

Meeting:	MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
Date:	14 June 2010
Time:	15.00 h – 19.00 h
Place:	Gran Vía 35, INBISA Building, 7th floor, Meeting Room A, Bilbao

MINUTES

1. *Adoption of the draft agenda (B/10/A2) – for adoption*

Ms Schweng welcomed all members to the meeting and asked the participants to adopt the agenda.

CONCLUSION: The agenda was adopted.

2. *Draft minutes of the last meeting of 2 March 2010 (B/10/M1) – for approval*

CONCLUSION: The minutes of the last meeting were approved without any comments.

3. *Status report: Progress on implementation of the 2010 management plan (B/10/02) – for information*

Ms Schweng welcomed the Progress report, which in its new format has become shorter and clearer [\[see Progress report\]](#). **Mr Takala** gave an update about the latest developments, including ESENER Survey, latest developments on the Seat Agreement and the current situation with the Italian Focal Point.

The Bureau expressed its support to the actions taken by the Agency towards the Italian Government.

Mr Takala also commented on the latest news on the economic situation and the consequences for EU-OSHA, and reminded that the budgetary process had been modified with the Lisbon Treaty by abolishing the 2nd reading by the EP. The European Parliament has made it clear to the agencies that they, and in particular their Board, now have to fight themselves for their budgets via the Council members. It is therefore important that Board members take action at national level, especially in relation to Ministers of Finance.

Mr Takala also informed about the issues raised during the recent discharge procedure on the 2008 budget implementation. On two important issues raised in the general comments concerning the discharge of all agencies, EU-OSHA was directly named by the EP. These issues are the size of the Board and the size of the Agency. The discharge points out the costs of the Board arrangements in relation to the size of the Agency, and that the Agency is below the threshold the EP – seemingly taking inspiration from the conclusions of the horizontal evaluation – has established to define 'critical mass'. Agencies below the 'critical mass' are considered to have efficiency problems [\[see latest Budget Discharge by the European Parliament\]](#). EU-OSHA has pointed out and will continue to point out that there is no necessary relation between size of an agency and its efficiency.

Finally **Mr Takala** mentioned that the Agency is exploring the possibilities of preparing some products on leadership and workers' involvement for the 12/13 campaign in collaboration with the European social partners. Ideally these would be co-branded products building on the important work the social partners already did in these areas.

Ms Breindl asked for more information about the stakeholders' consultation addressees. **Mr Bejer** informed about the list of stakeholders consulted [\[consult document\]](#).

Ms Petricek asked for additional information on the time framework for Task 2(c) in the Working Environment Information section, *Economic incentives for prevention activities*; this was answered by **Mr Elser**, project manager for this activity.

Mr Elsler explained that this is a long term project, which is developed according to a strategic project plan 2007 – 2013 along with the EU-OSHA strategy. In addition to the TC OSH the economic incentives expert group is playing a crucial role in the course of the project. In regular meetings (two times per year) they reviewed the Agency products and exchanged practical information about their respective incentive schemes. The expert group stimulated discussions about the introduction of economic incentives in member states, e.g. the Italian workers' compensation authority INAIL plans a new SME funding scheme for € 60 million now.

Mr Alvarez added regarding ESENER that the collaboration between the Commission and EU-OSHA on this issue had been very positive.

CONCLUSION: The Bureau noted the Progress Report.

4. *Dates for September meeting and format of November Bureau meeting (B/10/03) – for agreement*

CONCLUSION: The following dates and format were agreed for the Bureau meetings in September and November:

- 3rd Bureau meeting: Bilbao, Thursday 30th September pm and Friday 1st October am.
- 4th Bureau meeting: Luxembourg, Monday 29th November, from 15.00 – 17.00 h.
- 2nd Board meeting: Luxembourg, Tuesday 30th November, from 09.30 – 17.30 h.

5. *Business plan for OiRA (B/10/04) – for information*

Mr Smith introduced the item explaining that the OiRA business plan had been prepared in line with the request of the Board in March.

Mr Munar presented the Business plan for the OiRA project and **Mr Smith** informed about the management approach, the profile of the new posts, funding requirements and the next steps to be taken (including impact assessment, continuing work with stakeholders, finalising pilot projects, increasing involvement of steering committee) [[see presentation](#)].

Mr Takala added, regarding the resource issue, that the Agency is following up on the Board's recommendations from March. The Agency is already redeploying resources to the extent possible and significant resources already go into the OiRA project. Furthermore, the Agency is working at making use of the EFTA funds for the OiRA project.

Mr Cerfeda expressed his concern about the sectoral approach suggested. He admitted that the sector is an important level, but he insisted on the need to look at the territorial level as well, given the high concentration and number of micro-enterprises and SMEs in certain areas.

Mr Alvarez said that the plan was good and clear and DG Empl. would fully support it. Mr Alvarez suggested hiring CA instead of TA, as it is a simpler procedure and easier to approve by the Board and budgetary authority.

Mr Riese also supported the business plan, but he insisted on the need to follow a pragmatic approach. He approved the idea of using the EFTA funding. However, he did not see any possibility of getting support from governments for additional funding, given the current situation of crisis and general cuts in public services around Europe. **Mr Riese** added that, in his opinion, EU-OSHA should not try to get further additional posts in the establishment plan, but rather explore other possibilities, such as hiring SNEs, redeploying and re-thinking priorities.

Ms Schweng agreed that EU-OSHA is following the right approach with the use of EFTA funds. **Ms Schweng** remarked that the approach to social dialogue at the national level has to be open to national differences.

Ms Breindl suggested to present OiRA to SLIC and commented that social partners' resources at national level may be limited. It is therefore important to involve authorities.

Mr Frederiksen raised the issue of compliance with national legislation. A key condition of the take-up of the tool is that companies know they comply with legislation by using it. This has to be ensured in one way or another.

Mr Takala and **Mr Smith** assured that these proposals will be taken into account. They commented that social partner involvement in the development of the tool is assured as the quality control is done by them. Focal Points help identify the appropriate social partners at national level, and the Agency can explore a possible cooperation with the Committee of Regions. Finally, in answer to Ms Breindl's question, they informed that the OiRA tool had been presented informally at the last SLIC meeting in Bilbao but that the Agency would be very willing to make a more detailed presentation of the project in the future.

CONCLUSION: The Bureau noted the OiRA Business Plan with the above mentioned comments.

6. *Coordination of Agencies: status update – for information*

Mr Takala gave an update on the latest developments:

- a) Inter-institutional Working Group on the future of the agency system:
The Inter-institutional Working Group has finished its work on describing the current situation. Currently, work is going on to identify problems in the current situation. Next steps include developing solutions to the identified problems and assess their feasibility. Whereas the agencies were involved in the first phase of the work they are excluded from the remaining steps. EU-OSHA as coordinating agency is working on opening

informal channels to contribute to the process and it is important that Board members also contribute to the process at national level.

Some of the main issues discussed include Agencies efficiency (critical mass criterion), governance (big size of the Boards; EU-OSHA is expressly mentioned in this regard) and lack of seat agreements. **Mr Takala** also updated on the next activities for EU-OSHA as coordinator of the network which most significant include the Heads of Agencies' meeting 24 June.

b) Network of Board Chairpersons:

It is important that EU-OSHA's Board is represented and **Mr Takala** informed that EU-OSHA was taking the necessary actions aimed at this.

c) New budgetary procedure:

Mr Takala highlighted the need for the Board members to play an important role at the national level to ensure a sustainable budgetary situation for the Agency, given the growing importance of the role of Council Members in the budgetary procedure as well as the abolition of the second reading in the European Parliament. The Agency is preparing an initiative involving Board members.

CONCLUSION: The Bureau noted the information, without any questions or comments.

7. *Recruitment of new Director: status update from the Commission – for information*

Mr Alvarez informed about the next steps in the procedure: the note for open competition is being finalised and the Bureau will be consulted on it. **Mr Alvarez** offered to distribute copies of the draft note; nevertheless he remarked that it was a working document for the moment, and should not be circulated or made public. **Mr Alvarez** invited the Bureau to agree on a final draft by written procedure in order to save time.

It is expected that the whole process would be completed by March 2011. If this were not the case, an extraordinary Board meeting would be called.

For pre-selection process, the Bureau was invited to nominate an observer who will attend the pre-selection interviews.

Mr Alvarez committed himself to inform the Bureau in case there was any substantial news in the development of the process.

CONCLUSION:

Action	Responsible	Due
Approve note for open competition by written procedure	Bureau	Before next Bureau meeting (30/09/10)
Select a member to be Bureau's representative in the process of selection for the new Director	Bureau	At next Bureau meeting (30/09/10)

8. *Any other business*

a) DASA exhibition:

Mr Riese informed about the photo competition exhibition in DASA, Dortmund, and the possibility for further cooperation between DASA and EU-OSHA. In this line, **Mr Takala** recalled the video competition carried out last year by EU-OSHA.

b) Written procedure for accounts:

Mr Takala informed that for this ongoing exercise, there was still a high number of members who had not submitted their vote yet. **Mr Takala** invited the Bureau members to kindly remind their colleagues at the Board, so that every member issues his/her vote. Deadline for voting: 16 June.

The Chairperson thanked the interpreters and closed the meeting.

Present:

Chairperson:	Christa SCHWENG (Employers representative)
Commission:	F. Jesús ÁLVAREZ (European Commission representative)
Workers:	Károly GYÖRGY (Workers representative) Walter CERFEDA (Workers representative, ETUC)
Governments:	Ulrich RIESE (Government representative) Tatjana PETRICEK (Government representative) Gertrud BREINDL (Government representative)
EU-OSHA:	Jukka Takala, Jesper Bejer, Andrew Smith, Eusebio Rial González, Françoise Murillo, Marta de Prado, Lorenzo Munar, Dietmar Elsler