

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT

WORKING GROUP 20 MAY 2019

MINUTES

Chair: Mr George Koltsidopoulos

1. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The SSDC approved the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SSDC MEETING OF 23.01.2019

The SSDC approved the revised minutes of the above meeting.

3. NEW WORK PROGRAMME

Both sides agreed to continue discussions aiming to propose work programme for approval at the September meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING – WORK PROGRAMME

a. Shipboard living & working conditions

i. Health and Safety: Working group on seafarers' Health and Safety – report of the meeting of 24 January 2019

Based on a comprehensive mapping done by the working group on 24 January, both sides discussed with the aim of identifying selected topics for further work through a new project.

ii. Communication facilities for seafarers: report on ECSA/ICS survey

ECSA presented the report and took note of ETF observations on the survey's exact coverage, the costs for seafarers, and the importance of using these facilities for onboard education and training. Both sides agreed to include guidelines on internet access by seafarers for personal use on board ships as a new work item for the committee.

iii. Proposal for a new joint ECSA – ETF social dialogue project implementing part of the SSDC work programme

Social partners agreed to work on a new project proposal.

b. Quality shipping

i. Map Mar - Joint social partners project proposal on data collection on maritime professionals –update

ETF informed that the tender procedure for provision of external expertise in the project has been completed, the successful candidate will be informed in due course.

ii. Women in shipping – follow-up of the joint declaration of intention

Carolina Kihlström, Swedish Shipowners Association, Kenny Reinhold, SEKO and Anne Windfeldt Trolle, Danish Shipping presented Swedish and Danish initiatives to attract and retain new workers with focus on women in shipping (see ppt).

Upon ETF request DK Shipping explained that ratings were also being targeted by their initiative but that there were no specific indicators regarding numbers.

Sophie Marin-Combeaud, DG MOVE, congratulated the social partners on their collaborative approach and welcomed the presentation of the Swedish initiative as an “action” under the Women in Transport – EU Platform for change¹. The same could be done with the Danish initiative. Alternatively, it could be shared as a “good practice” on the Europa Website. Ms Marin-Combeaud informed of upcoming events: the next Platform meeting on 21 June and the launch of a Network of Diversity Ambassadors on 26 September. Staffan Ekwall, DG MOVE invited the social partners to consult conclusions of the World Maritime University conference “Empowering women in the maritime community” of 3 – 4 April 2019.

iii. 2018 Amendments to ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC 2006), as approved by the ILO 170th Conference, Geneva, 5 June 2018 – follow up to reply from Commissioner Thyssen

Marta Owsiany - Hornung, DG EMPL clarified the legal context and context of Commissioner’s reply. The social partners did not find the approach satisfactory and will continue to press the issue.

c. Maritime Safety and Security

i. Migrants at Sea and Stowaways: follow-up of joint initiative

ETF proposed amendments to the statement, ECSA will consider those.

5. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DIGITALISATION IN SHIPPING: follow-up of initial exchange

Both sides agreed that there is sufficient common ground to explore the topic further, possibly as part of a joint project.

6. EUROPEAN SHIPPING WEEK 2020

The social partners agreed to further discuss issues that should be tackled and a possible joint event.

7. REPORT ITEMS

a. Commission’s work on its report to Council and EP on the implementation and application of Regulation 5.3 of the MLC regarding labour supplying countries (pursuant to Article 6.2 of Council Directive 2013/54/EU) - update by the Commission

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/social/women-transport-eu-platform-change_en

The social partners took note of the update by Staffan Ekwall, DG MOVE that the report is planned to be published end-June 2019 indicatively. Mr Ekwall also informed that work on the study on social aspects in the maritime transport sector is ongoing; the stakeholder consultation is planned for after summer and the report will be finalised October/November 2019. Mr Ekwall encouraged the social partners to actively contribute to the study.

b. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code) – update on legislative procedure and joint lobby efforts

The social partners informed on continued joint lobbying efforts.

c. Brexit

ECSA informed that a joint letter calling to continue granting recognition to the UK COC holders has been sent to the four selected Member States (and two have responded).

d. SkillSea project: update

The work is progressing. Both sides agreed on the need to focus on monitoring and supervision.

e. Reduction of Administrative Burden – European Maritime Single Window – Update on legislative procedure and joint lobby efforts

The social partners have issued a joint statement and agreed to continue joint efforts. ETF asked whether it could be considered to monitor the ratification of ILO Convention 185 (which is linked to the FAL Convention) by linking it to the EMSW system in view of promoting ratification.

f. Directive 92/29/EC on the minimum safety and health requirements for improved medical treatment on board vessels – update on comitology procedure

Jan-Willem Ebeling, DG EMPL informed that the Technical Progress Committee is scheduled to meet on 26 June to give an opinion on a draft Commission Directive. In case of a favourable opinion the draft Directive will be submitted to the Council and the European Parliament for scrutiny. The Commission's current priority is to adopt technical updates, a more comprehensive review could be envisaged at a later stage. Mr Ebeling confirmed that the social partners will be closely involved when this happens.

The social partners took note of the update and agreed to re-launch the joint letter to Member States calling for full review.

The next SSDC meeting will take place on Friday 27 September 2019.