



European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Local and Regional Governments

## **Working group meeting**

25 January 2017

Draft Minutes

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### **1. Welcome and announcements**

- Presentation of the work programme for 2017

The joint CEMR-EPSU work programme says that the Committee will work jointly to deliver an update on the Guidelines to drawing up gender equality action plans in Local and Regional Government adopted in 2007 and will monitor further their implementation.

An implementation report has been published on the position of women in local and regional government in the framework of the “Future of Work Project” in October 2012.

### **2. Minutes of the working group meeting on 5 December 2016**

The minutes were approved with a requested modification: to indicate that the word “alternative”, at page 3 of the paper “Toward CEMR-EPSU framework for well-being at work for local and regional governments” adopted on 5 December 2016, has a factual and not normative meaning. French and German translations should be changed accordingly.

### **3. CEMR-ESPU activities on gender equality**

- Debate between participants based on the working paper by CEMR-EPSU Secretariats

The debate focussed on several issues: need to have proactive guidelines for the LRGs sector; better share of leaves between the parents and relative allowances; importance of collective bargaining to enact LRGs guidelines; attention to working conditions in public procurement jobs; importance of fully applying the current EU Directives; the role of the Social Pillar; support childcare facilities and services. The committee decided that the Steering group will discuss at its next meeting how to better proceed with the drafting of the revised guidelines.

### **4. European Pillar of social rights**

- Update on the Social Pillar by the European Commission
- Debate on CEMR and EPSU responses to the public consultations

Stefano Martinelli (DG EMPL) presented the main features of the Social Pillar package that the Commission is expected to publish in Spring 2017. The Social Pillar is structured around three strands: the first chapter on equal opportunities and access to the labour market, the second on fair working conditions, and the third on adequate and sustainable social protection.

The focus of the package should be on measures to support working families and social protection; a Commission interpretative paper on the posting of workers Directive; a revision of the Written Statement Directive; and other possible initiatives on the posting of workers and minimum wages policy.

## **5. Next CEMR-EPSU joint project**

- Debate and exchange of views on CEMR's proposal

The next joint project proposal, that will be submitted by CEMR, focuses on the involvement of social partners in the European Semester and on support to their capacity building. The main goal of this project is to increase CEMR and EPSU members' awareness about the functioning of the European Semester mechanism and to strengthen capacity-building of social partners at national level, in particular in those countries where social dialogue practices are less common and the role of social partners in the national and local policy making need to be more structured and embedded in the national governance procedures. The committee agreed on the outline of the project proposal presented by CEMR.

EPSU added that the project could look at public investment, and a balanced use of public-private partnerships and public procurement as well as choosing some countries (from voluntary CEMR and EPSU affiliates) drawing up recommendations from local government social partners to the European Commission.

## **6. AOB**

EPSU mentioned that the committee should seek to look further at the implementation of the EU occupational safety and health framework. The employers' guidance published by the European Commission is a welcome tool. However, the committee should further consider developing guidance to following three possible central themes to prevent and assess the risks of musculoskeletal disorder, carcinogens (revision of current legal framework), and psycho-social risk assessments. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

- Next meetings

The next meetings of the social dialogue committee in 2017 will be held on the following dates: Monday 25 January (working group); Thursday 5 May (working group); Thursday 10 November (plenary meeting).

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