



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

Brussels, 13 May 2011

MINUTES OF THE 22/03/11 WORKING GROUP MEETING OF THE CLEANING INDUSTRY SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Commission representatives:

Dirk Hadrich	DG EMPL, F1 (Chairperson)
Alexandre Jacobs	OIB
Juan Ibarquen	OIB

Those present:

Rachel Owens (EU)	UNI Europa
Laila Castaldo (EU)	ETF
Petro Jesus Gosijo Casado (ES)	CC.OO
Henriette Olofsen (DK)	3F
Jorgen Jorgensen (DK)	ROS
Estelle Winter (L)	OGBL
Jenniveera Tabell (FIN)	PAM
Reidu Owen (IRL)	SIPTU
Dave Godson (UK)	UNISON
Maximo Coopmans (BE)	CDAST
Luisa Lopez Valencia (ES)	UGT
Philippe Vigneront (BE)	FGTB
Jilali Laaove (BE)	CDAST FGTB
Adriano Montorti (IT)	Filcans CGIL
Jonsson Torbjorn (SE)	Fastighets
Michael Haim (AT)	OGB/VIDA
Dominique Fervaille (BE)	FGTB/CSC

Andreas Lill (EU)	EFCI / FENI
Remi Loison (EU)	EFCI / FENI
Norma Van den Berg (NL)	OSB
Mahriar Hussain (UK)	CSSA
Irena Bartonova Palkova (CZ)	CAC
Steven De Clees (BE)	ABSU-UGBN
Nina Sieber (DE)	BIV
Georg Lintner (DE)	BIG
Enrico Libera (IT)	SNS
Hans Simons (NL)	OSB

The proposed draft agenda for the meeting was approved.

1. Follow-up of project – Improving the European Social Dialogue in the Cleaning Industry Sector: Examination and renewal

Rachel Owens (UNI Europa) reported on the finished project that aimed to identify future issues for social dialogue and to improve the participation in the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee. The established implementation report and the work programme were seen as the basis for the future work.

Andreas Lill (EFCI) reviewed the activities of the project and found it would now be the next step to work on the content of the identified issues.

Follow-up: Social partners to further debate the issues that have been identified within the project.

2. Presentation of adopted work programme 2011 - 2012

Social partners went through the different points of the work programme. As priority issues they wanted to update the best value guide with more concrete information for public authorities, to assess day time cleaning in different Member States and to participate to the Fit for Work Initiative of the Work Foundation.

Social partners discussed the impact of subcontracting in the cleaning sector. They saw a need for a definition of subcontracting. It has been suggested to continue the discussion on this issue at next Social Dialogue meetings and to develop a project on subcontracting that could be launched in 2012

Social partners found that discussions on existing and possibly new standards could be useful to clarify benefits and future possibilities of activities. As a first step, it would be useful to find out whether and what standards already exist at national level with a view to present them at future meetings and, on that basis, explore the possibility to set a European standard for the industry.

Follow-up: Social partners to follow the work programme, to concretise plans to update the best value guide, to prepare participation in the Fit for Work Initiative, to develop a 2012-project on subcontracting and to discuss existing and possibly new standards.

3. Study on Muscular-skeletal diseases (MSDs) conducted on behalf of UNI Europa member FGTB

The Belgian Trade Union FGTB reported on their initiatives regarding muscular-skeletal disorders. They presented their calculations of socio-economic costs, medical findings prevention measures and future recommendations.

Follow-up: Social partners to consider further initiatives concerning MSDs.

4. Presentation of handling of cleaning contracts within the European Commission

Alexandre Jacobs (OIB) presented information concerning the procedures and contracts of cleaning of the offices and buildings of the European Commission. He referred to the number of buildings, the differences among the buildings and offices, the number of workers, their working times, controls, communication issues and other challenges. He explained the need to ensure quality cleaning with an acceptable minimum of resources.

Social partners pointed to their best value guide that aims to promote quality cleaning and awarding of most economically advantageous offers. They referred to problems and experiences with too cheap cleaning contracts, too big surfaces of cleaning and the need to promote day time cleaning.

Follow-up: Social partners to consider further initiatives to promote best value cleaning.

5. Publication of the European Commission guide on social considerations in public procurement

UNI Europa found the Commission's guide on "Buying social" in general positive. However, there would be some weaknesses and confusing information. Referring to the joint response of the coalition of trade unions and NGOs, UNI Europa has been seeking for a joint view with EFCI on certain specific and concrete points.

EFCI found the Commission's guide also positive in general with some good examples. It would be the first reference document of the Commission concerning this subject. EFCI wanted to receive the specific and concrete points of UNI Europa in writing by email.

Follow-up: UNI Europa to send specific and concrete points and arguments concerning the guide by email to EFCI.

6. Representativeness study for DG Employment carried out by the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (Eurofound)

Dirk Hadrich (DG EMPL) explained the aim and procedure of the representativeness study carried out by Eurofound on behalf of DG EMPL. It would be important to identify all social partner associations which are active in the cleaning industry sector in Europe. National reports would be drafted for each country and it would be essential that these reports are checked and validated by the concerned national social partner association. The European overview report would finally be discussed with the EU social partner associations in a formal meeting in Brussels.

EFCI stressed that collaboration with and proper response to the questionnaire sent by the national contact points of Eurofound would be essential.

Follow-up: National social partners to collaborate with and to respond to the national contact points of Eurofound.

7. Any other business

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

24 June 2011 (WG)
21 October 2011 (PL)