

**MINUTES OF THE 27th MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK.**

Bilbao, 27 February 2008

The **Chairperson** welcomed those present.

Item 1: Adoption of the revised draft agenda (G/08/A1)

The Board agreed the agenda.

Item 2: Adoption of draft minutes from last meeting (G/07/M1)

The Board adopted the minutes.

Item 3: Agency's 2007 Annual Report (G/08/02)

On behalf of the employers, Ms Smith stated that the employers appreciate the approach taken by the Director and the Agency's staff towards their responsibilities.

The Board adopted the Annual Report.

Item 4: Agency's 2007 Annual Activity Report (G/08/03)

The Director informed the Board that in addition to the documents already communicated to them, the Agency would like to delete the paragraph "The functioning of the Internal Control System for addressing them" on page 26, section 2.3.

Mr Biosca de Sagastuy stressed that it is very important that the Board and the Agency together devote the necessary attention to the execution of the work programme and the use of the resources allocated to the Agency. This concerns both the execution of the budget and the use of the establishment posts authorized.

The Director replied that budget execution has improved significantly over the recent years and that the number of vacancies has gone down.

At the request of Ms Smith, the Director explained the differences between different figures for staff resources at the Agency. In some cases the figure reported refers to the number of establishment posts, while in other cases the figures include establishment posts as well as other kinds of posts (like contracts agents, SNEs etc).

The Board adopted the analysis and assessment of the annual activity report.

Item 5: Director's Progress Report (G/08/04)

The Board noted the report.

Item 6: Agency Strategy 2009-2013 (G/08/05)

On behalf of the employers, Ms Asherson made the following comments:

- In the summary in the beginning of the document it should be made clear how the Agency Strategy links to the Community Strategy

- Statements indicating that the Agency gives recommendations to policy-makers should be avoided – the Agency provides information
- References to collaboration with NGOs and networks should be qualified
- The chapter on performance indicators needs further work
- Workplaces should also be a target group for the Risk Observatory
- It should be considered to include the issue of ‘personal health education’ in the mainstreaming OSH into education project.

In addition, Ms Asherson made a number of more specific comments that will all be incorporated in the document.

Mr Taylor confirmed that ‘personal health education’ is and will continue to be an element of the mainstreaming OSH into education project.

Mr Cerfeda, on behalf of the workers, thanked for a clear document that was a considerable improvement compared to past documents. However, the objectives need to be more specific and the vision could be clearer. In addition there is a need for the Agency to work *with* its partners – not *for* its partners.

Mr Biosca de Sagastuy, on behalf of the Commission, agreed with the employers’ request to make the link to the Community Strategy clearer and to develop the performance monitoring chapter further.

Mr Remaeus, on behalf of the governments, expressed concern about the focus of the occupational health promotion project.

Mr Takala replied that the Agency will take the comments into account and regarding performance indicators, the Agency will present a draft to the Bureau in September. As regards the Risk Observatory, Mr Takala stressed that the intention is to collaborate with other partners on the “OSH in figures” project, in particular with EUROSTAT.

Mr Rial Gonzalez added that regarding the target groups for the Risk Observatory, it was agreed by the Board at its 2007 meeting that these should be policy-makers and researchers. However, when appropriate the information could be adapted for workplaces.

The Board adopted the draft Agency Strategy 2009-2013.

Item 7: Annual Management Plan 2009 (G/08/06)

Mr Cerfeda, Mr Lusi, Mr Biosca de Sagastuy referred to the comments made under the previous agenda item.

Ms Asherson (employers) also referred to the comments under the previous item and added that:

- a literature review on self-employed should not be a priority
- ‘emergency workers’ should be defined

The Board approved the draft annual management plan 2009.

Item 8: Draft Agency’s budget 2009 (G/08/07)

The Board adopted the draft 2009 budget and establishment plan, as well as the 2009-2011 Staff Policy Plan.

Item 9: New internal control standards framework (G/08/08)

The Board adopted the revised 16 internal control standards.

Item 10: Decision on financial irregularities panel (G/08/09)

The Board decided that the financial irregularities panel of the Commission shall exercise the same powers in respect of the Agency as it does in respect of the Commission.

Item 11: Election of chair, vice-chairs and other Bureau members (G/08/01)

Mr György from the workers' group was elected as Chair, with Mr Biosca de Sagastuy (Commission), Ms Schweng (employers) and Mr Remaeus (governments) as vice-chairs.

The groups informed that the coordinators will be:

Ms Smith (employers)

Mr Lusi (governments)

Mr Cerfeda (workers)

The additional Bureau members will be:

Ms Böhm (workers), Mr Fuente (Commission), Mr Riese (governments) and Ms Asherson (employers).

The alternates to the Bureau are: Mr de Meester, Ms Buet, Mr Engels (all employers), Ms Hodgkinson, Ms Breindl, Ms Petricek (all governments), Mr Kahr, Mr Seitz and Ms Schröder (all workers).

Item 12: Internal Audit Report (G/08/10)

The Board noted the report from the Internal Audit Service and agreed the proposed Agency actions to follow up on the observations as well as the proposed multi-annual audit plan.

Item 13: Rules for reimbursement of experts

The Board approved the new rules for reimbursement of experts provided that the Agency makes available a guidance document.

Item 14: Any Other Business

It was agreed in the future to use three languages (English, German and French) for Board meeting documents. However, for strategic documents a short summary should be provided in all languages.

In the future, Board meetings will be arranged over 1 ½ days.

The Director informed the Board about the difficult situation as regards the seat of the Agency. Contrary to a number of other agencies and despite several attempts by the Agency, no seat agreement has been reached between EU-OSHA and the Spanish state. This leaves the Agency depending on the local, commercial market. The implication is that the Agency spends a considerable amount of its budget on rent which brings it in an unfavourable situation when compared to many other agencies including those in Spain, which have much lower administrative costs due to very favourable arrangements for their office space facilitated by the host government. EU-OSHA will continue and strengthen its efforts at all levels to reach a seat agreement with the Spanish state. In parallel to seeking a solution with Spain, the Agency will explore all possibilities for finding solutions to its office needs that are sustainable also in long-term. Such options may include moving away from the current premises in Bilbao.

Károly György
Chairperson

List of participants

NAME	INTEREST GROUP	COUNTRY
ANTAPSONS Ziedonis	Workers	LATVIA
ANTAUER Igor	Employers	SLOVENIA
ASHERSON Janet L.	Employers	UNITED KINGDOM
AUVINEN Erkki	Workers	FINLAND
BÉKÉS András	Government	HUNGARY
BENDIK Bohuslav	Workers	SLOVAK REPUBLIC
BIOSCA DE SAGASTUY J.R.	European Commission	EU
BÖHM Lucka	Workers	SLOVENIA
BOMBERA Géza	Employers	HUNGARY
BREINDL Gertrud	Government	AUSTRIA
BRISCOE Tony	Employers	IRELAND
CASARU Anthony	Workers	MALTA
CERFEDA Walter	Workers	BELGIUM
CRONIN Sylvester	Workers	IRELAND
DE MEESTER Kris	Employers	BELGIUM
DELIA Joseph	Employers	MALTA
DEN HELD Martin	Government	THE NETHERLANDS
DENION Yvan	Government	FRANCE
EASTABROOK Jenny	Observer-Government	UNITED KINGDOM
ENGELS François	Employers	LUXEMBOURG
FARIAS Armando	Workers	PORTUGAL
FREDERIKSEN Jan Kahr	Workers	DENMARK
FUENTE MARTIN Angel	European Commission	EU
GAUCI Mark	Government	MALTA
GRAU-RIOS Mario	Government	SPAIN
GYÖRGY Károly	Workers	HUNGARY
HURMALAINEN Mikko	Government	FINLAND
IGLESIAS Pilar	Employers	SPAIN
IMBRECHTS Willy	Government	BELGIUM
JANOUSEK Milos	Government	SLOVAK REPUBLIC
KAADU Tiit	Government	ESTONIA
KARPPINEN Jorma	Observer-EUROFOUND	IRELAND

KELLY Daniel	Government	IRELAND
KOLCHAKOV Atanas	Government	BULGARIA
KONING J.J.H.	Employers	THE NETHERLANDS
KORADECKA Danuta	Government	POLAND
KOURTELLIS Marios A	Government	CYPRUS
KUBICKOVA Daniela	Government	CZECH REPUBLIC
KYRIAKONGONAS Pavlos	Employers	GREECE
LEVY Patrick	Employers	FRANCE
LISCHKA Julia	Workers	AUSTRIA
LOPES Luis	Government	PORTUGAL
LUSIS Renars	Government	LATVIA
MARINESCU Daniela	Government	ROMANIA
MELLBLOM Bodil	Employers	SWEDEN
MOZURA Gediminas	Workers	LITHUANIA
NICOLAIDES Leandros	Government	CYPRUS
PENA COSTA M. Marcelino	Employers	PORTUGAL
PERIMÄKI DIETRICH Raili	Workers	FINLAND
PETRICEK Tatjana	Government	SLOVENIA
PETRZELKA Karel	Employers	CZECH REPUBLIC
PHILIPS François	Workers	BELGIUM
REMAEUS Bertil	Government	SWEDEN
RIESE Ulrich	Government	GERMANY
ROBERTSON Hugh	Workers	UNITED KINGDOM
SABAITIENE Aldona	Government	LITHUANIA
SCHRÖDER Marina	Workers	GERMANY
SCHWENG Christa	Employers	AUSTRIA
SEITZ Gilles	Workers	FRANCE
SJÖHOLM Börje	Workers	SWEDEN
SKJOLDAGER Charlotte	Government	DENMARK
SMITH Rebekah	Employers	BELGIUM
SOON Argo	Workers	ESTONIA
VANCANE Liene	Employers	LATVIA
WEBER Paul	Government	LUXEMBOURG
ZAGOROV Alexander	Workers	BULGARIA

TAKALA Jukka	European Agency	
BEJER Jesper	European Agency	
RIAL-GONZALEZ Eusebio	European Agency	
SMITH Andrew	European Agency	
TAYLOR Terry	European Agency	