



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT**

Minutes

Working group meeting of 5 May 2014

1. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The meeting was first chaired by Mr Kerkhof (workers), vice-chairman of the committee, and after his arrival by Mr Koning (employers), chairman of the committee. The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the last (7 February 2014) were approved.

2. Information by the European Commission

Ms Durst (DG EMPL) informed the participants that the preparation of the Commission proposal regarding the social partner agreement was almost finalised. It would then need to be translated so that the College could adopt it before the summer break. The social partners asked whether they could see the text sent to translation. The Commission representative said that the text (containing an explanatory memorandum and the proposal for a Council Directive) would be public after adoption by the College.

Ms Rousseau (DG MOVE) gave information about the state of play regarding the following subjects: the Proposal for a Directive laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels; the Proposal for a Regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 718/1999 on a Community-fleet capacity policy ("Reserve Fund"); and the impact assessment study regarding a future framework on the harmonisation and modernisation of professional qualifications in the sector. Regarding the latter, the Commission representative announced that a first draft of the external study would be presented at the next Common Expert Group on professional qualifications on 22 May; social partners are invited to send any comments on this preparatory work for the Commission's impact assessment¹.

3. Work programme and working groups

¹ For the procedure see: http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/impact/index_en.htm

Improvement of on-board working and living conditions and access to port side facilities: to be dealt with within a working group.

Harmonisation and modernisation of professional qualifications: ESO raised doubts about the direction the Panteia study was going (considering local knowledge as "barriers to mobility"); ETF was also worried that levels of training were considered as "burden" or "barriers". Social partners indicated very clearly that mobility was not the driver for this topic, but safety was. Social partners did not appreciate the dual stream that at the moment dictated the ongoing debate, and did not agree with the idea that for European IWT qualifications were not needed, whereas, for aviation pilots and professional truck drivers they were very much required. It shows a complete lack of respect for the profession established over the last 120 years. The European Commission may not wait for a major accident to happen on one of Europe's largest rivers before acting. The automatic recognition as discussed in the Common Expert Group on Professional Qualifications is a driver for more mobility in European IWT, but the qualifications as such need further detailed elaboration once the legal framework is put in place. The qualifications must be included in the CEG draft proposal that will be published beginning 2015.

The representative from DG MOVE did not share the fears that safety standards would be downgraded. The chair concluded that the social partners could not do much at this stage.

Harmonisation and modernisation of manning requirements (crewing): see below.

Uniform rules to apply social security legislation: this point was planned for 2015. The parties agreed to sit together somewhere in June to brainstorm and prepare something in September. The next CASS meeting was planned for 19 December 2014 and progress was slow. The social partners would try to convince more Member States to sign up the Article 16 Agreement. ESO mentioned also the fiscal inequality within Europe which could not be addressed by the Commission.

Unfair competition in IWT: The parties agreed to put on paper any concrete case of unfair competition they were aware of, with a view to come to a catalogue of cases to be studied together. The collection of cases should be done before the next meeting of the Social Dialogue Committee meeting scheduled for 15th September 2014.

In total, the following three working groups were established: unfair competition (collection of case studies, plan a meeting afterwards); living and working conditions (up to the group to propose how to progress); crewing (see below).

4. Crewing

Mr Koning (EBU) reported on the first social partners' working group on crewing which took place on 17 March in Strasbourg (see e-mail of 30 April). Whilst EBU stated that the social partners were not in a position to update legislation, ESO considered it the social partners' task to formulate their concrete views and demands. ESO proposed that each organisation submit their views on what should remain and what should stay by September, in order to provide a joint input to the CCNR roundtable in November. ETF agreed that the social partners should say how they would like to see the rules changed. A first exchange on each side's views would take place at a working group meeting on 2 September in Antwerp (meeting organised by ETF).

5. Further steps with regard to the study on stress factors in IWT

Although the social partners had decided to meet in a smaller group to come with clearer ideas on this item by the May meeting, this had not been done. The parties decided to meet on 18 June (working group on living and working conditions). Ms Durst (DG EMPL) referred again to the different possibilities for support as outlined in the minutes of the last meeting.

6. Draft agenda of the next meeting

The agenda would contain the following items: adoption of the agenda, adoption of the minutes, information by the Commission, living and working conditions (ILO report, report from 18 June working group), crewing (report from 2 September working group).

7. Any other business

The participants were informed about the projects in which ETF and Ms Beckschäfer were involved:

- Leonardo Da Vinci – Lifelong learning Programme – Transfer of Innovation – multilateral projects – project number 2012-1-NL1-LEO05-08721 – Course Manuals for Inland Navigation Education and Training – CMINET
- Leonardo Da Vinci – Lifelong learning Programme – Transfer of Innovation – multilateral projects – project number 2013-1-NL1-LEO05-12264 – Train the Trainer Course material for Navigation Education and Training – TTIET

Participants 5.5.2014

<p>Employers (4 ♂, 1 ♀, 4 different Member States)</p> <p>EBU Mr Grulois (BE) Mr Koning (NL) Mr Leandri (FR)</p> <p>ESO Ms Beckschäfer (DE) Mr Kester (NL)</p>	<p>Workers (8 ♂, 4 ♀, 8 different Member States)</p> <p>ETF Mr Bramley (ETF) Mr Broek (NL) Ms Chaffart (ETF) Mr Frunza (RO) Mr Jerabek (CZ) Mr Jacques Kerkhof (BE) Mr Kiepe (DE) Mr Komiljovics (HU) Ms Kostova (BG) Mr Melvan (HR) Ms Yordanova (BG) Ms Zec (HR)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">European Commission Ms Durst (DG EMPL) Ms Rousseau (DG MOVE)</p>	