



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 "RAILWAYS"

Conclusions of the Meeting of Working Party II held on 28 April 2008

The working party was chaired by Mr Preumont (employers). The agenda and the conclusions of the last working party meeting (20 September 2007) were adopted.

(1) Presentation of the results of the RAILTRAINING study

Mr Kunst (DG TREN) presented the results of the study "Rail training 2020 – Training needs and offers in the European railway area the next 10-15 years"¹ carried out by a consortium led by the Danish Technology Institute between December 2006 and October 2007.

ETF was disappointed with the outcome of the study, in particular its recommendations. Some of the recommendations were already in the European legislation. Other aspects were not satisfactorily dealt with, such as the very sensitive question of languages. However, ETF found it important to underline that the study did not confirm the assumption that there were barriers for access to training facilities.

CER agreed with the conclusion that the network of training centres should be revived. (DG TREN would follow what was happening in the respective UIC working group.) As far as the language problem was concerned, CER echoed ETF and added that CER had already made concrete proposals on a formalised language to be used in cross-border transports. The Commission should start dealing with this question.

(2) Follow-up of the joint recommendations for a better representation and integration of women in the railway sector (12 June 2007)

The parties agreed to present the recommendations at the plenary meeting and to prepare a joint questionnaire survey by then (to be prepared by the secretariats together with the actors of the previous project on the question). With the end of the project, the separate working group on women stopped meeting. The subject and follow-up was now covered by Working Party II.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/rail/studies/doc/rail_training_2020_nov_2007.pdf

(3) Follow-up of the joint recommendations on employability (4 October 2007)

DB informed the meeting about the state of preparation of the follow-up conference (see item 5 of the joint recommendations) planned for 7 October 2008 in Potsdam, Germany. The aim would be to bring together high level human resources representatives and to disseminate concrete examples. ETF added that the concept of employability should be seen as a preventive and sustainable measure to ensure that people be employable. This was different from the concept of "multifunctionality" or from the idea of further job-specific training.

(4) EU-wide accreditation regime for training centres in the rail industry

CER asked ETF about their views on the CER proposal on the subject presented at the last meeting in September. Meanwhile, the Agency had started working on the issue. ETF informed the employers' side that they had still divergent views on key points, such as the need for covering all railway professions (and not only train drivers), to include in-house training centres in the certification, and to also define standards on the qualifications of examiners. Since no agreement could be found on these points, the parties agreed to continue their dialogue on the subject.

(5) Any other business

It was proposed to include an item on the demographic challenge in the future work programme of the working party.

Participants:

Employers	Mr BLOMBERG (EIM/BV) Mr PREUMONT (CER) Ms STREICHERT (DB)
Workers	Mr BARTL (TRANSNET) Mr DE CHATEAUVIEUX (CFDT) Mr DERA (GDBA) Ms MARZOLA (FILT-CGIL) Mr REED (ASLEF) Ms TAMAS (UDSZSZ) Ms TRIER (ETF)
European Commission	Ms DURST (DG EMPL/F.1) Mr KUNST (DG TREN/E.2)