



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change
Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations

Brussels, 16 June 2010

**MINUTES OF THE 15/03/10 WORKING GROUP MEETING OF
THE CLEANING INDUSTRY SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE**

Commission representatives:

Dirk Hadrich DG EMPL, F1 (Chairperson)

Those present:

Rachel Owens (EU)	UNI-Europa
Michael Haim (AT)	OGB/VIDA
Dominique Fervaille (BE)	FGTB/CSC
Antonio Morona Vivas (ES)	UGT
Marina Tarrjo Gonzales (ES)	CCOO
Henriette Olofsen (DK)	3F
Jørgen Jørgensen (DK)	Service Forhandet
Jenniveera Tabell (FI)	PAM
Jonsson Torbjorn (SE)	Fastighets

Andreas Lill (EU)	EFCI / FENI
Irena Bartonova Palkova (CZ)	CAC
Norma Van den Berg (NL)	OSB
Manriar Hussain (UK)	CSSA
Steven De Clees (BE)	ABSU-UGBN
Wolfgang Krauss (A)	BIG
Johan Huldt (SE)	ALMEGA
Donatello Miccoli (IT)	FISE

Irene Wintermayr	EU-OSHA
Brenda O'Brien	EU-OSHA

In the proposed draft agenda for the meeting item 5 was replaced by the topic of the "crisis". Item 3 (Presentation of Brenda O'Brien) was moved to the beginning of the meeting. There was not enough time to treat items 6 and 7 that were postponed to the next meeting.

1. Presentation by Brenda O'Brien from the European Agency for Safety and Health at work on launch of preventing harm for cleaners report and the maintenance campaign

Brenda O'Brien (EU-OSHA) made a presentation on the 2009 report "Preventing harm for cleaners" (annex 1). She described actions of the Member States and companies including measures that can be taken on a very practical level. She stressed that some mistakes could be easily prevented through simple messages.

Social partners supported the report and talked about investments in training and the competition that would especially during the time of the crisis be only focused on the price.

Belgian trade unions drew the attention to the current call for proposal of the Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Brussels (OIB). They wanted to meet the OIB officials with a view to better promote working conditions and quality of work. A meeting with the OIB should be arranged, if possible.

Brenda O'Brien (EU-OSHA) made a second presentation on the subject of the new network based campaign "Safe maintenance" (annex 2). She underlined that maintenance could contribute to safer workplaces. The closing event of the campaign should be in Bilbao in November 2011.

The social partners discussed the possibilities to contribute to this new campaign, different sub-types of harassment at work and the possibilities to get in touch with the national labour ministries.

The social partners found that maintenance of lifts would be very important for cleaners working outside at facades of buildings. The Czech employers referred to special glass building designs of certain architects that would be very dangerous for cleaners. Brenda O'Brien suggested seeking a discussion with the architects' council.

2. Improving the European Social Dialogue in the Cleaning Industry Sector: Examination and renewal (project financed by the European Commission)

UNI europa explained the background of the project that aims to revive the sectoral social dialogue at European level (annex 3). She referred to the good work of 11 years and the need to look for future priorities. In order to find the most useful subjects to be treated in future a questionnaire in EN, FR, DE, ES and IT has been prepared. It should be sent out to the affiliates within the following week. Afterwards a number of interviews has been planned. Furthermore, participants were informed that the first working group of the project will take place on 19th April in Paris. There will be five participants from each side (UNI europa and EFCI) as well as the external expert.

Follow-up: Affiliates to reply to the questionnaire before end March.

3. European Commission guide on social considerations in public procurement

Dirk Hadrich (DG EMPL) reported on DG EMPL's work to produce a guide on social considerations in public procurement. After final inter-service consultations the guide should be finalized within the next months. In addition, DG EMPL would launch a study to further quantify service costs and to assess costs and benefits of social considerations in public procurement.

UNI europa and EFCI found that the reference to the social partner's guide had slightly improved. However, the whole tone of the wording would still be problematic. Both asked to invite the responsible official of DG EMPL once again to the next meeting in order to be informed about the guide.

Follow-up: Social partners to follow the adoption of the guide and to consider further initiatives. DG EMPL to invite the responsible official for the next meeting.

4. Presentation by UNI europa Swedish members on best practice in public procurement

Swedish Building Maintenance Workers' Union reported on the use of the best value guide in Sweden and how people in Sweden would look at the quality of work (annex 4). There would be 6 levels of measuring cleaning services and these would be followed by larger companies. Workers would be paid on the results and the quality of the cleaning. Swedish unions have tried to include the best value principle in a binding standard but they did not succeed.

Social partners discussed the possibilities to pay cleaning services on the basis of results and quality instead of working time.

5. The crisis

From various countries serious difficulties during the time of the crisis were reported: Clients would cut their costs, cleaning prices would descend, the quality of cleaning would become less important, unemployment would increase, often the same work would need to be done for less money, the business would become less profitable, the number of working hours would be reduced, more pressure on cleaning workers to perform increased workload in same amount or reduced time.

Social partners decided to continue the analysis of effects of the ongoing crisis in particular in the framework of the implementation project.

Follow-up: Social partners to further analyse the effects of the crisis.

6. Undeclared work

The item was not treated and postponed to the next meeting.

7. Vocational training

The item was not treated and postponed to the next meeting.

8. Any other business

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

25 June 2010 (WG)

15 October 2010 (PL)