



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

Brussels, 5 December 2012

SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE RAILWAYS

Concise minutes of the plenary meeting

19 June 2012

The meeting was chaired by the chairman of the committee, Mr Müller (employers). The agenda was adopted.

(1) Information by the European Railway Agency (ERA)

Mr Pichant and Mr Mette from ERA presented the Agency's 2013 work programme and activities concerning railway staff (see slide presentations). The Q & A session addressed amongst other things the following issues: recognition/accreditation of medical doctors/psychologists, periodicity of occupational psychological examinations, social partner consultation on vehicle registers and smartcards, social partner involvement in the works on a harmonised approach with regard to chapters 4.6 and 4.7 of the technical specifications of interoperability. The Agency representatives considered that it would be beneficial if the social partners provided a joint interpretation on occupational psychological examinations (annex of their agreement and part of the train driver directive 2007/59/EC).

(2) Outcome of the WIR (Women In Rail) project

Ms Heckl from KMU Forschung Austria presented the study results and conclusions (see slide presentation). One of the main conclusions was the need for middle management to implement the company's policy with regard to women (top-down element). In order to further raise awareness, ETF suggested considering a European Women Railway Award, following the examples of the technical and political European Railway Awards jointly organised by CER and UNIFE. The possibility to undertake a yearly analysis of key figures at European level was also discussed. Conclusion: both sides of industry were ready to continue addressing the issue in the social dialogue.

(3) Information by DG Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE)

DG MOVE officials from the Units "Single European Rail Area" and "Legal Matters" informed the participants on several issues.

First, Mr Rousseaux announced that the Agency was currently examining the implementation of the train driver Directive; its analysis would serve as basis for the

Agency's report due in 2013. He also presented the main lines of the Commission communication expected for September/October on the certification of other crew members. Given that a limited number of persons changed companies each year (between 1000 and 2000), the setting-up of a certification system was not considered appropriate. However, the Commission would propose an attestation system which would document the training courses followed. This approach was disappointing for the workers' side; an absence of certification would lead to de-skilling in liberalised markets. The Commission's ideas were perceived as an administrative challenge for smaller companies/countries (LU). CER considered that the situation between companies was so different that an attestation by the company was indeed the preferred option. Mr Rousseaux invited the social partners to a specific working meeting on the issue soon in order to clarify things further¹.

Secondly, Mr Troche gave information on the Commission's work on single wagonload (SWL) production which represented between 35 and 40% of the rail freight market. He mentioned the role of SWL within rail freight corridors and the planned 4th railway package; he also mentioned the fact that SWL was now a priority of the Marco Polo Programme² and that the Commission was carrying out a study on the challenges, prospects and policy of SWL traffic in Europe. ETF expressed their huge interest in this work given the importance of SWL activities for employment in the sector.

Thirdly, Ms Prout, Head of unit, gave an update on the preparatory work related to the 4th railway package. She presented the different options currently being considered by the impact assessment work and invited the social partners to provide their feedback on these. Ms Trier (ETF) informed the meeting that they had responded to the specific trade union part of the comprehensive questionnaire sent to stakeholders. The European workers' organisation had not responded to the general questionnaire because this was considered as too tendentious (credo of further liberalisation). ETF presented the main elements of their 10-page reply (see there). ETF delegates from FR, BE and UK were also critical towards the orientations already given in the Transport White Paper, the negative consequences of unbundling/fragmentation, the lack of reinvestment in infrastructure, and the high price of tendering processes. Ms Prout announced that the Commission and the consultants would carefully consider ETF's contributions and ensure a balanced approach. During the meeting, the employers' side did not take part in this discussion.

(4) Information by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)

Ms Durst (DG EMPL) informed the social partners that the draft Commission report on the implementation of Directive 2005/47/EC on certain aspects of the working conditions of mobile workers engaged in interoperable cross-border services in the railway sector had been sent to them for consultation yesterday. CER regretted that the Commission did not envisage proposing changes to the Directive, in particular to Clause 4 of the agreement. ETF did not agree with the employers' assessment of the draft report. Both sides of industry would send their contributions in writing.

¹ The meeting took place on 10 July 2012.

² http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/getting-funds/call-for-proposals/2012/index_en.htm

(5) CER proposal on a joint project on the protection of staff

On behalf of CER, Ms Grau (SNCF) presented the objectives and expected results of a new joint CER-ETF project on the protection of staff in case of change of rail operator (see slide presentation). The workers' side thought it was better not to link the project to the coming 4th railway package. Two moments were crucial for the protection of staff: when the competent authority takes the decision for the award of the service and there is a change of operator and when it draws up and publishes the tender specifications.

(6) Mid-term report on the implementation of the work programme 2011-2012

Mr Preumont (CER) presented the slides prepared by Mr Olofsson on the work achieved so far by working group I. Ms Streichert (DB) presented the work of working group II. The respective slide presentations were made available after the meeting.

(7) Any other business

Ms Durst informed the participants that DG MOVE would present the state of play with regard to the review of the Urban Mobility Action Plan at the urban public transport working group meeting on 26 September 2012.

Ms Streichert announced that it would be her last meeting before her maternity leave. Mr Müller and Ms Trier thanked her warmly for her most valuable contribution to the European social dialogue during the last years.

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Participants 19.6.2012

<p>Employers (10 ♂, 7 ♀)</p> <p>CER Mr Bollendorff (LU) Mr Gérard (LU) Ms Grau (FR) Mr Inglese (IT) Mr Martin (CER) Mr Olofsson (SE) Mr Preumont (CER) Ms Rango (IT) Ms Reinhardt (DE) Ms Roeva (BG) Mr Rohrmann (DE) Mr Schnieders (DE) Ms Streichert (DE) Ms Vassileva (BG) Mr Vermeulen (BE) Mr Wheale (UK)</p> <p>EIM Ms Malheiro (EIM)</p>	<p>Workers (19 ♂, 9 ♀)</p> <p>ETF Mr Africano (BE) Mr Aguado Olmedo (ES) Mr Albertazzi (ETF) Mr Aufrère (FR) Mr Beaumont (FR) Mr Dalne (BE) Mr Fällman (SE) Mr Gamez Ramirez (ES) Mr Georgiev (BG) Mr Gobé (FR) Mr Greivelding (LU) Mr Hasle (DK) Ms Komiljovics (HU) Ms Marzola (IT) Ms Mathe (HU) Ms Mindum (HR, observer) Mr Nekola (CZ) Mr Owen (UK) Mr Piteljon (BE) Ms Reiss (AT) Mr Rüter (DE) Ms Sourkova (CZ) Ms Trier (ETF) Mr Trofaier (AT) Ms Urbancova (CZ) Mr Verleysen (BE) Mr Waccin (FR) Ms Zlatkova (BG)</p>
<p>European Commission</p> <p>Mr Coppens (DG MOVE/B.2) Ms Durst (DG EMPL/B.1) Mr Liégeois (DG MOVE/A.5) Mr Pedret Cuscó (DG MOVE/B) Ms Prout (DG MOVE/B.2) Mr Rousseaux (DG MOVE/B.2) Mr Scherp (DG MOVE/A.5) Mr Troche (DG MOVE/B.2)</p>	
<p>Others</p> <p>Ms Heckl (KMU Forschung Austria) Mr Mette (European Railway Agency) Mr Pichant (European Railway Agency)</p>	