



SOCIAL DIALOGUE Working Group

16 December 2014 10:30 – 16:00

MINUTES

Morning session (10:00 – 12:30) chaired by Malin Looberger (CEMR)

1. Occupational Safety and Health Strategy 2014-2020

Presentation (via video conference) by Francisco Alvarez – DG EMPL – Deputy Head of Unit Health, Safety and Hygiene at Work Unit:

. The new strategic framework is a new step with the **identification of key challenges and objectives for health and safety at work** and relevant actions and instruments of implementation (2 key components: a comprehensive body of EU legislation and action programmes).

. The main objective is **to improve the health and safety of the workers and the cooperation at EU-level** in the mean of a comprehensive tool box.

. The European Commission intends to **simplify existing legislation** after a necessary evaluation process (on implementation, control capacities). It is also crucial to pay attention **to new forms of work-related diseases and stress situations** (harassment, ICT, burn out). This task is linked with new work patterns.

Interrogated on the characteristic of the strategic framework (considered as a “soft” instrument) and on any upcoming new measures, Mr Alvarez specified that the evaluation is priority number 1 in order to have a clear picture of the existing legislation (with the help of collecting data and providing specific tools). No foreseen new measures but the transversality of the issues means that some of them will be addressed through environmental, industrial and economic and social policy areas and upcoming legislative initiatives.

Then members mentioned the links with tackling third-part violence (preventive measures planned), on the key role of social partners and LRG (taken into account by the Commission), the likelihood of a review in 2016 (will depend on the assessment on the progress).

Malin Looberger closed the discussion, explaining that the debate will continue within the Social Dialogue Committee and the members will come back with actual proposals.

Due to the shortening of the meeting, there was no time left for the expected internal discussions on the prepared questions and to exchange like it was planned, so participants are invited to send the responses to the secretariats and then to Mr Alvarez.

2. Announcements by the chair:

- . Situation of Radka Soukupova who has not been reelected.
- . Tour de table to present the new members (Mads Samsing: EPSU new chair elected in October, Stefano Martinelli: new Policy officer of the European Commission and Cédric Flin, new Policy adviser at CEMR)

3. Minutes of last meeting: Adopted

4. Tackling Third-Part Violence : Presentation of 7 national projects from Norway Grants involving LRG as employers: (presentation by project partners, KS and NUMGE)

The financial mechanism Norway Grants has funded a Programme for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue with 156 projects in 12 EU countries during the period 2012-2014. The Programme has included 7 projects in the local government sector, with the Norwegian Association of LRA, KS, and the Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees, NUMGE, as Norwegian bilateral project partners.

4 of the projects focus on third Party Violence: Czech Republic: Decent work – Prevention of Third-Part Violence in Prague health and social facilities; Estonia: Social Dialogue to prevent Third-Part Violence in Estonia; Lithuania: Decent Work for Social workers at municipal level; Hungary: Prevention of Third-Part Violence at local level.

3 of the projects focus on social dialogue in general: Romania: Enhancing Social Dialogue for Civil Servants; Lithuania: Social Dialogue at grass-root municipal level; Poland: Social Dialogue in the municipal sector and enterprises.

KS and NUMGE have elaborated a joint publication that provides information on all the 7 projects as well as comments from CEMR, ILO, KS and NUMGE.

The project promoters of 5 of the 7 projects gave a brief presentation on the project results. All the projects have been successful and led to good results within their specific fields and in several cases, to a closer dialogue between the organisations for employers and employees – as well as to closer contact with CEMR/EPSU and the Social Dialogue Working Group.

All the projects under the Norway Grants funded Programme Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue ended 31.12.2014. The Norwegian Government has stated that they are positive to a continuation. However, no decision has yet been taken as the general negotiations between EU and Norway are still ongoing.

KS and NUMGE will give information to the Social Dialogue Working Group as soon as any formal decision regarding the continuation has been taken.

5. Formal adoption of the Guidelines Strengthening Migration and Anti-Discrimination in LRG:

Adopted

Afternoon session (14:00-16:00) chaired by Mads Samsing (EPSU)

6. Socially responsible procurement: Transposition of new EU Public Procurement Rules

Presentation by Severine Picard, Legal Adviser at ETUC:

The framework must be more socially oriented. The next challenge is to find concrete applications in reality. Mrs Picard presented the key demands (ETUC resolution in 2012) and pointed out the key points of the transposition processes (just beginning) in the Member States.

7. Rules of procedure of Social Dialogue Committee LRG:

Presentation of the suggested changes by the Secretariats.

The debate has led to some modifications in order to update the rules, reinforce the methods of work and clarify the administrative issues. These modifications will be confirmed at a later stage after members will have the time to submit amendments.

The members were willing to reactivate the Steering group shortly.

The steering group (composed by Mads Samsing as EPSU Chair, Malin Looberger as CEMR acting Chair and the Secretariats) will finalise the updating of the rules and submit it to the members afterwards.

8. Adoption of Final Version of Joint Work CEMR-EPSU Work programme 2014-2016:

Presentation by Christine (Context, Objectives, Tools, Themes for action)

A long discussion took place regarding the additional themes proposed by EPSU. CEMR and EPSU agreed on the fact that it would be counter-productive to have and impossible to implement an overloaded programme while there will be only 2 (instead of 3) Working group meetings and one Plenary meeting.

The members expressed their will to address one theme per session during the upcoming meetings and to have the possibility to add “ad hoc” themes (e.g. Working Time Directive, TTIP, transposition of the Directive on public procurement, impact of ICT, training and life-long learning) depending on the legislative agenda of the European Commission and the new trends.

The Theme “Restructuring” is replaced by “Anticipation to changes”

Finally, it has been decided not to significantly amend the finale draft version of the Joint Work Programme, to support the intention of CEMR members to have the possibility to address specific new issues as “ad hoc themes”, to examine the feasibility to create “thematic networks” and to ensure that every action undertaken by the Social Dialogue Committee on LRG has concrete impacts.

The pending questions will be settled in the framework of the steering group.

The European Commission has not yet formally approved the project.

9. Representativity study for LRG:

Presentation by Christine and announcement that both social partners EPSU and CEMR are the most EU-wide representatives of LRG’ employers and employees.

ESPU affiliates around half of all the sector-related trade unions, which organise some 71% of all trade union members.

CEMR affiliates the largest majority of national sectoral associations (75%) which cover around 81% of the administrations and 65% of all the employees.

EPSU and CEMR have affiliated members in 26 of 27 EU Member States included in the study.

10. Any other business:

No comment

Closing of the meeting.

11. Date of next meeting:

Monday 23 February.