



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE  
COMMITTEE  
GRAPHICAL INDUSTRY

**MINUTES  
PLENARY MEETING  
13/10/2014**

**Chairs:** Simon Dubbins (UNI Europa Graphical) & Fons Bakkes (Intergraf)

**1. Opening of the meeting – Approval of the draft agenda – Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 27 June 2014**

The draft agenda was approved.

The minutes of the meeting of 27 June were approved.

**2. Report on EU project “Future skills in the graphical industry”**

Rense van der Heide (RvdH) briefly recalled the objectives and set-up of the project and reported on the final conference that took place on 7 October in Berlin, including an overview of the main conclusions which will be added to the final report (see presentation in [annex](#)).

All commended the valuable work done and the useful discussions that took place at the conference. The ensuing exchange included the following points:

- Member States and social partners can/should use each other's experiences for developing their own national practices;
- It could be considered to develop competence profiles for key professions in the sector;
- Even if the issues are quite similar across the EU, it is not obvious to develop common solutions (such as education/training curricula), given the diverse nature of national education and training systems;

It was confirmed that the establishment of a sector skills council is a common objective of the social partners.

**3. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

Carole Mancel-Blanchard (CM) and Roxana Laiu (RL) provided a comprehensive explanation of the principles and rules governing compliance of support awarded under the European Structural and Investment Funds with the State aid rules (see presentation in [annex](#)).

Niels Killi presented the case of a Polish company receiving ERDF aid, which appears to have had a competition distorting effect with regard to Norwegian and Swedish companies. The Norwegian and Swedish sectoral social partners have lodged a formal complaint with DG Competition in May 2014 (see presentation in [annex](#)).

In the ensuing exchange, CM and RL provided additional clarification on a number of points, but they could obviously not comment further on the specific case at hand.

The social partners stressed in particular their concerns regarding: the award of state aid in a sector with important over-capacity; issues regarding transparency of state aid; the apparent lack of control by the Commission in the absence of a complaint. They would consider elaborating a more formal position in this respect.

#### **4. Paper vs. digital**

Dr Kate Garland presented her research on the "paper vs digital" issue, conveying the message that the choice of the medium should be based on the main purpose of the material and the requirements of the end-user (see presentation in [annex](#)).

In his presentation, Jörgen Gren (JG) made the case for "digital" as one of the main drivers for growth, he explained the objectives and actions of the EU Digital Agenda<sup>1</sup>, and gave his view on the opportunities and challenges of the graphical industry (see presentation in [annex](#)).

Responding to delegates' questions and comments, JG explained that: e-government will become the standard, but care should be given to ensuring that all citizens have access to the information that is relevant for them (which means that an appropriate mix of communication means is required); it may be necessary to invest in image building for the sector to attract ICT people; respect of workers' rights is not an issue that is specific for the ICT world.

It was agreed to keep this topic on the agenda of the committee, as a potential source for joint lobbying activities.

#### **5. Introduction to "Keep Me Posted" campaign**

Laetitia Reynaud (LR) presented the Intergraf campaign<sup>2</sup> which aims at keeping the choice for citizens to receive information through paper correspondence (see presentation in [annex](#)).

#### **6. The EU Timber Regulation and its application to the printing industry**

LR explained the competitive disadvantage of EU printers (as opposed to non-EU printers) that is a consequence of the current EU Timber Regulation (see presentation in [annex](#)). It was agreed to elaborate a joint opinion in view of the revision of the Regulation in 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.keepmepostedeu.org/>

## **7. Copyright issues with relevance to the graphical industry**

In view of the upcoming review of the Copyright Directive, all members were called upon to lobby their national authorities for a distinction to be made between printing devices for professional and household use as regards the hardware levy (see presentation in annex).

## **8. Work Programme 2013-2015: what has been achieved so far; priorities for 2015**

Overall, social partners expressed satisfaction with the progress that has been made.

Potential new topics for 2015 and/or for the next work programme that were put forward included the following:

- State aid and distortion of competition – including a possible joint statement;
- Follow-up to the skills project, including the creation of a sector skills council;
- Attractiveness of the sector;
- The link between the European-level social dialogue and the national level;
- Elaborating a state of play of the sector in its different aspects: economic, social, technological, environmental.

Stefaan Ceuppens stressed the importance of the work programme as the main basis for the Commission to allocate support to the SSDCs and invited the social partners to make it as outcome-oriented as possible, going beyond the exchange of experiences – as useful as it may be – and striving for outcomes that have higher added value and impact at the national level. In this context, he also invited the social partners to reflect on the inclusiveness of the committee – referring to the absence of delegates from any of the EU-13 Member States at this plenary meeting.

### **Annexes**

- Point 2 – Presentation Future Skills in the Graphical Industry project
- Point 3 – Presentation Managing compliance of ESI Funds with State aid rules
- Point 3 – Presentation Norwegian case
- Point 4 – Presentation Paper v Digital
- Point 4 – Presentation Digital Agenda for Europe
- Point 5 – Presentation Keep me posted EU
- Point 6 – Presentation EU Timber Regulation
- Point 7 – Presentation Copyright Directive – Reprography

Annex: List of participants 13/10/2014

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| <p><u>Employers</u></p> <p>Mr Fons BAKKES (NL)<br/>Mr Boeg CARSTEN (DK)<br/>Ms Beatrice KLOSE (EU)<br/>Ms Carmen KULPE (DE)<br/>Ms Laetitia REYNAUD (EU)<br/>Ms Teresa SILVA (PT)<br/>Mr Henner SORG (EU)<br/>Ms Anna STRETTON (UK)<br/>Ms Lena-Liisa TENGBLAD (SE)<br/>Mr Ambjörn WAHLBERG (SE)</p> <p><b>10 employers representatives<br/>(6 women, 4 men)<br/>(3 EU, 0 EU-13, 7 EU-15)</b></p> | <p><u>Workers</u></p> <p>Mr Marcos BOLEAS (ES)<br/>Ms Louisa BULL (UK)<br/>Mr Simon DUBBINS (UK)<br/>Mr Kenneth JOHANSSON (SE)<br/>Mr Niels Edvard KILLI (NO)<br/>Mr Nicola KONSTANTINOU (EU)<br/>Ms Joaquina RODRIGUEZ TORREJON (ES)<br/>Mr Jean-Michel ROUSSEAU (FR)<br/>Mr Hans Joachim SCHULZE (DE)<br/>Mr Ian TONKS (UK)<br/>Mr Pier VERDERIO (IT)</p> <p><b>11 workers representatives<br/>(2 women, 9 men)<br/>(1 EU, 0 EU-13, 9 EU-15, 1 non-EU)</b></p> |
| <p><u>Other participants</u></p> <p>Dr Kate GARLAND (Senior Lecturer in Psychology, University Campus Suffolk, UK)<br/>Mr Rense VAN DER HEIDE (EGIN, NL)</p>  |  |
| <p><u>European Commission</u></p> <p>Mr Stefaan CEUPPENS (EMPL.B.1)<br/>Mr Jörgen GREN (CNECT.F.1 – Growth and Jobs)<br/>Ms Roxana LAIU (COM.H.1 – Regional aid)<br/>Ms Carole MANCEL-BLANCHARD (REGIO.B.4 – Legal Affairs)</p>   |  |