



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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

Brussels, 6 May 2014

Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Professional Football

Minutes of the Working Group Meeting "Contractual Stability and Respect of Contracts"

6 March 2014

1. Adoption of the agenda and of the minutes of last meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr Grafström (UEFA). The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the 19 September 2013 working group meeting were adopted.

2. Planning of activities for 2014-2015

The chair announced that the mandate (terms of reference) of the sectoral dialogue committee's working groups had been updated and was to be adopted at the Professional Football Strategy Council (PFSC) on Monday. The activities planned for 2014-2015 were linked to the document prepared by the PFSC Sub-Working Group on Transfer Matters. Although not yet officially approved, the paper reflected a compromise reached by the European organisations¹. Some recommendations were addressed to FIFA who would be present in the meeting of the PFSC on Monday, too.

3. Report from the PFSC Working Group on Transfer Matters

The proposal of recommendations which had three parts was presented to the social partners. It covers the respect of contracts (overdue payables towards players; overdue payables towards clubs; monitoring, transparency and clearing houses; dispute resolution); young player and training clubs (publication of decisions of the FIFA Sub-Committee; trials); and implementation. FIFPro considered that some recommendations to national stakeholders could be implemented together with the autonomous agreement in the current or a similar process. ECA and EPFL stressed the high importance of dispute resolution and the velocity to settle international disputes.

4. Implementation plan

As already indicated, some recommendations were addressed to national associations/national leagues, others to FIFA. FIFPro considered that the social partners should coordinate their efforts towards FIFA and that the national implementation process, where possible, could be combined with the implementation of the autonomous agreement. The parties agreed to disseminate the recommendations within their respective membership and within various fora, such as FIFA's Dispute Resolution

¹ The recommendations of the PFSC Working Group on Transfer Matters were formally approved by the UEFA PFSC on 10 March.

Chamber and Players' Status Committee (meeting on 18 March) and possibly at the next UEFA Congress (27 March in Astana, Kazakhstan).

In addition, a mapping exercise on overdue payables regulations and similar financial regulations at national level should take place. It was agreed that the following elements should be available at least one week before the next meeting:

- UEFA and EPFL: overdue payables and similar financial regulations at national level
- FIFPro and ECA: consultation with their membership on practices which work or which are not functioning appropriately

At the same time, FIFA should be approached jointly regarding the PFSC recommendations directed at it, at the highest level possible.

For the next meeting, ECA proposed to present their Study on the Transfer System in Europe (already available at ECA's website²).

5. Any other business

Mr Monte from the European Commission (DG EAC) informed the parties that the results of the Expert Group "Good Governance"³ would be presented to the Council on 18 March.

6. Next meeting

The next working group meeting will be held on 6 May 2014 in Brussels. ECA was interested to hearing FIFPro's assessment regarding the effectiveness of the different measures to tackle overdue payables (report announced at the last working group meeting). FIFPro said that the report was not yet finalised.

Participants 6/3/2014

<p>Employers (2 ♂, 0 ♀)</p> <p><u>ECA</u> Mr Lambrecht</p> <p><u>EPFL</u> Mr Bertoni</p>	<p>Workers (5 ♂, 0 ♀)</p> <p><u>FIFPro</u> Mr Bär-Hoffmann Mr Evangelista (PT) Mr Øland (DK) Mr Stefanovic (SI) Mr van Megen</p>
<p>European Commission</p> <p>Ms Durst (DG EMPL) Mr Monte (DG EAC)</p>	<p>UEFA</p> <p>Mr Grafström</p>

² <http://www.ecaeurope.com/news/european-club-association-publishes-study-on-the-transfer-system-in-europe/>

³ http://ec.europa.eu/sport/policy/cooperation/expert_groups_en.htm