



Brussels, 18 October 2012

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
ELECTRICITY**

Draft minutes of the working group

14th of September 2012

Chairwoman: Mrs. Janne Ruden (SEKO SV)

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted with some changes e.g. rescheduling with some points.

2. Adoption of the draft minutes

The adoption of the draft minutes from the plenary session was postponed until the next meeting to allow enough time for everyone to submit comments.

3. Joint Project “Future of skills and jobs in Europe’s electricity sector”

EPSU provided an update regarding the mapping of skills project and the results of the steering committee meeting, which took place on the 24th of June. An update was provided on COM activities in this area e.g. the 2008 New Skills for New Jobs Initiative, which broadly focused on better anticipation of future skills needs and better matching between skills and labour needs. The aim of the project is to map out whether the Social Partners could engage in a sector skill council in the sector – the aim of the project is to map what exist on national level and which bodies and institutions are involved in this work. One of the examples is for example the UK skills dialogue.

The survey is currently being finalised by the consultants, which will ready for the next meeting os the SC in October. Preparations are also ongoing for the preparation of the conference on the 15th of November to bring together the Social Partners and the representatives of the bodies dealing with skills. DG EMPL and ENER will be invited to make a presentation on skills council and the link to other relevant EMPL initiatives and the social dimension of the Energy Roadmap 2050. The representatives of national bodies will talk about the way they work with SPs at national level, other colleagues already engaged in skills councils will be invited to share their experience. If there is sufficient interest, the next step towards establishing a skills council would be a feasibility study – this will depend on the interest of national organisations. In the process of setting up a skills council the COM provides the funding for the "start-up" phase but then it is up to the participants to continue.

Eurelectric agreed and stressed that it is important to invite the representatives of the national bodies to engage in discussion with them.

4. Framework of actions – proposal by the trade union side

The union side proposed to Eurelectric a framework of actions in the area of training, agreement was found regarding most points, Eurelectric suggested some changes in the length of document to focus on common points. Regarding the scope there were some points e.g. youth unemployment and traineeships where not much joint work has been done until now, but which should be included in the framework subject to further debate on the definition of "traineeships" and not just youth unemployment but also taking into account the issue of active aging e.g. older workers. Further suggestions included the focus on mainstreaming equality in a broader sense, climate change and adaptation. A key issue for both sides is the link between the national and European level. Concrete examples of cooperation were mentioned from Norway and the Netherlands, which shall be further discussed at the next meeting in November. It was agreed that Eurelectric will provide further feedback after internal consultation and the framework will then be further discussed at the next meeting.

5. Energy Community 5th Social Forum in Montenegro

The COM provided an update on the 5th Social Forum of the EnC Community, which took place in Becici in Montenegro on the 11/12th of September. This year the key topics included the review of Social Action Plans (SAPs) dealing with social issues arising from the implementation of the Energy Community Treaty, the Energy Strategy of the Energy Community (to be adopted by the EnC Ministerial Council in October) and the work on the outline of the Social Strategy to complement the Energy Strategy e.g. to further develop the approach to restructuring, social dialogue, to include just transition and decent work principles. Other topics included the involvement of international institutions such as the ILO, the involvement of European Social partners in the region and assistance to national Social Partners as well as energy poverty and energy affordability. The European Social Partners made joint presentations on the Energy Strategy, the implementation of SAPs as well a brief presentation about Eurelectric and IndustriAll (the new federation created as a result of the merger of EMCEF, ETF and ETUF-TCL). The Conclusions of the Forum are available at the EnC website: http://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME/CALENDAR

6. Security and Safety in the Nuclear Industry – review of the Euratom nuclear framework presentation by DG ENER and DG EMPL

DG ENER provided an update on the review of the Euratom nuclear safety legislative framework (already discussed in the past in the committee e.g. at the PL session in May 2012 and WG in September 2011). A basic overview was provided including timeline, rationale and also a questionnaire used during the public consultation earlier in 2012; the Commission findings about the stress tests, shall be finalised in a report released in October (the report is available here - http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/safety/stress_tests_en.htm). Further to that, information was provided on the rationale behind the review, role of ENSREG, and technical aspects (technical summary also available on DG ENER website). An update was also provided on the relevant provisions in the EURATOM Treaty (chapter 3, article 31-2 of the Treaty), also mentioning that the Social Partners could use the time before the COM submits a first proposal (likely in early 2013) to liaise with ECOSOC. Before the proposal is presented, the COM needs to consult ECOSOC on safety standards, ECOSOC then issues an opinion. This could be one way of involvement of Social Partners.

DG EMPL provided an overview regarding the impact assessment procedure including some aspects of the work of the IA Board. It was mentioned that according to the IA Guidelines the COM needs to consult SSDC committees on initiatives, which might have social impacts on the relevant sector. Further it was specified that the type of consultation is not specified e.g. can take various forms. The IA Board examines the quality of the document and looks if it provides sufficient evidence. A joint position of the Social Partners is always very useful information. In this context, it was suggested that Social Partners submit a joint opinion/individual positions regarding this review for the Board to be taken into consideration – ideally ASAP, certainly within one month from now. Another possibility of involvement is via legislative procedure – there are several to means to contribute, which the COM does not comment on.

The discussion also revolved around consultation of Social Partners on this matter prior to the meeting, since there were some misunderstandings regarding the consultation procedure and the way it was conducted in the months before the meeting. It was agreed that a joint position will be drafted by the Social Partners ASAP and send to DG ENER for consideration during the IA procedure.

7. AOB – planning of dates for 2013

The planning of meetings for 2013 is starting and will be coordinated further on the Secretariat level by email– if possible this shall be finalised ASAP to provide dates to the COM by mid-October.