



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social dialogue, Social rights, Working conditions, Adaptation to Change
Social dialogue, Industrial relations

Meeting: Sectoral social dialogue committee, **Electricity**, Working Group

Time and place: 4.03.2010

Translation: **FR, DE, EN**

Trade Unions	Employers
1. Mr. CONSTATINI Bruno (IT)	1. Mr. BORGERSEN Stale (NO)
2. Mr. DAMM Jean-Pierre (FR)	2. Mr. CANALES Miguel (ES)
3. Mr. DE GIULI Marco (IT)	3. Mr CARVAHLO Eugenio (PT)
4. Mr. FERRON Marc (FR)	4. Mr. CLARK Stephen (UK)
5. Mr. FRIEG Bernd (CH)	5. Mr. NIKEL Christian (FR)
6. Mr. GAL Rezso (HU)	6. Ms. PREITI Emanuela (IT)
7. Mr. GOUDRIAAN Jan Willem (EPSU)	7. Mr. REGA Nicola (Eurelectric)
8. Mr. HACAJ Ludovit (SK)	
9. Mr LOSETTI Antonio (IT)	
10. Ms. PERRY Belinda (IE)	
11. Mr. van RIJSWIJK Oskar (NL)	
12. Mr RUYL Guido (BE)	
13. Ms. ZIEROLD Corinna (EMCEF)	

DG EMPL: DLOUCHY Dorota unit F.1

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome

2. Approval of the draft agenda

Point 4 is cancelled – the presentation was sent by Commission just before the meeting.
Point 6 is also moved to the next Plenary. Trade unions ask for a presentation on ETS at the Plenary.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes are approved without changes.

4. Smart meters – presentation for DG Energy (tbc)

EPSU thanks the EC for the presentation.

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/empl/sectoral_social_dialogue/library?l=/electricity&vm=detailed&sb=Title

At the same time EPSU reminds the discussions from December on smart grids, where both sides agreed to check the impact of smart meters on employment at the national level.

It is proposed that a working group will be set up to analyze following issues:

- direct and indirect employment effects
- impact on training, skills needs
- licensing of staff installing smart meters

Trade Unions are also not convinced that the benefits of smart grids outweigh the costs; in particular as for the individual consumers, nevertheless they take into account the position of Eurelectric that this issue is not going to be analyzed by the SSDC.

Eurelectric asks for a clarification concerning the working group, as it was not agreed in Budapest. Trade Unions explain that the decision was made at the previous meeting on questioning/surveying affiliates about the employment and social consequences of introducing smart grids and meters. The current proposal of establishing the working group is to speed up the process of data gathering and analysis. This can also be done by Secretariats.

Eurelectric proposes to discuss this issue at the level of Secretariats. Trade Unions agree to discuss a practical approach and a follow-up of this exercise in the proposed set up.

5. Discussion on possible request for a meeting with the Energy Commissioner

EPSU explains the rationale behind a request for this meeting. It is seen mainly as a way to introduce SSDC and its aims to the new Commissioner responsible for Energy and to discuss working relations of the Committee with DG ENER.

Eurelectric explains that due to the number of meetings the organisation has with the EC, it is very important for them to specify in detail the objectives of such meeting before requesting it. It is proposed that the meeting, its content and objectives should be prepared by the Secretariats.

6. Green Package – Update from DG Environment on Copenhagen follow-up (tbc)

Point moved to the plenary.

7. Skill needs in the Electricity Industry

DG EMPL representative updates the Committee on the developments at the EU level. The Commission is working on a new Communication on skills. The tentative date for

publishing of this document is early summer. In this Communication, the issue of the Sectoral skill councils will be addressed.

She informs members of the SSDC about the feasibility study on skill councils completed few months before and the current work of DG EMPL regarding practical approach to establishment of such bodies.

The European social partners are here in a driving seat. The councils will be established on the request of social partners. The social partners are also responsible for identification of relevant stakeholders at the national level to be invited to participate in a council together with social partners. The Commission will provide here financial support.

The councils are to be advisory bodies to the Commission and they should complement the activities of social dialogue. The first skill council is to be established in textile sector.

The presentation on skill councils is available here:

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/empl/sectoral_social_dialogue/library?l=/electricity&vm=detailed&sb=Title

Replying to the question on the budget, the representative of the EC mentions that the councils will receive similar resources from the Commission as the SSDCs. At this point it is planned that they will have two meetings a year.

EPSU underlines that the councils have to be linked very closely to the SSDC.

The social partners inform the Commission that they are interested in the initiative and they will closely follow the proposals coming from DG EMPL.

EPSU asks whether there will be an opportunity to comment on the Communication. DG EMPL representative says that she is not in the position to answer to this at this point.

8. The Communication on Social Dialogue by the Commission – Update from DG Employment

The state of play: the Communication is again delayed due to the introduction of a new part concerning the future European sectoral social dialogue. At the point of speaking the tentative date of publication was in April.

9. Project on just transition: update

EPSU informs on the developments concerning this project co-funded by DG EMPL. The call of tender for the study and toolkit was published and only one bid was received from Syndex (David Tarren).

It was decided that as a first step the study will be done (comparing existing studies, information available) and only later on it will be decided if the toolkit is to be produced.

Eurelectric questions independence of the consultant due to his background. EPSU underlines that the consultant has an extensive experience in the field of the study.

10. Follow up of past projects and joint declarations

EPSU reminds that the issue was discussed few times before. It is proposed that a package of the "products"/results of SSDC Electricity is done and then it is brought to the attention of the affiliates with the questions concerning the follow-up at the national level. EPSU adds that it can be done together with the publication of the Communication on the Sectoral social dialogue.

Eurelectric welcomes the idea in principle and proposes to discuss details at the Secretariat level. The idea of linking it with a publication of the Communication is also accepted.

11. Follow up 2nd Social Forum Zagreb

DG EMPL informs about the state of play as far implementation of the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on Social Issues is concerned. Only four plans were received so far. Montenegro is the least advanced Contracting Party not having even a draft prepared.

The next Social Forum will be organised in Skopje on 10-11 June. The tripartite meeting will focus on vulnerable customers and social dialogue. Also, more emphasis will be given to the implementation of the Social Action Plans than to the drafting process.

The European social partners will present the restructuring toolkit to the Forum.

Eurelectric mentions that the contribution from the European Social Partners must be well framed.

DG EMPL says that it is important to remember that the participation of European Social Partners is of great importance not only in the view of the issues dealt there, but also due to the institutional set up of the Energy Community. The Energy Community is composed on one hand of the European Community and on the other of the Contracting Parties. In the Social Forum; EPSU, EMCEF and on the employers' side: Eurelectric and Eurogas are invited to represent the EU level social partners. The national Western Balkans trade unions and employers' organisations are invited to represent the social partners of Contracting Parties.

12. Work Programme 2010

The work programme is approved by both sides.

13. Any Other Business

EPSU proposes that the documents relevant for the discussions in the meetings can be sent to the EC **in advance** in order to be published before the meetings.

14. Date and place next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 23 June 2010.