

May 2008

B/08/M2

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE GOVERNING BOARD, 13 MAY 2008

Present:

Mr György (Chair), Ms Schweng, Mr Riese, Mr Lusi, Mr Remaëus, Ms Smith, Ms Asherson, Mr Cerfeda, Mr Fuente, Mr Alvarez, Ms Böhm, Mr Takala, Mr Smith, Mr Taylor, Ms O'Brien and Mr Bejer (Secretariat), as well as Mr Irastorza, Mr Jaccarini, Mr Cockburn, Ms Sommer and Mr Kotzan (part of the meeting).

The Chair informed that Mr Biosca was unable to attend and that Mr Alvarez attended in his place.

Furthermore, the Chair informed that he would have to leave before the end of the meeting. Mr Remaëus agreed to chair the meeting from that moment.

Mr Bejer reminded the Bureau members about the new rules for reimbursement, in particular the need to provide the Agency with the original boarding passes.

Item 1: Adoption of the draft Agenda (B/08/A2)

The agenda was adopted.

Item 2: Draft minutes of the meeting of 26 February 2008 (B/08/M1)

The minutes were adopted.

Item 3: Director's Progress Report (B/08/01)

The Director introduced the report adding the following comments:

- the recruitment of a new Head of the Resource and Service Center is being finalized and the post has been offered to one of the candidates
- a report on Sound Financial Management from the Court of Auditors is due soon. The report examines 8 agencies. Though there are critical comments in the report, most of the issues have been taken care of between the audit visit (summer 2007) and the publication of the report now.
- a number of implementing rules for various staff issues will have to be adopted in 2008. To be able to use the rules as early as possible, the Agency will send the rules in parallel to the Commission for approval and to the Bureau for a recommendation to the Board.

Following a request from Mr Remaëus, Mr Bejer confirmed that the comments in the audit report concerned the agencies as such and that the report did not include specific criticism of EU-OSHA.

Mr Smith informed about the Agency's activities on 28 April, which included a number of media appearances.

Following a request from Ms Smith, Mr Cockburn confirmed that the Advisory Group will have the questionnaire for the enterprise survey at least two weeks before its meeting.

Mr Riese made the following comments:

- overlaps between work on feasibility study carried out in relation to the forecasting methodology task and the New OSH Era task, both Risk Observatory, should be avoided
- the Agency should consider its consultation procedures for the cases where there is a Topic Centre member in the Member State and where the focal points are asked to provide information
- there is a significant gap between when the Topic Centre delivers a draft product to the Agency and when the product is published.

Mr Smith commented on the last issue raised by Mr Riese. A process involving several steps has to be implemented after the Topic Centre delivers its draft product. These steps include editing of the publication, validation of its content, printing the publication etc. In addition fact sheets need to be ready in 22 languages to make it possible to promote the publication in all countries at the same time.

Mr Smith confirmed that the European Campaign material will be ready for the launch of the campaign in all languages.

Ms Schweng asked the Agency to consider to change the deadline for sending candidates for the good practice awards to the Agency. The current deadline (August) may limit the participation in the competition.

Mr Lusi raised the question about whether the ECAP model and its reliance on MediaConsulta is the most efficient way to stimulate activities in the countries.

Ms Böhm questioned whether the campaign model was too centralized implying an insufficient targeting in the countries.

Mr Smith replied that the model with MediaConsulta involved the important advantage that there was only one framework contract to manage instead of 27 which would be impossible for the Agency. Furthermore, the prices are differentiated according to the price levels in the countries.

In order to give the Bureau a better overview of the results of the Agency's work, Mr Irastorza presented the results of the work on the Migrant Workers project (see presentation here:

<http://extranet.osha.europa.eu/livelink/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=929687&objAction=browse&sort=name>

The Migrant Workers project had been of particular interest to the Bureau in the past and it was therefore considered to be relevant for the Bureau to be presented with the findings.

Mr Cerfeda commented that it was important to involve the social partners when the Agency focuses on the issue of undeclared work at the Member State level as the information from the social partners will be an important complement to the information the focal points may be able to provide.

Ms Asherson asked the Agency to avoid the word '3D jobs' as it was an unjustified simplification of a very complex issue.

Mr Remaëus stressed the importance of a clear definition of what is understood by 'migrant' and in particular whether it includes intra-EU migration and/or migration

from outside the EU into the EU. Also, declared and undeclared work should be kept clearly apart. In general, Mr Reameus considered that the OSH challenges had more to do with the sectors workers work in than with whether the worker is a migrant worker or not.

Mr Lusis followed up, stating that at the workplaces and as regards the employers' responsibilities it does not make a difference whether the worker is a migrant worker or not. Mr Lusis also pointed out that it may make sense to talk about a 4th wave of migration, the migration connected to the enlargements of the EU in 2004 and 2007.

Mr Taylor commented that the Advisory Group Working Environment Information will follow up on the work done on migrant workers in the European Risk Observatory to clarify the consequences for the good practice work.

Item 4: Engagement with national networks (B/08/02)

The Director introduced the item

<http://extranet.osha.europa.eu/livelink/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=929687&objAction=browse&sort=name>, stressing that the discussion today follows up on one of the recommendations from the second external Agency evaluation.

Ms Schweng commented that the Austrian focal point would appreciate increased focal point-focal point contacts. It is also important that the Agency be more visible at the national level via presence in national events. Finally, Ms Schweng doubted the usefulness of transnational meetings.

Ms Asherson suggested that a priority should be to explore if better use could be made of the focal point meetings. On the other hand, it should not be a priority for the Agency to strengthen transnational networking.

Mr Alvarez added that the initiatives adding most value should be given priority. It is important to consider the resource implications to make the best use of the Agency's budget.

Mr Riese considered that it would not be a good idea to establish a standard practice for regular focal point meetings outside Bilbao. These meetings should be organised on an ad hoc basis. As regards the transnational network meetings, Mr Riese doubted the additional value of these. However, meetings with the national networks are a good idea and the development of Extranet fora should be explored.

Ms Böhm considered the cooperation between EU-OSHA and the national networks to be a key priority. It is important that the Agency is present in the Member States – especially, where the capacity of the focal points is limited.

The Agency will bring the Bureau's comments to the focal point discussions and prepare a consolidated proposal.

Item 5: The Agency's network groups (B/08/03)

Mr Lusis questioned whether there was a need for all the suggested expert groups, in particular the campaign groups.

Ms Schweng requested to change 'may' to 'shall' in point 3 of the mandates for the Advisory Groups. As regards the expert groups the Agency should make sure that it complies with the deadlines established for communicating documents.

Mr Riese requested that the Agency makes available on its Extranet lists of groups established with information on the composition of the groups.

The Agency confirmed that it would make the requested information available.

It was agreed to make the change requested from Ms Schweng in the mandate of the Advisory Groups and with this change to adopt the mandate.

Item 6: Implementation of the translation policy for Board documents (B/08/04)

Mr Cerfeda requested that the annual management plans and the strategies of the Agency be made available in three languages.

Following a request from Mr Lusi, the Director clarified that the resources saved as a consequence of the new translation policy had contributed to financing the cuts following the decisions on the Galileo programme.

With the requested amendment from Mr Cerfeda the document was adopted.

Item 7: Follow-up to Board seminar in February (B/08/05)

Mr Takala introduced the item

<http://extranet.osha.europa.eu/livelink/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=929687&objAction=browse&sort=name>

asking the Bureau to comment on the proposals tabled by the Agency.

Ms Schweng commented on the idea of more open-ended seminars stating that these seminars should not be held too often. It is important to consider if seminars will motivate Board members to get engaged in the Agency's work.

Mr Cerfeda stated that the idea of open-ended seminars is welcomed, especially if they can be used to add a political perspective and not be limited to technical issues.

Ms Asherson commented that the February seminar was very useful and that it was important with actions which could make the Board more cohesive. However, it is important that a clear structure for the seminars is prepared.

Ms Bohm welcomed the proposal of seminars as this allows to focus on OSH, whereas the Board meetings are more focused on technical/administrative issues.

The Director thanked for the comments, stressing that seminars should be seen as way to engage Board members and as a possibility to discuss OSH.

Item 8: Any other business

Mr Remaëus asked the Agency to consider the possibility of planning European Campaign events to coincide with 28 April events to be able to attract more media attention.