



Brussels, 8 April 2013

<b>SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE INSURANCE</b>
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**Draft Minutes of the Plenary Session**

**21<sup>th</sup> of March 2013**

Chairperson: Ms Elke Maes (UNI Europa Finance)

**1. Adoption of the draft agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**2. Approval of the draft minutes from the last plenary session (19 March 2012)**

The draft minutes were adopted without modifications.

**3. The demographic challenge in the insurance sector: follow-up initiatives to the 2012 ISSDC project**

Several social partners reported on initiatives and actions taken at national level in relation to the follow-up of the Joint Statement by the EU social partners on the demographic challenge in the insurance sector. The CHAIR welcomed these actions but also acknowledged the difficulties in some countries to discuss the issues addressed in the Joint Statement and stressed the need to work more on the follow-up and implementation. Following the proposal of the last Bureau meeting, it was decided to send a letter accompanied by a questionnaire to social partner affiliates. It was agreed that the secretariats would further discuss whether the draft questionnaire needed to be shortened, in particular regarding question 4 and 7.

As regards the social partners' intention to work on a follow-up project, the Commission reported that there would be only one call for proposals this year for the budget line 01 (Social Dialogue) with a deadline estimated around June. Social Partners regretted the fact not to be able to present a project for the second half of the year. It was decided that the secretariats would further discuss whether to prepare the application until June or whether the proposal would have to be presented in 2014.

The Commission welcomed the work of the Committee on this important issue and invited the Social Partners to take actively part in the next thematic Liaison Forum on demographic challenges to be held on 27 May 2013.

#### **4. Presentation of the Serbian Finance worker's trade union (SFOS): Social Dialogue / Demographic change in Serbia (tbc)**

The CHAIR regretted that the presentation could not take place due to the fact that the Serbian employer organisation was opposed to it. However, it was agreed to send a positive message to the Serbian social partner organisations to allow a joint presentation at one of the next meetings. In this context, the Commission explained the rules that experts from a non EU country may only be invited and reimbursed on the basis of joint request expressed by EU social partner prior to the meeting. They should be able to play an active role during the meeting and send their written contribution to the secretariats before the event.

#### **5. "Telework" / Work at distance**

The Committee discussed the first draft of a Joint Statement on Telework presented by Insurance Europe which takes into account the Framework Agreement on Telework of 16 July 2002. In reply to UNI Europa the Commission explained the range of possible social dialogue outcomes (agreements, process-oriented texts, joint opinion and tools). While the CHAIR wanted to "upgrade" the document into a more binding nature, Mr HOPFNER (AGV) highlighted the importance of networking and trust-building and on focusing on the process before deciding on the binding character of its outcome. Both sides of the industry acknowledged the relevance of the topic and expressed their commitment to work on the issue. As for the next meeting, it was agreed to particularly focus on this initiative on the basis of a newly elaborated text prepared by the secretariats taking into account today's discussions.

#### **6. Pension issues: UNI Europa's proposal on the future discussion's focus**

The Committee discussed the proposal made by UNI Europa on pension issues which was seen as a starting point for a discussion on the broader perspective on how to shape careers and working conditions in the sector. It was agreed that the item needed further discussion in relation to its general aim and its concrete focus.

#### **7. Relevant regulatory developments at EU level: the Commission's work, position and state of play on women on company boards (tbc)**

The Commission informed the Committee that no speaker was able to make a presentation. The Committee regretted the fact that the issue could not be discussed and invited the Commission to make a strong effort to find a speaker for the next meeting.

#### **8. Adoption of the work programme 2013-2014**

The Committee discussed and adopted the draft work programme but asked the secretariat to delete the "pension issue" under point 3.1 and to replace it by a new item considering pension related aspects like lifelong career planning, inter-generational solidarity or knowledge transfer without explicitly using the word "pensions".

#### **9. Any other business**

None.

#### **10. Next meeting 25 June 2013**