

**MINUTES OF THE 26TH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK.
Bilbao, 21 March 2007**

The **Chairperson** welcomed those present and in particular Mr Jukka Takala. This was Mr Takala's first Board meeting as Director of the Agency.

At the beginning of the afternoon plenary, General Director, Mr van der Pas addressed the Board. A summary of Mr van der Pas' speech is annexed to these minutes. Also at the beginning of the afternoon session, the workers' spokesperson, Mr Lopes, read a declaration from the workers' group. The declaration is also annexed to these minutes.

Item 1 – Adoption of the draft agenda (G/07/A1)

The following documents were tabled:

- Update to the Director's Progress Report and annexes (G/07/03)
- List of participants

The draft agenda was adopted.

Item 2: Election of chair, vice-chairs and other Bureau members (G/07/01)

Following nominations from the groups, the Board elected Ms Schweng representing the employers' group as Chair of the Board, Mr Remaeus as vice-chair representing the governments' group, Mr Lopes as vice-chair representing the workers' group and Mr Biosca de Sagastuy as vice-chair representing the Commission.

In addition to this, the groups informed that the coordinators will be:

Mr Lusi for the governments' group

Ms Waltke for the employers' group

Mr Cerfeda from the workers' group

Finally, on the basis of the groups' information, the Bureau will be composed of:

Mr Gyorgy (workers), Ms Asherson (employers), Mr Riese (governments), and Mr Fuente (Commission), in addition to the Chair, the vice-chairs and the coordinators.

Alternates in the Bureau will be:

Mr Whelan, Ms Jacobsen and Ms Bohm (all workers)

Ms Breindl, Ms Hodgkinson and Ms Petricek (all governments)

Ms Buet, Mr Engels and Mr Pelegrin (all employers)

Item 3: Adoption of rules of procedure (G/07/02)

Mr Lusis suggested that the title of article 14 be changed to “Chairing of meetings” and that it be specified in the 2nd sentence of art 10 (3), that it is the Bureau members who can raise an objection.

The Board adopted the rules of procedure with the suggested amendments

Item 4: Director’s Progress Report (G/07/03)

The Director referred to the documents tabled and added the following comments (presentation can be found here:

<http://extranet.osha.eu.int/livelink/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=740391&objAction=browse&sort=name>):

- An in-depth dialogue with key stakeholders has been initiated in order to explore how the Agency can create more added value for its users. The dialogue involves meetings with the social partners (ETUC, BUSINESSEUROPE), visits to the focal points and meetings with national networks as well as an ongoing improvement of communication between the Agency and others.
- The perspectives for a release of the 2007 budget reserve are positive.
- Preparation of the year’s MSD-campaign, is going according to plans. The first wave of campaign material has been published in English and is being translated into other languages.

The Board noted the report

Item 5: Draft work programme 2008 (G/07/04)

The Director, Mr Smith, Mr Taylor and Mr Rial-Gonzalez introduced the item (presentations available here:

<http://extranet.osha.eu.int/livelink/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=740391&objAction=browse&sort=name>),

stressing that there were three decisions to take: The model for the campaigns after the 2007 campaign, the theme for the next campaign after the Risk Assessment campaign, and the adoption of the draft work programme 2008.

Model for future European campaigns

Based on a request from Mr Lusis, Mr Smith provided information on how a two-year campaign may be run. Mr Smith stressed that the model would have to be discussed with the focal points and that discussions with the focal points may change the model. An outline of the model was presented. A key point is that it will be a 24 months campaign – not a campaign of 12 months running every second year.

Mr Lusis, Ms Schweng and Mr Biosca de Sagastuy confirmed that the governments, the employers and the Commission can support the move to two-years campaigns. Mr Biosca de Sagastuy added that the two-years campaign model should lead to better preparation, better coordination with SLIC and more evaluation of impacts.

Mr Lopes informed that the workers would prefer to continue the current model – i.e. annual campaigns.

Theme for European campaign after Risk Assessment

Mr Biosca de Sagastuy clarified that the directive on physical agents covers all effects – direct and indirect. Also workers with physical implants are covered.

Ms Hodgkinson suggested that occupational health should be considered for future campaigns.

Mr Lusis informed that a majority of the governments' group preferred maintenance (under a different name) as the 2010-11 theme.

Ms Schweng informed that the employers also preferred maintenance as the theme for the 2010-11 campaign, but it should be seen as an integral part of a safety culture.

Mr Lopes and Mr Biosca de Sagastuy confirmed that the workers and the Commission also support maintenance as the 2010-11 theme.

Draft work programme 2008

Ms Schweng stressed that it is important to make clear that the Risk Observatory is a part of the Agency and not an autonomous organisation. It should be considered to make an evaluation of the Observatory. As regards the enterprise survey, close collaboration with the stakeholders must be ensured. Finally, concerning the task on economic incentives, Ms Schweng asked for a reformulation of the first performance indicator, as it is not for the Topic Centre to produce a policy report.

Mr Lopes requested that the Board in the future receive a report on the implementation of the work programme.

Mr Lusis asked for an additional performance indicator for the Risk Assessment task: National and EU level activity reports.

Mr Biosca de Sagastuy made the following comments:

- In the introduction, the staff figures should reflect the establishment plan.
- The new Community Strategy should be better reflected in the document
- Regarding the Risk Observatory, task 4 on forecasting should be the first priority. Concerning task 2, it is important to learn from previous projects of a similar nature and also ensure strong cooperation with Eurofound and Eurostat.

The Board agreed:

- to move to a two-year cycle for the European campaigns from 2008
- that the theme for the 2010-2011 campaign shall be 'Maintenance'
- the 2008 draft work programme

As regards all three decisions, the comments above shall be taken into account.

Item 5.a: Memorandum of Understanding (G/07/12)

The Board approved the revised memorandum of understanding.

Item 6: Risk Observatory Strategy (G/07/05)

Mr Rial-Gonzalez introduced the item (presentation available here:

<http://extranet.osha.eu.int/livelink/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=740391&objAction=browse&sort=name>).

Ms Schweng referred to her comments under agenda item 5.

Mr Lusis informed that the governments' group still had concerns about the Risk Observatory Expert Group.

Mr Biosca wanted to change the priorities at the end of the document, to make the anticipation of risks the first priority.

Mr Lopes added that the Board should be kept informed about the composition of expert groups, and that the Risk Observatory should also look at 'old risks'.

The Board adopted the paper, European Risk Observatory – Status paper as the basis for the development of the Observatory.

Item 7: Draft budget and establishment plan 2008 (G/07/06)

Mr Blanch introduced the item (presentation available here:

<http://extranet.osha.eu.int/livelink/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=740391&objAction=browse&sort=name>)

The Board approved the draft budget 2008, the draft establishment plan and the staff policy plan.

Item 8: Follow-up to seminar on Agency Evaluation (G/07/07)

Proposed draft conclusions on the seminar discussions were prepared by the Agency and discussed at the Board meeting (the draft conclusions that were discussed can be found here: <http://extranet.osha.eu.int/livelink/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=740391&objAction=browse&sort=name>).

Mr Lopes commented that:

- The first conclusion about national networks was unclear. What was important was that Board members are kept informed by the focal points.
- In the second conclusion on national networks, what is requested are clear rules and guidelines on the composition and operation of focal points
- Finally, the two last conclusions on national networks are inconsistent
- As regards translations, the workers want to participate in decisions on translations

Mr Lusis commented that as regards the conclusion on Agency – FOP relations, it is the idea of a FOP steering group as such, which the governments do not like.

Ms Schweng and Mr Lusis added that the employers and the governments did not support the ‘showcasing’ idea.

Mr Biosca de Sagastuy was of the opinion that future evaluations should focus on the impact of Agency activities.

The Board mandated the Bureau to monitor the follow-up to the evaluation

Item 9: Review of the Advisory Group/Expert group concept (G/07/08)

Ms Schweng suggested to delete the proposed amendment to the Advisory Group mandate, introducing a quorum

The Board agreed the revised the mandate for the Advisory Groups with the amendment suggested by the employers.

Item 10: Internal Audit Report (G/07/09)

Mr Biosca de Sagastuy requested that an action plan to follow up on the audit recommendations be presented.

The Director confirmed that the Agency will prepare an action plan to be presented to the Bureau at its next meeting.

The Board noted the report.

Item 11: Any Other Business

The chair and the Director thanked Ms Degrand for her cooperation with the Agency over the last years which had been important in strengthening the links between the Agency and the Commission. Both looked forward to continue the established cooperation with Mr Biosca de Sagastuy.

The Director thanked Mr Remaeus for his work as Chair and welcomed Ms Schweng as new Chair.

Christa Schweng
Chairperson

Annex: Summary of speech by Mr van der Pas to the Governing Board, 21 March 2007..

Mr van der Pas stressed the importance of seeing safety and health at work in the context of making the European economy the most competitive economy in the world. The work of the Agency and the Member States is an important contribution to this.

However, in addition to contribute to reaching other objectives, occupational safety and health is an aim in itself.

Mr van der Pas commented on the new strategy on health and safety at work and the setting of a target for occupational accidents. It was recognised that opinions may vary on the specific target, but the method of setting a target and having a strategy had been very useful in the Lisbon process.

As regards the process for the development of the new strategy on health and safety at work, Mr van der Pas made clear that the recent document adopted by the Commission is not to be seen as an end-product but as an invitation to debate and comment. The current strategy document is the Commission's input to that debate.

Annex: Declaration from the workers' group at the meeting of the Governing Board, 21 March

On behalf of the workers' group, Mr Lopes read the following declaration after Mr van der Pas' speech:

“At yesterday's seminar the workers' group was invited to respond to the Commission's strategy on health and safety at work, 2007-2012. The workers' spokesperson outlined our views. The response of the representative of the Commission was to question the record of the trade unions on health and safety matters.

This question is totally unacceptable both in form and content to the workers' group.

The ETUC will be writing to the Commission to give the full details of records of actions of the trade unions in health and safety matters so that the Commission's representative can be made fully aware of trade union activities and efforts of improving health and safety”.

List of participants:

	NAME	INTEREST GROUP	COUNTRY
1	ANTAPSONS Ziedonis	Workers	LATVIA
2	BÉKÉS András	Government	HUNGARY
3	BERGSTRÖM Sven	Workers	SWEDEN
4	BIOSCA DE SAGASTUY JR	Commission	EU
5	BÖHM Lucka	Workers	SLOVENIA
6	BREINDL Gertrud	Government	AUSTRIA
7	BRISCOE Tony	Employers	IRELAND
8	BURISÍN Miroslav	Employers	CZECH REP
9	DE MEESTER Kris	Employers	BELGIUM
10	DEGRAND-GUILLAUD Anne	Commission	EU
11	ENGELS François	Employers	LUXEMBOURG
12	FERINGA Roel	Government	NETHERLANDS
13	FONCK Herman	Workers	BELGIUM
14	FREDERIKSEN Jan Kahr	Workers	DENMARK
15	FUENTE MARTIN Angel	Commission	EU
16	GALLI Gabriella	Workers	ITALY
17	GIARDIN Antoine	Workers	LUXEMBOURG
18	HODKINSON Elizabeth	Government	UK
19	HURMALAINEN Mikko	Government	FINLAND
20	JANICKA Julia Rola	Employers	POLAND
21	JANNERFELDT Eric	Employers	SWEDEN
22	JARRY Mireille	Government	FRANCE
23	JENSEN Jens	Government	DENMARK
24	KAADU Tiit	Government	ESTONIA
25	KELLY Daniel	Government	IRELAND
26	KIRALVARGA Miroslav	Employers	SLOVAK REP
27	KONING J.J.H.	Employers	NETHERLANDS
28	KONSTANTINIDIS Ioannis	Workers	GREECE
29	KORCAGINS Edgars	Employers	LATVIA
30	KYRIAKONGONAS Pavlos	Employers	GREECE
31	LEANDRO Eduardo	Government	PORTUGAL
32	LISCHKA Julia	Workers	AUSTRIA

33	LOPES Luis	Workers	PORTUGAL
34	LUSIS Renars	Government	LATVIA
35	MOZURA Gediminas	Workers	LITHUANIA
36	NICOLAIDES Leandros	Government	CYPRUS
37	NIELSEN Thomas Philbert	Employers	DENMARK
38	PAWLACZYK Iwona	Workers	POLAND
39	PENA COSTA MM	Employers	PORTUGAL
40	PERIMÄKI DIETRICH R	Workers	FINLAND
41	PETRICEK Tatjana	Government	SLOVENIA
42	PISSIMISSI Matina	Government	GREECE
43	PODGÓRSKI Daniel	Government	POLAND
44	REMAEUS Bertil	Government	SWEDEN
45	SABAITIENE Aldona	Government	LITHUANIA
46	SAMMUT Saviour	Workers	MALTA
47	SCHRÖDER Marina	Workers	GERMANY
48	SCHWENG Christa	Employers	AUSTRIA
49	SEITZ Gilles	Workers	FRANCE
50	SIMERKA Petr	Government	CZECH REP
51	SOON Argo	Workers	ESTONIA
52	SPILIOPOULOU-KAPARIA M	Commission	EU
53	VAN DER PAS Nikolaus	Commission	EU
54	WALTKE Natascha	Employers	BELGIUM
55	WEBER Paul	Government	LUXEMBOURG
56	WHELAN Fergus	Workers	IRELAND
57	TAKALA Jukka	European Agency	
58	BEJER Jesper	European Agency	
59	BLANCH José G.	European Agency	
60	RIAL-GONZALEZ Eusebio	European Agency	
61	SMITH Andrew	European Agency	
62	TAYLOR Terry	European Agency	
63	O'BRIEN Brenda	European Agency	