

# **SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT**

## **PLENARY MEETING 27 SEPTEMBER 2019**

### **MINUTES**

Chair: Mr George Koltsidopoulos

#### **1. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

The SSDC approved the agenda.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SSDC MEETING OF 20.05.2019**

The SSDC approved the revised minutes of the above meeting.

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

##### **a. New SSDC Work Programme**

ETF proposed two amendments to the agreed draft work programme. ECSA will consult its members.

##### **b. EU funded projects**

###### **i. New joint project proposal "Contributing to an Attractive, Smart and Sustainable Working Environment in the Shipping Sector"**

Kristīne Krivmane, DG EMPL informed that the evaluation of project proposals is ongoing and results will be communicated in November 2019.

###### **ii. Update of the project "Mapping of Maritime Professionals – Towards a full-scale European data collection system" (MapMar)**

ETF informed that the external consultant was selected and the project was extended until April 2021.

###### **iii. Update of the project "Futureproof Skills for the Maritime Transport Sector" (SkillSea)**

Staffan Ekwall, DG MOVE emphasised that it would be essential for the project to feed into the STCW revision in the IMO. Justyna BARTNICKA, DG MOVE was concerned that the project has not respected deadlines of several deliverables and informed that she will follow the project closely.

Both sides expressed an opinion that after a somewhat challenging start due to complexity of the action and the large consortium, the project is making progress. The social partners are actively involved and confident to achieve the set objectives.

##### **c. Women in shipping: ongoing joint activities**

The social partners exchanged on recent events. ECSA reported on Women in Shipping Summit that took place in London on 10-11 September and the High-Level Conference

"Towards a more inclusive and diverse transport sector" of 26 September organized by the European Commission. Ellen Durst, DG MOVE confirmed that the debate on diversity will not undermine focus on women and referred to the Women in Transport – EU Platform for change.

ETF emphasised the need for social partners to develop specific action points to effectively work on achieving better participation of women in maritime transport workforce.

ETF raised the issue of mandatory pregnancy tests before boarding used in some labour supplying countries and proposed to address it through a joint statement condemning the practice. ECSA will consult its membership.

#### **d. 2018 Amendments to ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC 2006), as approved by the ILO 170<sup>th</sup> Conference, Geneva, 5 June 2018**

Both sides expressed disappointment about the approach the Commission has taken. They agreed to elaborate a social partners' agreement that could be signed in spring 2020 and to engage in lobbying with the aim to achieve a favourable outcome.

#### **e. Maritime Safety and Security: Migrants at Sea**

ECSA updated on recent developments (provisional agreement of four Member States on the redistribution of migrants rescued at sea) and joint efforts (consultation with the EEAS). ETF expressed openness to consider joint initiatives but pointed to somewhat different take on the issue. The social partners agreed to explore the topic further.

#### **f. Socio-economic impact of Digitalisation in Shipping**

ESCA inquired about the progress in the Task Force on Digitalisation. Staffan Ekwall, DG MOVE informed that social partners will be consulted when the deliverables will be more mature. Mr Ekwall further informed that the Stakeholders' Advisory Group (SAGMAS) on maritime security discussed cybersecurity in its meeting on 5 September and emphasized that this topic also needs to be addressed from a skills perspective, suggesting that the SkillSea project should also look into cybersecurity issues.

ETF noted that there was an exchange of positions over the past months - ECSA had reacted to the ETF position paper – and we should try to close this and prepare a common statement as we are not far apart. The Secretariats were tasked to consider how to take this forward.

The topic of digitalisation will be further explored by social partners through a new joint project, if awarded. It is also addressed in the SkillSea project.

### **4. EUROPEAN SHIPPING WEEK 2020**

The social partners are planning a joint event, preparations are ongoing.

### **5. REPORT ITEMS**

#### **a. Report by the Commission on:**

**i. The state of play of the study on social aspects in the maritime transport sector**

Staffan Ekwall, DG MOVE provided a broad overview of some of the most important preliminary findings of the study. A stakeholder workshop to discuss the findings and tentative ideas for recommendations will take place on 15 – 16 October. Mr Ekwall invited the social partners to participate and respond to the survey prior to the workshop. Once the final report is finalised (November-December 2019), the findings will be discussed with the relevant stakeholders.

**ii. its report to Council and EP on the implementation and application of Regulation 5.3 of the MLC regarding labour supplying countries (pursuant to Article 6.2 of Council Directive 2013/54/EU)**

The social partners took note of the update by Staffan Ekwall, DG MOVE that the report is planned to be published end-October 2019 indicatively.

They also noted that an International Workshop on the Maritime Labour Convention will be hosted by EMSA on 18 - 20 February 2020<sup>1</sup> in Lisbon. The workshop is primarily directed at governments but will include a one-day session which social partners can attend.

**b. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code)**

ECSA acknowledged ETF support for joint lobbying but expressed disappointment on the outcome - the adopted Regulation does not provide certainty for seafarers. ECSA informed that joint comments on the Handbook were provided to DG HOME and a statement to draw attention of Member States to enabling provisions in the Code that allow granting multiple entry visas was drafted. ETF will consult its members but does not see major problems in finalising the statement shortly.

**c. Directive 92/29/EC on the minimum safety and health requirements for improved medical treatment on board vessels**

The social partners took note of the update by Kristīne Krivmane, DG EMPL<sup>2</sup> who informed that on 26 June 2019 the Technical Progress Committee gave a favourable opinion on the draft Directive. It has been submitted to the Council and the European Parliament for scrutiny. If there are no formal objections, the Commission would adopt the Directive in 2019.

**The calendar for the 2020 SSDC meetings will be communicated by November 2019.**

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<sup>1</sup> These are final, updated dates.

<sup>2</sup> On behalf of Jan-Willem Ebeling, DG EMPL