



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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

Brussels, 27 March 2012

**SECTORAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
RAILWAYS**

Concise minutes of the Steering Committee meeting

21 November 2011

The meeting was chaired by the chairman of the committee, Mr Müller (employers). The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the meetings of 31 March 2011 (steering committee) and 25 May 2011 (plenary meeting) were adopted.

(1) Information by DG Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE)

Mr Grillo, Deputy Head of Unit "Single European Rail Area", informed the participants of relevant sectoral developments having social implications: the state of play of the proposed recast of the first railway package (first reading in Parliament); the state of implementation of the first railway package; developments related to interoperability and safety (two registers); the European Railway Agency's next work programme (with activity fiche 8 on personnel); the adoption of (a) criteria for the recognition of training centres involved in the training of train drivers, on criteria for the recognition of examiners of train drivers and on criteria for the organisation of examinations and of (b) a Commission recommendations on the procedure for recognition of training centres and of examiners of train drivers¹; the Commission's plans with regard to other on-board personnel (a communication early 2012); the future fourth railway package (opening of the domestic passenger market and complete separation between infrastructure and operation).

In the following exchange, the Commission representative noted that none of the open infringement procedures concerned the Directive on the certification of train drivers. Regarding the future communication on other on-board staff, ETF did favour a second consultation (including the social partners). The workers' organisation deplored that market access legislation went usually into great detail, whilst rules related to staff were simplified and very flexible. The workers' organisation clearly feared social dumping related to the (non)certification of other on-board staff. The Commission representative suggested a meeting with the social partners to listen again to their views. He underlined that the TSI OPE was not about to be simplified but to be completed. CER was interested

¹ Adopted on 22 November 2011

in the method which would be used to harmonise health and safety rules across the TSIs. The employers' organisation attached great importance to safety-related training of staff.

Regarding the future fourth railway package, ETF called upon the Commission to properly consult the social partners on the social impact. Mr Grillo confirmed that all relevant stakeholders would be consulted in the framework of the impact assessment study; in addition, the work on the impact assessment could be presented at one of the next social dialogue meetings. Ms Durst (DG EMPL, Social Dialogue Unit) referred to the Commission's impact assessment guidelines² which recalled that Sectoral Dialogue Committees "shall be consulted on developments at Community level having social implications". Presenting the ongoing study to the social partners would not be sufficient. ETF announced that they would investigate how other sectors had been involved in impact assessments. This would be discussed amongst secretariats.

(2) Information by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)

Ms Durst from the Social Dialogue Unit gave information on recent developments: the conference on 20 years of the Social Partners' Agreement which were translated into today's articles 154 and 155 of the Treaty; the social partners' decision to enter negotiations on reviewing the Working Time Directive; the CEEP's project on change in public services³; the state of play of EIRO's comparative analytical report on the railways sector (presentation to Eurofound's advisory committee in March/April 2012). ETF announced that the final conference for the CEEP project was planned for 16-17 February 2012 in Brussels.

(3) Report on the development of the 2011-2012 work programme

The presidents and/or rapporteurs of the two working groups updated the participants on the current state of implementation of the work programme. As for working group I, Mr Olofsson (rapporteur) questioned the quality of the work carried out by the consultant for the study on the implementation of the social partners' agreement (see also minutes of the working group meeting taking place in the afternoon). ETF announced that they would send the link to the ERTMS study⁴. The workers' organisation also said that they were currently drafting the project proposal on psychosocial risks (to be submitted by the March deadline). As for working group II, Ms Streichert (rapporteur) informed about current, past and future social partner projects. The final conference of the "Women in Rail" project was now planned for 18-19 April 2012.

(4) Any other business

The participants were informed that Mr Blomberg (EIM) would no longer participate in the European social dialogue meetings. CER would meet with the new EIM Secretary General soon in order to find out who would represent EIM in the future.

² http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/commission_guidelines/commission_guidelines_en.htm, see also "Consulting European social partners: Understanding how it works" at: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=522&langId=en>

³ http://www.ceep.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=217&Itemid=145

⁴ http://www.filtcgil.it/indGeDo_aimesc.asp

Planned meeting dates 2012:

- Tuesday 21 February - working group II
- Tuesday 27 March - steering committee and working group I
- Tuesday 19 June - plenary
- Thursday 18 October - working group I and working group II
- Wednesday 5 December - steering committee

Participants 21.11.2011

<p>Employers (3 ♂, 2 ♀)</p> <p>CER Ms Grau (FR) Mr Müller (DE) Mr Olofsson (SE) Mr Preumont (CER) Ms Streichert (DE)</p> <p>EIM Not represented</p>	<p>Workers (8 ♂, 4 ♀)</p> <p>ETF Mr Bartl (DE) Mr Fällman (SE) Mr Gamez Ramirez (ES) Mr Gobe (FR) Ms Guerin (ETF) Ms Lohle (NL) Ms Marzola (IT) Mr Piteljon (BE) Mr Schlömer (DE) Ms Trier (ETF) Mr van Oort (NL) Mr Waccin (FR)</p>
<p>European Commission</p> <p>Ms Durst (DG EMPL/B.1) Mr Grillo (DG MOVE/B.2) Mr Pedret Cuscó (DG MOVE/B) Ms Walter (DG EMPL/B.1)</p>	
<p>Others</p> <p>Mr Champin (observer)</p>	