



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

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

RAILWAYS SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Meeting of Working Group I

18th February 2008

Concise minutes (adopted on 16th June 2008)

(1) Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr Greivelding (workers). The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the meeting of 11th October 2007 were approved after an amendment presented by ETF on the impact on personnel in section 2.

(2) Report on the project regarding the reorganisation of freight services

Mr Hara (CER, SNCF) presented the current state of the project (visits to Kraków and Hamburg, seminar in Paris in January 2008). The next visit would take place in Manchester on 7th-8th April. A second request for extending the project period would be necessary and requested in time. ETF was confident that the final report would be of good quality. However, the workers' side would urgently need the English versions of the documents to make progress. In ETF's view, the information about the impact on personnel was not sufficient yet. Another difficulty was to gather data about the logistics' professions.

(3) Report on the implementation of the European drivers licence agreement

Mr Hara resubmitted the draft joint report already prepared for the last meeting, slightly updated after taking into account oral comments by ETF. Until now, he had not received any further comments from the workers' side. ETF wished to have an English version of the draft and acknowledged that time constraints had not allowed them yet to react on the text. CER pleaded for a common language to be used for both rapporteurs (an ETF rapporteur to be appointed). Translations should be made later on a draft common report.

Mr Wacsin (ETF, CGT) had started to compare the provisions of Directive 2007/59/EC (of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the railway system in the Community¹) with the content of the agreement. The analysis so far had shown that a

¹ <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOhtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:315:SOM:EN:HTML>

number of points of the agreement had not been taken over by the Directive and that the social partners should have a closer look at them.

Mr Grillo (DG TREN) expressed the view that the agreement was indeed a good basis for the period until the effective implementation of Directive 2007/59/EC, since the first certifications would not be delivered before 2010 (cross-border) and 2012 (domestic transport).

ETF and CER agreed to try to adopt a joint report on the implementation of the agreement at the plenary meeting (planned for 22nd May 2008). Mr Hara's report would be the basis for that work.

(4) Report on the implementation of the agreement on working conditions

CER informed ETF that the project proposal on the follow-up of the agreement would be submitted in March. ETF thought it might be worth including the follow-up of the other agreement in the project, but this idea was not supported by the employers' side which wished to keep the two agreements separated. ETF would designate its representatives to the project by the end of the week.

Ms Durst (DG EMPL) informed the social partners that the kick-off meeting of the study on the economic and social impact of the agreement (commissioned by the European Commission) took place in January.

(5) ERTMS "test tracks" and the system's impact on employees

EIM informed the meeting that they planned to prepare a project proposal for September. A first exchange between EIM and ETF took place in January. However, there was still need to further discuss the precise objectives and the methodology to be followed.

(6) European Railway Agency (ERA) - technical specifications for interoperability (TSIs)

Mr Mette (ERA) presented the planned timetable for the official consultation on the next draft TSIs. He reported that the Agency wanted to separate the two processes of the drafting of the TSIs on the one hand and the official social partner consultation on the other hand. ETF had understood the letter of the Agency's Executive Director of July 2006 in a different way and expressed their disappointment, referring to the good practice which existed with the AEIF, which allowed discussing content before the official draft was adopted by the Article 21 Interoperability Committee. Mr Grillo (DG TREN) confirmed that according to the texts, there were two occasions to influence the TSI work: within the Agency's working groups and during the official consultation period. However, an informal exchange in the spirit of a good co-operation was not to be excluded, depending on what had been (or would be) agreed between the social partners and the Agency. CER launched the idea of inviting the social partners' experts represented in the ERA working groups to report to the social dialogue. ETF thought that there was more need to discuss the question of informal consultation with CER first, before addressing jointly the Agency.

The chair concluded that the discussion between ETF and CER/EIM would continue before the Commission would invite the Executive Director of the Agency to the next meeting (18th April). Mr Mette announced that he would report back to his Executive Director that the social partners considered the consultation process as insufficient.

However, it was not clear to him whether the social partners wished an open discussion or to discuss concrete proposals at the next meeting.

(7) Any other business

Ms Durst informed about two other studies currently being carried out for DG EMPL: a comprehensive sectoral analysis of emerging competences and economic activities in the European Union (with one lot on transport) which had just started; and the study on the social partners and their representativeness (railways) which was about to be finalised.

Next planned meetings: 18th April (steering committee), 28th April (working group II), 22nd May (plenary meeting), 16th June (working group I), 1st October (working group), 5th December 2008 (steering committee).

Participants:

<p>Employers:</p> <p>Mr Bence (ATOC) Mr Blomberg (Banverket/EIM) Mr Hara (SNCF/CER) Mr Inglese (FS/CER) Mr Leeb (ÖBB) Mr Preumont (CER) Mr Skelton (EWS) Ms Streichert (DB)</p>	<p>Employees:</p> <p>Mr Armingier (VIDA) Mr Bartl (Transnet) Mr Dera (GDBA) Mr Greivelding (FNCTTFEL/ETF) Ms Trier (ETF) Mr Wacsin (CGT)</p>
<p>European Commission:</p> <p>Ms Durst (DG EMPL F/1) Mr Grillo (DG TREN E/2)</p>	<p>Others:</p> <p>Mr Mette (European Railway Agency)</p>