Mr. Bosmans can be found at the following website: http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/empl/sectoral_social_dialogue/library?l=/extractive_industry&vm=detailed&sb=Title. The discussion following the presentation focused on issues such as the relationship between competitiveness and productivity, the taxation shift from labor to resource productivity, the environmental footprint to be considered for recycled and secondary products, the definition of environmental footprint of ores (resource depletion), application of environmental taxation and others. It was emphasized that above all in, in this discussion it is crucial that Social Partners are included in the development of methodology and different indicators in the initiatives of the COM. The COM also stressed that it is considering different factors – economic, industrial, social, as well as looking at long-term environmental impacts of climate change. The Social Partners mentioned that in general in the process of drafting of EU policies it is important

to look at the global picture and not just Europe – and how does the position of and conditions for European industry change as a result of certain policies compared to the rest of the world.

5. Euracoal presentation on the Energy 2050 Roadmap

Presentation of Euracoal is available at the following website http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/empl/sectoral_social_dialogue/library?l=/extractive_industry&vm=detailed&sb=Title. The presentation focused on the analysis of various de-carbonization scenarios, the resulting changes in the prices of electricity, implications for the mining sector and possible future energy mixes. Initiatives related to the Roadmap were also discussed. During the ensuing discussion it was emphasized that the resulting changes will have a big impact not only on the nature of jobs in the sector, but also directly on employment, energy prices and R&D in the industry. This in fact might exacerbate already existing social tensions - as Social Partners we need to consider the environmental aspects but also the social dimension and changes in industrial activity. It was agreed that any initiatives related to the Roadmap need to be closely followed by the Social Partners in order to be able to effectively engage with EU institutions. It was suggested that the EP-rapporteur might be invited to one of the future meetings – this option will further be discussed at the Secretariat level. The other idea suggested was to talk to the COM to make an economic/industrial (e.g. impact on the industry) analysis of every directive, which is suggested.

6. Update from IMA-Europe on NePSI

IMA-Europe updated the committee on the latest developments regarding NePSI. One of the tools to promote NePSI is via internet – in this respect the website (<http://www.cembureau.be/nepsi>) shall be updated to promote the positive results and highlight the achievements so far. However more funding is necessary in order to achieve this, which has not yet been guaranteed.

The core problem of funding was also mentioned – e.g. the fact that COM did not grant funding to NePSI during the last round of project submission due to the fact that budget line 01 is not intended to fund something, what looks like a permanent structure. The possibilities of further NePSI funding from the COM side were (amongst others) the topic of a meeting on the 16th of February with DG EMPL Unit B.1 with participation of IMA-Europe and EMCEF.

Regarding reporting it was confirmed that this is taking place this year and is financed by employers, the NePSI Council will take place on the 14th of June. Reporting will last until the 16th of March. The aim is to increase the coverage, e.g. more workers more countries – to cover also NMS.

7. Occupational Exposure Limits NO₂ and NO_x – update

No news reported since the last meeting in December 2011.

8. Update from the SWPEI (Standing Working Party Extractive Industry)

Euracoal reported that there should be more information in time for the next meeting e.g. April plenary.

9. Update from the Commission on next events

DG EMPL is planning a conference to take place in Budapest, possibly in May. EMCEF mentioned that during the preparation of the meeting it is important to invite Social Partners, not just the government. COM suggested that governments will also be invited, this is a best practice and capacity-building exercise. We will circulate an invitation.

In this context Euracoal raised the issue of a photo-exhibition organized by EMCEF to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the creation of the ECSC which will take place in the EP between the 18-22nd June. The possible ideas of collaboration on this exhibition were mentioned. EMCEF mentioned that the idea is to show the working conditions of miners in China, to show the improvements of working conditions in Europe – the key is to demonstrate how conditions in Europe have improved over the last 60 years.

The COM mentioned the workshop on social dialogue in the Western Balkan countries which will take place on the 20th of April 2012 in Vienna and focus also on the developments regarding social dialogue in the

energy sector. More information is available at the following website http://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME/CALENDAR/Other_Meetings/2012/20_4

10. AOB

EMCEF updated the committee about the updated work programme and provided some suggestion for speakers for future session(s) e.g. DG ENER on shale gas. Euracoal confirmed that they will contact BRGM to also make a presentation on shale gas. UEPG mentioned that it is necessary to focus further also on the prevention of fatalities, since fatal injuries in the industry still occur and it is necessary to work towards the elimination of fatalities (e.g. zero harm).