

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR PORTS

WORKING GROUP MEETING 15 MARCH 2019

DRAFT REPORT

Chair: Mr Guy Vankrunkelsven

1. Approval of the draft agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of the report of the SSDC Plenary meeting of 7 November 2018

The report was adopted with changes as proposed by the social partners.

3. The social partners' project "*The changing face of ports: socio-economic impact of market-based and technological developments on EU ports*"

Extensive debate on the project implementation and the study, its main deliverable, took place. The revised version of the study, following feedback of social partners, is due in the week of 18 March. It was agreed that the Project Steering Group will take a decision on options for promoting the study, its use for policy recommendations and possible other follow up.

Ellen Durst, DG MOVE informed that DG MOVE will carry out a study on automation in the broader transport sector and would welcome input of social partners on areas that need to be addressed in the study. Ms Durst also informed about the Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills on maritime shipping¹ that has started work in 2019.

4. Evaluation of the Consortia Block Exemption Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 246/2009) - follow up on the consultation process and expected developments (planning and policy options) (DG COMP)

Janja Čevriz, DG COMP updated the Committee about the evaluation of the Consortia Block Exemption Regulation ("Consortia BER"; see ppt), following up on the presentation given by DG COMP in the previous SSDC meeting in November.

ETF expressed concern that the evaluation did not sufficiently assess social impact of the Consortia BER. IDC voiced a concern about the consultation having primarily economic focus. Ms Čevriz explained that views on social impact have been included by stakeholders in the consultation.

FEPOR pointed to the fact that shipping community is not a homogenous group - its members shared different views in the consultation and many seemed to be unfavorable to extending the Consortia BER. FEPOR urged the Commission to take into account views of all market players, including service providers, which is another emerging group.

For ESPO the main concern was missing transparency and insufficient monitoring by the Commission.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplu-project-details/#project/601186-EPP-1-2018-1-NL-EPPKA2-SSA-B>

In response to queries by IDC and ESPO, Ms Čevriz clarified that if the Consortia BER is not extended, consortia would not become unlawful. The carriers would need to perform self-assessment based on Article 101 TFEU and the general guidance provided by the Commission on the application of competition law rules.

5. Fumigation: launch of the working group and discussion about the deliverables

The proposal by FEPORT to establish a working group on developing Guidelines on fumigation was accepted by all parties. The group will include two members of each organisation and will work by correspondence.

6. Safety on board of ships: progress in monitoring the implementation of Directive 2001/96/EC (DG MOVE)

Gilles Bergot, DG MOVE informed that EMSA has started visits and is analysing the first results. Among trends that emerge are (i) lack of awareness about the Directive and (ii) not obvious that majority of accidents relate to the Directive.

IDC confirmed that the scope of accidents is larger; about half of them occur on board and are linked to construction of vessels. ETF recalled the initial discussion on safety on board that had a larger scope and expressed opinion that implementation of the Directive is only one of the tools to reduce number of accidents. FEPORT highlighted lack of maintenance of vessels as one of the causes.

ETF informed that a meeting with ECSA on safety on board would take place in the week of 18 March. The Committee will be kept informed.

7. Attractiveness of the ports sector to the youth

FEPORT suggested enlarging scope of the work in this area to improve attractiveness of the sector in general. IDC concurred. ETF would still need to discuss with members, they might not prioritise this topic.

8. Discussion on a work programme 2019-2020

The social partners exchanged ideas on focus areas. It was agreed that the Secretariats would meet in April to make a proposal for the June SSDC meeting.

9. Any other business

- a. IDC expressed concern about the lack of social protection within the SSDC, not addressing the real problems of port workers.
- b. Niek Stam, ETF informed about an accident that occurred in the automated terminal in the port of Rotterdam.
- c. Next SSDC meetings will take place on **12 June**.