

March 2006

B/06/M1

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE GOVERNING BOARD, 20 MARCH 2006

Present:

Mr Remaeus (chair), Mr Lusi, Mr Riese, Mr Onelli, Mr Lopes, Mr Cerfeda, Ms Degrand-Guillaud, Mr Jansen, Mr Biosca de Sagastuy, Ms Waltke, Ms Schweng, Ms Asherson, Mr Konkolewsky, Mr Taylor and Mr Bejer (Secretariat).

Item 1: Adoption of the draft Agenda (B/06/A1)

The agenda was adopted.

Item 2: Draft minutes of the meeting of 12 December 2005 (B/05/M5)

The minutes were adopted.

Item 3: Preparation of the Board meeting (G/06/A1)

The Bureau worked through the agenda for the Board meeting:

Item 5: Draft work programme 2007 (G/06/03)

Following a request from **Mr Lopes, the Director** informed that the 2006 European Week campaign follows a dual track approach. It is targeted at the education sector as well as the workplaces. As the major objective is the strengthening of the prevention culture, it is necessary to target the education sector to make sure young people are prepared before entering the labour market. However, the Director confirmed the request from the workers that key focus of the campaign is the safety and health of young workers.

Ms Waltke commented on the Risk Observatory saying that there was a need for a strategic Board discussion on the company panel before the panel could be implemented. As for the cleaning workers project, it is important that risks are documented and the project should focus on the major risks. The issue of stress and harassment should be put into context and should not be considered the major problem for cleaners.

Mr Biosca de Sagastuy requested that it be clarified that the approach for the European Week on Risk Assessment is not a legalistic approach. The message should not be that companies should carry out risk assessments because it is a legal obligation, but because it is an important tool to prevent risks. Furthermore, the week should take into account that prevention services in most countries do not have a sufficient quality and are too expensive. In many cases, employers could carry out the risk assessment without the help from a prevention service.

The Director confirmed that the wording of the cleaning workers project sheet would be checked and also that it would be made clear that the Board has to decide on the company panel before its implementation. Finally, the Director confirmed that the European Week on Risk Assessment would focus on practical tools and not follow a legalistic approach.

Item 6: Draft budget 2007 (G/06/04)

The Director introduced the item stressing that it was a moderate proposal.

Mr Riese commented that nationally it would be difficult to justify that the Agency establishment plan should have two additional posts.

Mr Jansen informed that there are major uncertainties about the future budget situation and suggested that the Agency analysed whether the EUR 400.000 for the company panel could be found via internal reallocations. As regards the two additional posts, the Agency would have to justify this, including explaining why the Agency has a relatively high number of vacant posts.

The Director replied that the EUR 400.000 for the Risk Observatory couldn't be found internally without affecting other work programme activities. Regarding the two new posts, one post is linked to extra workload due to enlargement and the other as the competences needed to carry out auditing and evaluation work are not available at the Agency. Furthermore, the vacant posts are due to staff turnover, and the time needed for recruitment processes.

Item 4: Procedure for the Board's appointment of Director (B/06/01)

Mr Jansen explained that the foreseen appointment of a new Director on 22 March had to be cancelled, as the Commission had not decided on a short-list yet. Instead the Commission would suggest that the appointment of the Director takes place on 3 or 5 May in Luxembourg in connection with the Advisory Committee meeting.

At the request from **the Chair**, **Mr Jansen** explained that the usual procedure if there is no vice-Director is for the highest rank staff member to take over in the absence of a Director.

It was agreed that the groups should discuss:

- whether 3 or 5 May would be the best date for the appointment
- whether the groups want to include a break for interest group consultations after the presentation from the candidates but before the voting, and
- whether they agree that all candidates are asked to prepare a 15 minutes presentation on the theme, "the visions of the candidates about the Agency's role over the next 10 years" in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish.

Item 5: Any other business

On request by **the Chair** asked **the Director** commented in detail on a letter from Union Syndicale, which had been sent to all Board members.