



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social dialogue, social rights, working conditions, adaptation to change
Social dialogue and industrial relations

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE INLAND NAVIGATION

Meeting of 18 February 2009 Minutes (approved on 1 July 2009)

1. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the previous meetings

Mr Lehninger (workers) chaired the meeting. The agenda was adopted and the minutes of the two previous meetings were approved.

2. 2009-2010 work programme

The discussion of the work programme was concerned above all with the timetable for the social partners' agreement on **working time (see below)**.

Since no written draft of the new work programme was available, the other points were dealt with on the basis of the old work programme and the discussions on 7 November 2008 (see the minutes of that meeting). ETF announced that it would send a draft of the work programme the next day in order to allow an exchange of written communications.

3. Working time

ETF was keen to conclude the negotiations by the middle of 2009. The employers regarded this as too optimistic. The document entitled "Provisional final outcome of the negotiations concerning an agreement to regulate working time in the inland waterways transport sector" (as at 27 January 2009), which had been translated into a number of languages, was to be confirmed today as the basis for internal consultations between the European social partners' organisations.

However, it emerged that, firstly, the workers considered the timeframe for internal consultation as proposed by the employers to be too long, and secondly that they were still not happy with the wording because key elements were missing which had already been agreed (e.g. recitals, reference to the manning conditions, inspections, non-regression clause) but had been set out in another document. However, in order to provide the respective members with an overall picture it was decided, willingly or unwillingly, to again revise the wording of the document of 27 January¹. At the same

¹ The document is now due to be revised on 11 May 2009.

time, a number of inaccuracies in the translations needed to be corrected. Only then should a start be made on internal consultations (obtainment of a final negotiating mandate).

ETF informed the employers that it had been in touch with the River Cruise² interest grouping in order to show it the planned working time arrangements.

4. Job profiles and vocational qualifications

The objectives concerning the subject of job profiles had not been set out in writing as had been agreed. In the framework of Platina³, a small working group meeting had been held on 12 January 2009 and a further meeting was to take place on 12 March. The employers reported that Edinna⁴ was recommending that no reference be made to the EQF⁵. The social partners needed to agree on whether they shared this view. It emerged from the discussion that both sides preferred to first of all specify the required skills ("What a boatman should be able to do") and then check whether these were compatible with the EQF. Consideration was being given to drawing up a brief joint position statement and submitting this to the Platina working group (with a copy to Edinna and the ZKR). ETF announced that it would provide the employers with a written proposal the next day.

List of participants 18.2.2009

<p><u>Employers:</u></p> <p>EBU: Mr Dalaise (FR) Mr Koning (NL) Ms Wenkel (DE)</p> <p>ESO: Ms Beckschäfer (DE) Mr Van Lancker (BE) Mr Veldman (NL)</p>	<p><u>Workers:</u></p> <p>ETF: Mr Bramley (ETF) Ms Chaffart (ETF) Mr Dimitrevich (Observer, Ukraine) Mr Jerabek (CZ) Mr Karavatchev (ITF) Ms Kostova (BG) Mr Lehninger (AT) Mr Pauptit (NL) Mr Touwen (NL)</p>
<p><u>European Commission:</u></p> <p>Mr Dieter (DG TREN/B.4) Ms Durst (DG EMPL/F.1)</p>	

² <http://www.igrivercruise.com/>

³ <http://www.naiades.info/platina/page.php?id=1>

⁴ <http://www.edinna.com/>

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc44_en.htm