



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social dialogue, social rights, working conditions, adaptation to change
Social dialogue and industrial relations

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE INLAND NAVIGATION

Meeting of 17 September 2009 Minutes (approved on 27 November 2009)

1. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Koning (employers) chaired the meeting. The agenda was adopted and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved (with amendments in point 3).

2. "A sustainable future for transport" (COM/2009/279)

The participants discussed whether, as social partners, they should set out their position on the Commission's communication of 17 June 2009. Comments on the future of transport and possible policy options should be submitted by the end of September. The workers' representatives reported that they had looked in particular at paragraphs 53 and 54 ("Protecting and developing human capital") and had no objections to what was set out there. However, a "levelling down" was already apparent in the inland navigation sector¹, and the Commission should take action to deal with this. The employers' representatives wished to see a greater focus on the social aspects in conformity with NAIADES (working time, social security). The idea of basic social security cover ("*sôcle de garantie minimale*") was mentioned. The social partners decided to try and draw up a joint declaration. ETF was prepared to draw up a draft document. This should be available by the middle of November, and the final version should if possible be ready by the end of that month.

3. Coordination of social security schemes

The participants exchanged views on the developments within the CASS (*Zentrale Verwaltungsstelle für die Soziale Sicherheit der Rheinschiffer*² [Administrative Centre for the Social Security of Rhine Boatmen]) concerning the new Regulation (EC) No 987/2009³. They also reported on responses to the social partners' "joint declaration on

¹ A website on which Filipino crew members were being offered for hire at competitive prices was mentioned as a particularly glaring example.

² <http://www.ccr-zkr.org/De/cass.htm>

³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:284:SOM:EN:HTML>

the social security provisions in the inland navigation sector" drawn up in August, and on the social partners' follow-up activities in each of the Rhine States. Whilst it was unclear whether all CCNR member countries wished to retain the Agreement on Social Security for Rhine Boatmen, it was an established fact that the new EU Regulation would enter into force on 1 May 2010. With a view to the next CASS meeting on 29 September, the social partners tried to agree a joint position in order to speak with one voice within the various national delegations (opposing the termination of the Agreement, or at least for as long as there was no uniform, EU-wide solution for the sector). The two sides agreed to work towards a European-level solution which also covered nationals of third countries. In this connection, the representative of the Rhine Commission announced that a conference on "Coordination of Social Security Schemes" would be held on 13 October in Strasbourg.

4. Progress in implementing the work programme⁴

The current situation as far as working time was concerned was that the "consultation document" was being examined within the three organisations. At the next negotiating session (29 October) the feedback regarding the provisional outcome of the negotiations would first of all be collated and discussed. The afternoon was to be devoted to a further exchange of views with representatives of the passenger and cruise ship sector. Furthermore, a document from the drafting group was already available, to which additions would be made after the meeting at the end of October.

With regard to the job profiles, the employers' representatives gave an account of the last meeting, which had been held in Duisburg on 31 August in the framework of PLATINA. It was intended that the working group adopt a "findings document" on 2 November.

As regards point 4 of the work programme (working and living conditions), ETF proposed some initial reflections concerning access to the port facilities. The ESO suggested a review of the regulatory conditions. The Commission representative drew attention to possible assistance from the EU, for example budget heading 04 03 03 01 or Eurofound⁵.

With respect to point 5 (unfair competition), it was proposed that some cases be discussed and that information on these be made available in good time for the next meeting in spring.

⁴

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/empl/sectoral_social_dialogue/library?l=/inland_waterways/2009/arbeitsprogramm_2009-201&vm=detailed&sb=Title

⁵ See: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/stakeholders/index.htm>

Participants 17.9.2009

Employers (EBU, ESO):

Ms Beckschäfer (DE)
Mr Dalaise (FR)
Mr Koning (NL)
Mr Naaborgh (NL)
Mr Schuhmacher (DE)
Mr Van Lancker (BE)
Mr Veldman (NL)
Ms Wenkel (DE)

Workers (ETF):

Mr Biesold (DE)
Mr Bleser (LU)
Mr Bramley (ETF)
Ms Chaffart (ETF)
Mr Delatronchette (FR)
Mr Jerabek (CZ)
Ms Kostova (BG)
Mr Lehninger (AT)
Mr Pauptit (NL)
Mr Weicker (LU)

European Commission:

Ms Durst (DG EMPL)

Others:

Ms Tournaye (CCNR, Observer)