



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change  
**Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations**

### **Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Postal Services Working group meeting on 14 January 2010, Brussels Postal Sector Evolution Minutes**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Bailly (POSTEUROP), who welcomed Mr Manso from Correos to the working group. He also announced that Ms Fortea would no longer work in the field of social dialogue, since she will take on other responsibilities and her successor will be Ms Meidinger.

The date of the next meeting of the postal sector evolution working group was confirmed for 11 May.

#### **1. Social observatory project**

Ms Fortea (POSTEUROP) gave an overview regarding the final steps in the project, which include the large-scale dissemination of the final report of the project to relevant stakeholders of the sector and final administration procedures: the implementation report and the financial statement.



Social Observatory  
project.ppt

Mr Baldwin (UNI europa) remarked that the UPU should be included in the distribution list for the report, and that some paper copies should be kept in reserve for future use. Instead of paper versions, electronic copies of the report could be distributed to some companies outside Europe, such as Australia Post.

Mr Bailly (POSTEUROP) agreed and suggested that 50 to 100 copies could be kept in reserve. In response to a question about the structure of the IPC, the International Postal Corporation was described briefly by Mr Henry (POSTEUROP): it is a voluntary industry association of about 20 postal companies from around the world, which works mainly on international postal issues with a permanent staff based in Brussels.

#### **2. 2010 work programme**

The Chair, Mr Bailly (POSTEUROP) gave an overview presentation



2010 working  
program.ppt

The first objective of the 2010 work programme is to provide information on EU funding possibilities that is as clear as possible to members. The second objective relates to the monitoring of universal service, while the third objective is the continuing monitoring of social regulation in the sector. The fourth objective is the development of a typology of new entrants.

Mr Baldwin highlighted that UNI europa would like to see the inclusion of new entrants in the monitoring of social regulation as soon as possible. Mr Bailly (POSTEUROP) agreed that information on all aspects of the competitive market is necessary to have a full picture of what is happening in terms of social regulation.

The ensuing discussion focused around the possibility of limiting the analysis to the few countries where effective competition exists. Some participants from both sides pointed out, however, that new Member States should also be included, and Mr Baldwin (UNI europa) pointed out that the parcel market is competitive everywhere. It was therefore argued that parcel operators should be considered insofar they show potential interest in entering other segments of the market.

The proposal was made to prepare a funding request for a project to be made to the European Commission by early March. The project would include technical seminars and the collection of the required documentation on three issues: the Universal Service Obligation (USO), EU funding possibilities and social regulation.

The Chair suggested working on the typology of new entrants first and then having further discussions on the monitoring of social regulation and universal service. It was agreed that UNI europa would work on social monitoring, as it already has much of this information at its disposal. Within POSTEUROP, Deutsche Post DHL and TNT would help with drawing up a typology of new entrants.

On the issue of the proposed sector councils for employment skills, Ms Meidinger (POSTEUROP) reported that the European Commission had not yet taken any decision, and that it looked like little would happen in 2010. This was confirmed by Mr Baldwin (UNI europa), pointing out that the councils would include external experts in training and education in addition to the social partners.

The Chair requested the training working group to work on skills analysis, independent of what happens with the skills councils, since the importance of the topic of skills is independent from the fate of a particular instrument such as the proposed councils.

Mr Costa (POSTEUROP) pointed out that this would mean the reopening of the 2010 work programme of the training working group, including applying for project funding, but that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr Baldwin clarified that UNI europa regarded funding for a project in the framework of the postal sector evolution working group as the first priority, and a possible project of the training working group would be the second priority.

The Chair highlighted the final component of the 2010 work programme, which is the communication action plan designed to make the social dialogue committee more visible to various stakeholders and key opinion formers in the sector.

### **3. Any other business**

The Chair pointed to the Commission's public consultation on the EU 2020 strategy and wondered whether the committee should provide an answer. However, the deadline for receiving answers was very tight; the day following this meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting and wished the participants a safe return trip.