



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

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

Brussels, 6 April 2010

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE "CHEMICAL INDUSTRY"

WORKING GROUP MEETING

held on 3 March 2010 in Brussels

DRAFT MINUTES

I) Working group "Health and safety and Responsible Care"

Chairpersons: Reinhard Reibsch (EMCEF) and Jochen Wilkens (ECEG)

1. Opening and welcome

The social partners were welcomed by Reinhard Reibsch (EMCEF), Jochen Wilkens (ECEG) and Dirk Hadrich (DG EMPL).

2. Approval of the agenda and approval of minutes of the last meeting

The agenda and the minutes of last meeting were approved.

3. Nanotechnology: What role for the European social partners in the chemical industry?

a. The industry's perspective

Steffi Friedrichs (NIA) gave a presentation on the world market forecasts, different functionalities, emerging technologies, enabling sustainability, responsible Nano Code, public perception, stakeholder responsibility for nanotechnology, etc (annex 1).

Social partners discussed different types of nanotechnology products and their possibilities to get better involved into the communication on nanotechnology.

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b. The European Commission's perspective

Georgios Katalagarianakis (DG RTD) explained the Commission's investments, projects on the impact on health and environment, nano-risk management systems, problem dimensions, future priorities, etc (annex 2).

Social partners discussed the accessibility of information on existing projects, the existing evidence on nanotechnology that could be disseminated and the future uncertainties for industry.

c. The scientific evidence

André Lecloux (Nanocyl, Belgium) made a presentation on the toxicological assessment, methodologies to assess and to manage exposures and risks, etc (annex 3).

Social partners discussed the differences to the testing of other chemicals.

d. The trade union's perspective

Tomas Nieber (IG BCE, DE) spoke about potential health and environmental benefits, safety issues, potential risks, risk management structures, responsibilities, etc (annex 4).

Social partners discussed the possibilities to improve the dialogue with NGOs and public neighbourhoods.

II) Working group "Education, training and lifelong learning"

Chairpersons: Liliana Dombalova (ECEG) and Alfons de Potter (EMCEF)

1. Opening and welcome

The social partners were welcomed by Liliana Dombalova (ECEG) and Alfons de Potter (EMCEF).

2. Approval of the agenda and approval of minutes of the last meeting

The agenda and the minutes of last meeting were approved.

3. Project on demographic change (FECCIA; supported by EMCEF and ECEG)

Andreas Bückler (FECCIA) presented the project and its main objectives (annex 5). The project should run from 14.12.2009 to 13.12.2010 with a conference in Potsdam on 22-24.9.2010 (Interpretation will be EN, FR, DE, ES, IT).

4. Preparation of the brochure "Best practice of education, training and lifelong learning in the European chemical industry"

Nelo Emerencia (VNCI) reported examples from the Dutch Chemical Association (annex 6), which can be included in the Brochure.

5. Polish initiative: Best practices in lifelong learning

Hanna Kilen (Polish Chamber of chemical industry) presented initiatives of the Polish government, chemical industry and the Polish Chemical Association (annex 7). This will be used as input for the Brochure.

6. Follow up CITIES project

Catherine Beudon (UIC/ECEG) reported on the 3 years project that finished in 2009. A website for this project is still under construction. It was the main objective to change the pedagogical approach of school teachers with the view to attract more young people to chemistry. Once the website is finalised a more detailed presentation could be done.

7. Eurocompetence project

Liliana Dombalova (ECEG) presented the project schedule and objectives. She referred to the needs for equal qualification and found the recognition of competence profiles very important for the mobility of chemical specialists in Europe.

The aim of the project is to encourage the social dialogue in the field of Education, Training and Lifelong learning in the chemical sector and to increase the active involvement of social partners in adapting and modernizing vocational education and training systems and in-company training and lifelong learning. The project will develop a set of Recommendations, to be approved by ECEG and EMCEF member associations, on the identification, assessment and validation of competencies for the occupation of process operator and supervisor in the chemical industry. These recommendations will provide chemical industry social partner organizations with knowledge and tools and will support the mobility of chemical labor force at national and at European level. The recommendations will also have a direct use as a benchmark for (development of) national VET systems. The project will support the mobility of chemical labor force. A final conference in Sofia should conclude recommendations agreed by the social partners. The project should be submitted as application for co-funding by DG EMPL before 15.3.2010.

8. International Year of Chemistry 2011 and SusChem skills project

Daniel Verbist (CEFIC) reported on ongoing preparations of initiatives for next year (annex 8). The objectives of the International Year of Chemistry have been agreed worldwide.

Daniel Verbist (CEFIC) made a progress update on the European Technology platform SusChem (annex 9). He underlined that skills were needed and were critical to foster innovation. CEFIC would therefore initiate roundtables with international experts in education with the view to turn skill needs into recommendations for higher education.

9. Any other business

Next meetings:

4 May 2010 (Plenary)

7 July 2010 (WG)

14 October 2010 (WG)

2 December 2010 (WG)

The annexes can be downloaded from the "library" on the website of the SSDC Chemicals Industry: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=480&langId=en&intPageId=17>