SHIPBUILDING SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Working Group Meeting
16 May 2017

MINUTES

1) Confirmation of the Chairmen

The chairmen will be appointed by industriAll before the next meeting.

2) Adoption of the draft agenda and adoption of the minutes of the last meetings on 12 October 2016 and 6 February 2017

The agenda was slightly adapted and approved. The minutes of the meeting on 12 October 2016 were approved. The minutes of the last meeting (6 February 2017) were approved on the condition that no changes will be made within the following week. (no changes were made – therefore minutes were approved)

3) The Representativeness Study - problems arising from the conclusions of the study

SEA Europe explained its concerns with regard to the outcomes of the Representativeness Study which was published on 27 January 2017. SEA Europe pointed out that some information about national affiliates is inaccurate. The characteristic of the sector at national level is not described adequately. In addition the production of high-end ships cannot be compared with the manufacturing industry or the boat industry. Also, SEA Europe underlined that no substantial changes have been made on their side since the SSDC Shipbuilding was created in 2003.

On 4 April 2017 a meeting between SEA Europe, Eurofound and the European Commission (COM, DG EMPL) took place in which the representativeness of SEA Europe was discussed. Attention was given to the fact that the study identified another important organisation (CEEMET) in the sector, that national affiliates of SEA Europe are involved in collective bargaining to a limited extent only and that SEA Europe does not have a statuary mandate or a procedure in place to obtain a mandate in order to negotiate social dialogue agreements at a European level.

The COM underlined that social partners are always asked at the beginning of a Representativeness Study to agree on the NACE codes. During the preparation of the Representativeness Study social partners are requested 3 times (national reports, overall report, adoption of the study) to comment on the results. The COM pointed out that the meeting on 4 April 2017 aimed at improving the representativeness of SEA Europe. Therefore the COM would like to continue the dialogue with SEA Europe in order to enhance the capacity of the partners in the SSDC Shipbuilding.

Several social partners from both sides of industry underlined the specificity and the importance of the shipbuilding industry, in particular the value/supply chain which has to be taken into account. Social dialogue should be strengthened at European and national levels. The Representativeness Studies have to be carried out properly and have to take into account the strategic importance of a given sector in particular in view of the Juncker's Commission
strategy to bring industry’s weight in the EU’s GDP back to 20% by 2020, from less than 16% in 2014. Social partners discussed the idea to write a letter to the COM to clearly underline the strategic importance of the sector which therefore needs social dialogue at a European level.

4) Market Developments (SEA Europe) –
This item was postponed to the next meeting.

5) Interim Report on the Sustainability Impact Assessment of the EU-China Investment Agreement. – (SEA Europe’s position)
The process of the EU-China Investment Agreement is still ongoing. The aim is to identify trade obstacles which European investors are facing in China, for instance intellectual property rights, joint venture requirements, local legal requirements and to find possible solutions to these problems. In addition, the shipbuilding industry should look at China from a broader perspective (trade, access to finance etc.) China has recently launched several strategic documents which are targeting European leadership industries/sectors. As China becomes more and more a/the main competitor the COM has to take action to also protect jobs in Europe.

6) The Blueprint Platform for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills in the Maritime Technology Sector – Content of the Project (SEA Europe)
The 'Blueprint project for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills' was presented.
This project is an initiative of the New Skills Agenda for Europe, which aims at making the right training, skills and support available to the people of Europe. The Blueprint (Budget: 4 million € for each sector within 4 years (co-funding 80%-20% own financial means) will be piloted in 6 sectors, among them the maritime technology sector and the defence sector. To overcome skill gaps in the appointed sectors SEA Europe has coordinated the proposal for the maritime technology sector and is a partner in the defence sector proposal. In September 2017 the COM will announce which proposals will be granted. More detailed information can be found in the presentation.

7) European Economic and Social Committee’s (EESC) Study on the Implementation of LeaderSHIP 2020 – Marian Krzaklewski, Solidarnosc & Member of the EESC
The EESC has not agreed on an opinion yet. A proposal was made to send a letter to the President of the EESC in order to speed up with this initiative. This initiative is of particular interest for the defence (naval) industry. Social partners supported this proposal.

SEA Europe presented the work programme. The focus will be on the following:

- Market & Employment updates
- LeaderSHIP 2020
- Qualification and skills (Blueprint for sectoral skills)/ Follow up of ESCO
- Image / Attractiveness of the sector (Maritime Technology Week)
- Education and Recognition of Certificates
- Social Standards (outcomes monitoring)
- Industry 4.0 (new technologies)/Circular economy (ship recycling)

9) AOB
The next meeting (Plenary) will be on 23 October 2017.