



MEETING OF THE IRTUC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Brussels, 6 November 2007

REPORT

1. ELECTIONS

a) Presentation by outgoing President Joana Agudo of the report from the chair of the IRTUC Coordination Committee for the period from 26 October 2004 to 6 November 2007 (document attached).

b) In accordance with the IRTUC Rules of Procedure (ROP), the IRTUC Coordination Committee proceeded with the election of its chair.

Manfred KLÖPPER, Chairman of the WENN Regio IRTUC, was unanimously elected.

c) In accordance with the IRTUC ROP, Joana AGUDO was named Vice-Chairwoman of the IRTUC Coordination Committee.

d) Walter CERFEDA, ETUC Confederal Secretary, presented the criteria proposed by the IRTUC Steering Committee for the composition of the future Steering Committee. The objective is to enhance the committee's quality and to involve it more closely in the ETUC's activities.

At the end of the discussion, the criteria attached hereto were adopted by the IRTUC Coordination Committee.

It was agreed to send to the IRTUC chairmen the call for candidacies for the election of the Second Vice-Chairman and members of the IRTUC Steering Committee, to be held at the next meeting of the IRTUC Coordination Committee, in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria.

2. 11th ETUC CONGRESS (Seville, 21-24 May 2007)

Presentation by Claude DENAGTERGAL, ETUC adviser, of the evaluation of:

- the participation of the IRTUC representatives

- the "Strategy and Action Plan", adopted at the 11th ETUC Congress, with regard to the prospects for the interregional committees.

http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf_SAP_Final_EN.pdf

The following points in particular were mentioned:

- "For a stronger ETUC both at EU level and national level"

Point 1.31 – page 22

- "A better framework for mobility in the EU"

Point 2.60 – page 41

- "More cross-border cooperation"

Point 3.13 - page 75

3. INTERNAL ORGANISATION

- a) IRTUC work programme

It was agreed that, based on the abovementioned points of the "Seville Manifesto", the Chairman would present a proposal for an IRTUC work programme at the next meeting of the Coordination Committee.

- b) Presentation of reports by IRTUC representatives to the Executive Committee and the ETUC committees and working groups.

4. COORDINATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND THE IRTUCs

a) Presentation by ETUC Confederal Secretary Walter Cerfeda of the content of the Action Plan adopted by the 11th ETUC Congress concerning the coordination of collective bargaining, and more specifically the chapter on cross-border cooperation and the role of the IRTUCs.

The Action Plan highlights the importance of a political initiative to encourage and support all cross-border cooperation initiatives and to extend cooperation initiatives to areas where economic, territorial, monetary and social conditions are similar.

We take as a starting point the fact that there is a growing phenomenon of cooperation and integration of the economy and services between companies in border areas, particularly in the new Member States, which require a strengthening of cooperation between sectoral unions and representatives of companies in border regions.

The more specific objectives concern:

- cooperation to improve information sharing
 - the possibility of becoming more familiar with and disseminating existing best practice
 - monitoring where situations are more sensitive in terms of mobility and the IRTUCs' role in this context of sounding the alert on cases of social dumping.
- b) Presentation of the results of the survey of the IRTUCs

The responses from 16 IRTUCs show that initiatives are under way but that in others there is a lack of initiatives, which demonstrates that there is a need to improve our work in this area.

- c) Proposal to select a number of IRTUCs with a view to monitoring and developing more specific experiences.

The following criteria were proposed for the choice of the IRTUCs:

- IRTUCs where there are already good practices with a view to analysing the reasons for this success (the "ingredients") and making them known
- IRTUCs where "inequalities" are greatest (between old and new Member States), to avoid social dumping
- IRTUCs where there is high mobility in industry and services (for example, Spain/Portugal, Spain/France).

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was proposed that the ETUC Secretariat present a proposal, coordinated by the ETUC, to the European Commission with a view to implementing the abovementioned objectives.

The following IRTUCs submitted their candidacies:

1. Friuli-Venezia-Giulia/Slovenia (Italy – Slovenia)
2. Andalucía/Algarve (Spain – Portugal)
3. Lombardia/Tessin/Piemonte (Italy – Switzerland)
4. Viadrina (Berlin-Brandenburg/Lubuskie) (Germany – Poland)
5. Friuli-Venezia-Giulia/Veneto/Croazia Sudoccidentale (Italy – Croatia)
6. Elbe-Neisse (Germany – Poland - Czech Republic)
7. Galicia/Norte de Portugal (Spain – Portugal)

5. EURES

- a) Presentation of the results of the questionnaire on the IRTUC activity programmes (comparison of the years 2007 and 2008).
- b) At the conclusion of the discussion and based on the decline in "recognition" of the IRTUCs in the EURES Network and consequently on the continuing decreases in the budget granted by the Commission for the specific activities of the IRTUCs, in particular activities related to the EURES trade union advisers, it was agreed that:
- the IRTUC Steering Committee would present at the next meeting of the Coordination Committee a draft resolution on this matter, with a view to its adoption by the ETUC Executive Committee;

- the ETUC Secretariat added to the EURES activity programme 2008, which will be presented to the European Commission, an additional activity on an ETUC conference on this subject in autumn 2008, and that would include the participation of Commission and European Parliament officials.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee was briefed on:

- a) The European Job Mobility Action Plan 2007-2010, and more specifically the chapter entitled "Reinforcing EURES".

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2007/dec/com_2007_0773_en.pdf

- b) The updated Guide for Mobile European Workers.

<http://www.etuc.org/a/50>

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