



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Employment and Social Governance
Social dialogue

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT**

**Minutes
working group meeting of 14 January 2016**

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting was chaired by Mr Koning (EBU). The agenda was approved.

2. Adoption of the minutes of last meeting

Mr Van Lancker made a remark on the minutes of the last meeting – page 3, item 5 – 7th sentence. Taking into account that remark the draft minutes were approved.

3. Information by the Commission

a. Implementation of the Working Time Directive

Mr Strohbach highlighted that the Working Time Directive was published on 19 December 2014. Member States are obliged to transpose the directive into national law by 31 December 2016.

So far, unit Labour Law of DG EMPL has received positive signals from several Member States which have already started implementing the directive. However, the Commission will closely monitor this transposition/implementation process. In addition, social partners should also accompany this process and inform the COM, DG EMPL unit Labour Law about any issues which they may have noticed.

Social partners informed about the current state of play in the Member States. In France, the Netherlands and the UK social partners met with the responsible authorities/ministries. Specific items of the working time directive were discussed. Germany has not yet started the implementation process. However, Mr Rusche mentioned some informal talks on some possible derogations. As the Belgian national agreements go beyond the European directive, difficulties in transposing the directive are not expected. Mr Bramley mentioned that Switzerland started consultation on the autonomous implementation and addressed IG River Cruise on some elements of the working time, but did not receive an answer so far.

b. Update on the PLATINA 2 project (DG MOVE)

DG MOVE presented the latest developments in the field of inland navigation. The Commission is expected to adopt its proposal on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation in February/March 2016.

Platina II and Prominent projects are still ongoing. On the use of simulators, a report on technical standards will be submitted to DG MOVE at the beginning of 2016 [Platina II]. A comparison between simulator-based education and real-life will show

the advantages and disadvantages of the use of ship-handling simulators [PROMINENT]. On the electronic Service Record Books (e-SRB), following the report of April 2015 under Platina II, the technical architecture of an e-SRB connected to an e-Logbook will be developed and a first pilot system will be executed [Prominent]. Finally, concerning learning material for future logistics decision makers, the database on the website of EDINNA (Education in inland navigation) was extended. Meetings are organised to disseminate the information [Platina II]. The integration of IWT knowledge into general logistics education will be facilitated by the development of a "Community of Practice" (interactive environment where students can cooperate with stakeholders on cases brought in by the industry or other relevant stakeholders). E-learning modules will be developed on energy and cost-efficient navigation; handling of (alternative) fuel and cargo, especially dangerous goods; and vessel stability. [Prominent]

DG MOVE also referred to more horizontal social issues.

First, the need to attract more people to the transport sector (a third of all transport workers are over 50 years old) and to address the gender imbalance of the sector (only 22 % of the workforce in the transport sector are women). Commissioner Bulc will organise a brainstorming meeting in April 2016 to come up with an action plan reaching out to various levels EU/national/companies/universities. A call for proposals will also be launched by DG JUST in February 2016 to promote good practice for gender roles and to overcome gender stereotypes in education, training and at the workplace.

Besides, the European Parliament has launched a 'Pilot Project' on 'Making the EU transport sector attractive to future generations'. Both citizens (e.g. information about job profiles) and stakeholders (e.g. exchange information and good practices) will be concerned. DG MOVE will be in charge of handling the project and social partners will be closely associated (the study/consultation phase will take place mainly at the end of 2016/ beginning of 2017).

Secondly, DG MOVE indicated that President Juncker had announced the setting up in 2016 of an "EU pillar of social rights". It will consist of a reference framework to screen employment and social performance in the light of changing work patterns. An outline will be presented in the coming weeks and will be followed by a broad consultation. Social partners will play a central role in this process.

In the discussions that followed, social partners stressed the difficulty to obtain reliable statistics in the inland navigation sector, in particular as regards female workers. ETF also expressed the worry that the EU policy on digitalisation would speed up the decrease in human labour and impacts hard on the human factor in general.

c.Social dialogue follow-up activities (DG EMPL)

Mr Strohbach presented the follow-up activities after the high level conference "A new start for social dialogue" on 5 March 2015. Since then the Commission has done a lot to act on its commitments from the conference, including greater involvement of the social partners in the European semester, greater involvement in policy and law-making and support for capacity building. Mr Strohbach gave an overview of the key steps and achievements in that respect.

In addition, he pointed out that the Commission has organised the follow up to the new start for social dialogue around two themes which are covered by 2 Thematic Groups

(social dialogue, economic governance and capacity building; social dialogue, policy- and law-making).

It was agreed to inform social partners more in detail about the European Semester in the next meeting. Social Partners also requested to circulate the power point presentation.

4. Working groups

a. Working group on living and working conditions

Mr Rusche pointed out that social partners met on this issue and discussed with experts the preparation of the envisaged project application. The project should focus on the modernisation (quality of living and working conditions on board) of the fleet and the equipment on board.

Ms Chaffart underlined that social partners agreed on a common outline for the project and that the process was well advanced. The next meeting will be shortly after the 27 January 2016.

b. Working group on crewing

Ms Chaffart mentioned that social partners have sent a document to the Rhine Commission in which elements were proposed which could be changed easily within the Rhine regulation. The following steps, more complicated ones, will focus on combining the scope of this working group with the working group on living and working conditions.

c. Unfair competition – social partners to report on collection of cases on unfair competition

Ms Chaffart reported that the working group met in Rotterdam on 24 November 2015. As an outcome all topics (positive/negative) which might affect competition were identified and listed in a table (Annex). In addition she suggested to change the name of the working group into "fair competition".

Each topic of the table was discussed in the SSDC meeting. Particular attention was given to the topics social dumping practices, fragmented legislation and technical guidelines. Social partners agreed on that for several topics more clarification is needed. However, the question was raised as to how the document will be used for the needs of the sector, once the text has been finalised.

5. Social security European inland waterways: social partners' initiative regarding IWT social security

Mr Koning informed that a letter was drafted on behalf of social partners of the Member States (member of the Administrative Centre for Social Security [CASS]) and Switzerland in which social partners emphasised their support for the CASS initiative. This initiative focuses on a social security system at European level (The seat of the employer would be decisive for applying the law which is important for equal treatment on board). The letter will be sent to the Administrative Commission for the coordination of social security systems. However, it has not been finalised yet. [*The letter has been sent on 20th January 2016*]

Mr Koning also mentioned that the Dutch delegation (Dutch presidency in the first half year of 2016) is very pleased with the overall content of the letter.

Mr Bramley and Mr Rusche highlighted the importance of social dialogue for reaching such common positions/initiatives and expressed their gratefulness for the fact that the Dutch presidency sees this initiative so favourably.

6. Work programme 2016/2017

The work programme was discussed and still needs some fine-tuning. It will be finalised by the next meeting.

7. AOB /Draft Agenda next meeting

The participants agreed to keep an identical agenda for the next meeting.

Mr Bramley referred to point 6 of the minutes of the last meeting and asked for more information about the consultation platform of EBU and ESO.

Mr Koning was told by the EBU Secretary General that the setting up of this platform is still subject of discussion.

Social partners agreed on discussing the issue at the NAIADES meeting in Brussels the following week.

For the next SSDC meeting a preparatory meeting (9:30 – 11:00) will be requested.

Having established a rotation system of the chair, a new chair will be appointed in the following SSDC meeting on 11 April 2016.

<p>Employers <i>(4 ♂, 0 ♀, 3 different Member States)</i> EBU Mr Koning (NL) Mr Rusche (DE)</p> <p>ESO Mr Kester (NL) Mr van Lancker (BE)</p>	<p>Workers <i>(10 ♂, 3 ♀, 8 different Member States)</i> ETF Mr Bramley (ETF) Ms Chaffart (ETF) Mr Havard (UK) Mr Jerabek (CZ) Mr Karavatchev (BG) Mr Kraijenoord (NL) Mr Kerkhof (BE) Mr Kerkhofs (BE) Mr Kiepe (DE) Ms Latron (FR) Mr Melvan (HR) Ms Nikolova (BG) Mr Mistic (HR)</p>
<p>European Commission Ms Sophie Marin-Combeaud (DG MOVE) Mr Strohbach (DG EMPL)</p> <p>Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine Ms Moosbrugger</p>	