



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

Brussels, 4 November 2013

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE  
COMMITTEE  
INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT**

**Minutes**  
**Working group meeting of 16 September 2013**

**1. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting**

The first part of the meeting was chaired by the Commission. The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the previous meeting (17 April 2013) were approved.

**2. Information by the European Commission (DG MOVE)**

Mr Vanderhaegen (DG MOVE) informed the participants on the adoption of the NAIADES II package "Towards quality inland waterway transport" on 10 September 2013<sup>1</sup>. The package not only consisted of a communication and a staff working document, but also of two legislative proposals (technical requirements, fleet capacity). The communication sets out the programme for policy action for the period 2014-2020 in the following key areas: quality infrastructure; quality through innovation; smooth functioning of the market; environmental quality through low emissions; skilled workforce and quality jobs; and integration of inland navigation into the multimodal logistics chain. He also informed about the 8<sup>th</sup> expert group meeting on professional qualifications which took place on 21 June 2013.

The social partners' reactions to NAIADES II were the following: ESO welcomed the introduction of the communication but did not accept that the action programme was useful or convincing as response to the tremendous crisis. Here, other instruments were urgently needed. ESO deplored that no follow-up meeting had yet been held to the meeting between DG MOVE and business (EBU, ESO, European Shippers' Council) in July. ESO also called for fiscal and social harmonisation to avoid unfair competition including social dumping. EBU welcomed the NAIADES II initiative which went in the right direction. However the picture drawn from the situation of the sector was considered as too negative; this certainly did not reflect the situation in each IWT country. ETF announced they would share their considered response to the programme soon. The workers' organisation was not aware of and had not been invited to the July

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/inland/promotion/naiades2\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/inland/promotion/naiades2_en.htm)

meeting on the economic situation and stressed that environmental and social aspect as important parts of the overall picture should not be neglected.

The Commission representative confirmed that NAIADES II was addressing rather medium and long term challenges; short-term measures were being dealt with separately. The Commission was currently discussing with Member States and a follow-up meeting to the July meeting only made sense if one could go one step further.

### **3. Designation of the new president of the committee**

Since the current president, Mr Pauptit, had resigned from his employment with his trade union, ETF proposed Mr Jacques Kerkhof (BE) as new president for the remainder of the mandate (two years as from 6 October 2011). The new president was confirmed and welcomed by the committee and took over the chair of the current meeting.

### **4. Information by the European Commission (EMPL)**

Ms Durst (DG EMPL) informed the participants that the "Study on the costs and benefits of the implementation of the European Agreement on working time in inland waterway transport – A comparison with the status quo" (VT/2012/110) was now in its end phase. The study results would be used by the Commission to prepare an analytical document paper on the impact of the agreement which would be submitted to the Commission's Impact Assessment Board. Both sides of industry reported that the questions of the questionnaire which had been sent to the social partners had been of insufficient quality (content but also technical wise). The Commission representative invited the organisations to provide their feedback in writing as soon as possible.

### **5. Joint social partner input on professional qualifications**

Both sides of industry had to concede that no progress had been made since the last meeting (no new and more concise document, no joint input before the end of the consultation period on 21 June), which seemed to be due to a misunderstanding and insufficient communication amongst the parties. In order to nevertheless make use of the huge effort put in this work, the discussion of the last meeting was resumed and still open questions were sorted out. The outcome of the discussion would be put in paper by Ms Chaffart by tomorrow and sent to all parties for validation by Thursday<sup>2</sup>.

### **6. Work programme**

Looking at the state of play of the implementation of their work programme 2012-2013, the social partners assessed that only point 1 (working time agreement), point 2 (job profiles) and point 4 (social security) had been properly addressed. Both sides of industry agreed to design the next work programme in a concrete and more realistic fashion so that commonly agreed objectives can be achieved. Ideas for the next work programme would be exchanged amongst secretariats before the next plenary meeting.

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<sup>2</sup> EBU and ESO were unfortunately not be able to give their final reaction before the agreed deadline.

## 7. Next meeting

The plenary meeting will take place on 4 November 2013. ETF announced that delegates from HU and RO intended to participate. Items on the draft agenda (to be submitted five weeks before the meeting) would be, amongst other things: discussion and finalisation of the work programme 2014-2015, presentation of the study on mental stress factors in IWT, information on PLATINA II.

### Participants 16.9.2013

<b>Employers (6 ♂, 1 ♀)</b>  EBU Mr Cucu (RO) Mr Grulois (BE) Mr Koning (NL) Mr Leandri (FR)  ESO Ms Beckschäfer (DE) Mr Kester (NL) Mr Van Lancker (BE)	<b>Workers (5 ♂, 3 ♀)</b>  ETF Mr Bramley (ETF) Ms Chaffart (ETF) Mr Jezabek (CZ) Mr Jung (LU) Mr Jacques Kerkhof (BE) Mr Joris Kerkhofs (BE) Ms Latron (FR) Ms Sokolova (BG)
<b>European Commission</b>  Ms Durst (DG EMPL) Mr Vanderhaegen (DG MOVE)	