



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue  
**Social dialogue, Industrial Relations**

Brussels, 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2013

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE  
COMMITTEE  
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES**

**Conclusions of the plenary session**

**29<sup>th</sup> of November 2012**

**Chairman: Mr. Martin Isles (UEPG)**

**1. Adoption of the draft agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted with minor changes e.g. rescheduling of some of the items.

**2. Approval of the draft minutes from the last meeting**

The draft minutes from the April plenary session as well as the September working group meeting were adopted taking into account the minor suggested changes submitted prior to the meeting.

**3. Liaison Forum – update**

Recalling the note circulated by Unit B.1 in October, which summarises the changes related to the planning and organization of SD committee meetings, the COM reminded the Social Partners to take these changes into account during the planning of meetings and the WG for 2013. The key changes are a limit to the total number of meetings (including bureau meetings, working group meetings and plenary meetings) to 4 per committee, with one plenary meeting per year. Other important changes include changes in deadlines for the submission of the draft agenda and languages to be used. The detailed note is also available in French and German.

**4. Citizens' Initiative on EC Energy Policy**

ZPGWK updated the participants on the key points of the citizens' initiative whose aim is the suspension of the EU climate and energy package and further climate regulations until a climate agreement is signed by major CO<sub>2</sub> emitters - China, USA, and India. The initiative was submitted by Solidarna Polska, the collection of signatures is on-going (deadline for submission is 1/11/2013), more information about the citizens' initiative in general and this initiative in particular is available at the following website <http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/initiatives/ongoing/details/2012/000010?lg=en>.

For more information contact Mr. Borkowski directly.

**5. Discussion on the Draft of the SSDCEI Internal Regulation**

The updated rules of procedure of the committee (2004 version) were circulated to the SPs before the meeting by UEPG. Due to the fact, that as of 2013 there will be only one PL session/year, it was agreed to amend the rules of procedure in the sense that draft minutes can also be adopted at WG meetings and not only during PL session. It was also suggested to submit any other comments before the next meeting for the adoption of the updated version at the next meeting in February 2013.

## **6. SWPEI representative presentation**

The COM representative of the SWPEI Mr. Heppleston from DG EMPL updated the committee on the latest developments in the area of health and safety. He provided an overview of the mandate of activities of the ACSH SWP for 2013-15, an update on the SCOEL decision on Nox, issues related to standardisation, developments in the area of offshore extraction by drilling as well as the study on the benefits of occupational health and safety (BenOSH). Related developments in this area in countries outside the EU were also discussed. More information is available on the following link <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=148&langId=en>.

## **7. European Industrial Initiative – presentation by DG ENTR**

Mr. Grundberg from DG ENTR made a presentation about general trends and challenges faced by the European industry (the presentation is available at <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/5cf18da6-a3a7-437a-9743-c452e6830e93>). Key elements presented included long-term priorities (e.g. improving the business environment, strengthening the single market, promoting sustainability and facilitating industrial change, the industrial innovation strategy as well as sectoral policy frameworks and MS competitiveness). Taking into account the changed environment due to the economic and financial crisis the main industrial policy challenges (e.g. increase in competitiveness, lack of skills and innovation as well as investments) and pillars of the reinforced industrial policy (e.g. investment in innovation, better market conditions, access to capital and human capital and skills) were discussed. Furthermore, priority action lines for investment as well as a new institutional framework (e.g. the European semester, country-specific recommendations) were mentioned, which shall contribute to a more innovative industrial policy. More information is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/mission-growth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/mission-growth/index_en.htm)

## **8. Safer-by-Design Initiative update**

UEPG updated the committee on the project proposal regarding the Safer-by-Design Initiative – preparations are continuing as planned and the aim is to submit a project under the budget line of DG EMPL in February 2013. UEPG will inform the committee on any relevant developments and remain in close contact with Unit B.1. The COM confirmed that the deadline for the submission of projects under budget line 01 remains unchanged e.g. early March and suggested to follow-up on this issue in 2013.

## **9. NO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> – SCOEL draft opinion on setting OELs for NO<sub>2</sub>**

Euromines updated the committee about changes since September - SCOEL has not adopted its final opinion. At the next SCOEL meeting a scientific expert will present comments on the recommendation, which is still unacceptable for most underground mines in Europe for several reasons 1. scientific evidence is inconclusive 2. monitoring of the levels is a technical problem 3. assessment factor is unjustified. It was suggested to adopt a joint position to send it then to the responsible services in the COM. IndustriAll explained that they are still in the process of consulting their members and would also like to listen to the presentation of Prof. Morfeld on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December on this issue before the adoption of an official position. Further it was discussed that it would be helpful to liaise with Union colleagues in the chemical industry in the Nordic countries to clarify their position. APEP confirmed that it can provide all position papers presented thus far to all colleagues in the committee and also provide further guidance regarding the scientific position. It was thus concluded to continue with consultations after the meeting with Prof. Morfeld on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2012.

## **10. Work Programme and election of chairman for 2013**

UEPG suggested to add the item "towards eliminating facilities" to the draft work programme. The COM suggested to explore the possibility of developing an on-line interactive risk assessment tool and suggested to follow this up in January. More information is available at [www.oiraproject.eu](http://www.oiraproject.eu). Mr. Jean-Pierre Damm was elected as a chairman for 2013. Meeting dates in 2013 are the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 19<sup>th</sup> of April, 29<sup>th</sup> of November for WG meetings and the 6<sup>th</sup> of September for the the PL session.

