

**Minutes**

**Working Group Meeting of the Social Dialogue Committee  
for the Agriculture Sector**

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

Following the preparatory meetings of the European social partners' organizations, EFFAT and Geopa-Copa, working group meeting begins with the Chairman welcoming the participants and reading the agenda.

**1) Approval of the agenda**

Agenda is approved with a change in the order of the points. Point 8.1 (Presentation by the Social Partners on the entrance of Croatia in the European Union) becomes point 4.

**2) Approval of the minutes of the SDC meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013.**

Minutes are actually draft by Social Partners in English or in French and this cause a problem for the understanding and for the consequent need for translation. Social Partners decide that starting from the plenary session on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 they will arrange a solution with the Commission for the future meetings.

Minutes of the last meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May will be approved if in 2 weeks there will be no remarks.

**3) Approval of the Common declaration of the Social Partners in European Agriculture.**

The declaration, presented during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Social Dialogue on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, has been approved and signed. The declaration is attached to the Minutes as Annex I.

**4) Presentation by the Social Partners on the entrance of Croatia in the European Union**

Croatian Member from EFFAT gives a speech on the recent adhesion of Croatia in the European Union and thanks for the invitation to the Sectoral Social Dialogue. He underlines the need to improve in Croatia the Social Dialogue and addresses a request to Geopa to have for the next meeting a representative from the employers side.

Mr. Botterman from Geopa answers positively to the request.

The Croatian representative finally describes the difficult situation in Croatia concerning the Agricultural sector.

## **5) Information point by the Commission**

Mrs Tannou (European Commission) refers about the following points:

### Health and Safety Strategy

As to health and safety, and following the publication of the Commission's Staff Working Document on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013, the public consultation launched by this SWD has been closed on 26 August and that more than 500 replies had been received. The Commission is therefore currently analysing these replies, with a view to identifying the most appropriate way forward.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=fr&catId=89&newsId=1912&furtherNews=yess>

Information and consultation at work: Commission evaluates EU rules on information and consultation, the Commission published the following Staff Working Document evaluating existing EU rules.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=fr&catId=89&newsId=1942&furtherNews=yess>

### Undeclared work

As regards undeclared work, the deadline for reply to the Social Partners' consultation, launched on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July has been extended until 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1936&furtherNews=yess>

### Conference on EU Labour Law - 21/10/2013

Finally, there will be an EU labour Law Conference organised by the European Commission on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 in Brussels.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=898&furtherEvents=yess>

## **6) Approval of the 2013/2014 Work Program.**

The work program is finally presented, some remarks are pointed out and added to the text.

Particularly in the point 1.2 on the last sentence “Therefore , the Social Partners participate actively in the European Innovation Partnership” Geopa asks to mention in the Minutes the fact that there is a division of matters between Geopa and Copa-Cogeca (the main organization to which Geopa belongs) and the participation to the EIP belongs mainly to Copa-Cogeca.

A copy of the final Working Program is attached to the Minutes as Annex II.

## **6) CAP and employment.**

Mr. Botterman from Geopa refers about the project on *Cap and employment* and about the 2 reports presented by the Social Partners experts on the final conference on the 18<sup>th</sup> September. Mr. Spahn from Effat underlines that some aspects have to be perfected.

In the upcoming weeks the Social Partners will discuss about common conclusion to adopt.

## **7) Tractors**

Social Partners refer about the intention to invite in the Plenary Session in December the experts from both side that have participated to the Working Groups on Tractors in DG Enterprise to update on the existing situation.

## **8) Update on the seasonal workers Directive**

The Commission refers to the final agreement on the Directive final text that will be probably adopted before the end of the year. Mr. Spahn from Effat underlines the Effat position on the item putting the attention on the fact that transparency is needed not only for the seasonal workers coming from third Countries but also for the EU workers. Effat strongly disagrees with the principles and contents of the Seasonal Workers Directive.

Mr. Botterman from Geopa says that the problem is that the job has to be done, and someone should do it. He refers 4 main principles:

1. The same salary has to be guaranteed to the workers in general (seasonal or not).
2. The unfair completion has to be avoid the posting of workers.
3. It is essential to solve the problem of the fake independent workers.
4. It is necessary to hire first the EU workers before address the requests to the thirds Countries.

## **9) Agripass**

Bob Fiddaman from Geopa refers that the translations in the 3 languages EN-FR-DE on Agripass online have been updated. He underlines the need for continuous support from the Commission to the project.

Mr. Spahn from Effat says that Effat is organizing the test and choosing the regions for the Agripass card.

## **10) Presentation by the Social Partners - European Innovation Partnership "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability"**

Mr. Spahn from Effat informes about the intention of presenting a report in October concerning the EIP and asks to have a representative from Copa in the plenary session of December.

## **10) Assessment and follow-up of the 50th Anniversary of the Sectoral Social Dialogue**

The Social Partners discuss about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sectoral Social Dialogue held in Brussels the 18<sup>th</sup> September, with the participation (among the others) of the Commissioner Laslo Andor and the Head of Unit Jean Paul Tricart. They mention the brochure on the Agricultural Social Dialogue History that has been presented.

## **11) Discussion on posting of workers enforcement directive.**

Mr. Spahn refers about the illegal use of the posting of workers and the recent study conducted by Effat. He asks Geopa to discuss more in depth the item.

Mr. Botterman from Geopa answers positively.