



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

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

Brussels,
D(2007)

**Minutes of the plenary meeting
Steel Social Dialogue Committee
Brussels
26th June 2006**

After the separate meetings, which took place from 9H to 11H, the Plenary meeting is chaired by Peter Scherrer, the EMF General Secretary, who welcomed the participants.

1. Report from the working group "health and safety" by EMF

On the basis of the last minutes EMF presents the works of this group and presentations made about the IISI working group, the EMF issue paper, exchange of experiences and the SMART research programme.

2. Report from the "training and education" working group by EUROFER

On the basis of the last minutes, EUROFER presents the works of this group and presentations made about the EMF issue paper, the ESTEP WG 5 activities and approaches in some countries

Furthermore Mr. Tachelet gave a brief report on the Warsaw Conference (26th-27th April 2007) which concerned the need for highly skilled employees. Mr. Gibellieri had also attended this conference and reported that it focused on engineers and universities, but he said that there are other employees who need to be qualified and skilled. Mr. Heckmann was of the same opinion and proposed to include this topic in the work of the ESTEP WG 5.

3. Working group " Structural Changes"

- Presentation by EUROFER of slides on "global steel market"

Mr. Tachelet views China as a major challenge in the years to come. The country has switched from being a net importer to a net exporter and its market growth is 40-60 m tons per year. This is the equivalent to the production amount of the whole steel market in Germany. Mr. Gibellieri added that not only the rise in quantity but also the rise in quality (in all BRIC-states) was interesting. Mr. Walsh stated that the problems/challenges presented by Mr. Tachelet are emerging at a time when the steel industry is doing very well, but at the same time this sector is well known for its

cyclical. He also talked of unfair competition especially caused by China and Mr. Joos demanded from the Commission that they ensure major players such as China play under the same rules: “We don’t want to be protected but the same rules must be valid for all.”

Two other problems were highlighted by EUROFER: First of all, Mr. Heckmann stated that the declining population in Europe was a problem and requested to discuss the demographic challenge within the SSDC. Secondly, Mr. Raab pointed out that the lack of young employees should also be discussed within the committee.

Mr. Scherrer responded by stating that the discussion about further consolidation and restructuring within the steel industry which would surely cause further job losses does not make the industry attractive for young people. Therefore he requested to discuss the negative effects of restructuring within the SSDC.

- Presentation of an issue paper from EMF on “how social dialogue can deal with structural changes in the European steel industry”
- Presentation of two best practice examples:
 - Presentation by Michael Breidbach of slides on “the prerequisite for successful restructuring in movement”
 - Presentation by Enrico Gibellieri of slides on “restructuring a steelwork”

4. Discussion on development of joint policy statements and joint actions towards European institutions on European policy questions impacting the steel industry (identification of common grounds)

5. Next dates:

23.11: Working groups

19.12: Plenary meeting

<i>NOM</i>	<i>PRENOM</i>	<i>Country</i>
Bálint	Adrienn	HU
Botella	Henri	FR
Breidbach	Michael	DE
Ditmer	Adam	PL
Elgaard	Verner	DK
Elze	Hannelore	DE
Gibellieri	Enrico	IT
Heckmann	Georg	AT
Joos	Robert	BE
Kaappinen	Veli-Matti	FI
Kunkel	Martin	DE

Laso	José Ramon	ES
Marczis	Gáborné	HU
Meiler	Rudolf Carl	DE
Raab	Jaroslav	CZ
Ramirez	Gérard	FR
Rickhuss	Roy	UK
San Miguel	José Ignacio	ES
Scherrer	Peter	BE
Simoes	José Antonio	PT
Stagni	Enrico	IT
Studničná	Lucie	CZ
Tachelet	Karl	BE
Tiktopoulos	Alexandros	GR
Veres	Andreas	BE
Walsh	Michael	UK
Ziegler	François	EU