



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Employment and Social Governance
Social dialogue

GAS SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Plenary Meeting

23 November 2020

DRAFT MINUTES

Participants:

Employer representatives

Mr Carlo Ottavio Barberis, ENI, Italy
Ms Laura Bosetti, Eurogas
Mr Daniele D'Angelo, ENI, Italy
Mr Abel Enriquez, Enagaz, Spain
Mr Luigi Armando Ferrario, ENI, Italy
Mr Andrea Galieti, ENGIE, France
Mr Andreas Guth, Eurogas
Mr Dirk Hachmann, Uniper, Germany
Ms Silvia Vlasceanu, ACUE, Romania
Mr James Watson, Eurogas

Employee representatives

IndustriAll

Mr Philippe Lazzarotto, CFE-CGC Energies, France (Chair)
Mr Jesus Ignacio Crespo Torres, Industria CC.OO, Spain
Ms Ana Filipe, SIMA, Portugal
Ms Grazia Gullo, UILTEC, Italy
Mr Varga Gyula, VDSZ, Hungary
Mr Patrick Mathieu, FO Energie et Mines, France
Ms Elizabeth Neau, CFE-CGC Energies, France
Mr Letterio Oceano, CGIL FILCTEM, Italy
Mr Antonio Pepe, CGIL FILCTEM, Italy
Ms Corinna Zierold, IndustriAll European Trade Union

EPSU

Mr Gary Carter, GMB, UK
Mr Glevan Daniel, Gaz Rom., Romania
Mr Guillaume Durivaux, EPSU
Mr Radek Jurecka, OS Unios, Czechia
Mr Philippe Lepage, FNME-CGT, France
Ms Raluca Popescu, Gaz Rom., Romania
Ms Sarka Vojikova, FTUE (SOS ENERGIE), Czechia

European Commission:

Mr. Brieuc Posnic, DG ENER
Ms Kathy Haas, DG EMPL
Ms Katarina Jaksic, DG EMPL

1. Welcome by social partners and the Chair

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the September committee meeting

The minutes were adopted.

4. Joint Statement on Just Transition in the Green Deal: Discussion and adoption

Corinna Zierold (IndustriAll) gave a quick introduction of the Statement, highlighting the social dimension of the energy transition, that should be at the core of the European Green Deal. She stressed the importance of solidarity, mentioning the Just Transition Guidelines of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and she emphasised the need of consistency and complementary with the Industrial Strategy.

James Watson (Eurogas) noted the importance of the social dimension, especially related to job quality, in the transition to renewable and decarbonised gases. In this, hydrogen will play a pivotal role, bringing the necessity of a reskilling process in the labour market.

Guillaume Durivaux (EPSU) presented the final version of the Statement, available also in German and French.

Philippe Lazzarotto (Chair) noted that we have the basis for a common understanding of the transition, aiming at a complementary work.

ADOPTION OF THE JOINT STATEMENT

5. Discussion with European Commission on the Joint Statement

Brieuc Posnic (DG ENER) commented on the just approved Joint Statement, welcoming the project and sharing the view on the importance of the social dimension of the Green Deal. He highlighted the meaning of the Just Transition for the gas sector, noting the necessity of acknowledgment for future developments, in order to propose the best policies. DG ENER is keen to keep working on the synergy with the gas sector: he stressed the comparison between coal sector and gas sector, foreseeing a much more positive future for the gas industry. We need to work on the development of new technologies, enhancing the European industrial “know how”.

Katarina Jaksic (DG EMPL) confirmed that investments are very much needed in the human capital. The European Commission is giving access to a certain number of funds to support workers and investors. She highlighted the importance of the process of reskilling and to assure a digital transition: both topics are included in the “pact for skills”.

James Watson (Eurogas) noted the importance of the Clean Hydrogen Alliance, and the necessity of training workers on the new technologies. This is an opportunity for European leadership.

Q&A:

Jesus Ignacio Crespo Torres (Industria CC.OO) raised concerns about the role of natural gas in the transition and on the position of energy companies on the issue. Stakeholders have a pivotal role in the decision process, and they need to be included in the analysis, avoiding the consequences already visible in the coal sector.

Brieuc Posnic assured that the case of coal, notably in Spain, will act as a call to the Commission to develop a better strategy.

Katarina Jaksic underlined the issue of the quality of job, focus of the transition.

6. Eurogas presentation of the study “A Pathway to a Carbon Neutral 2050: The Role of Gas”

Andreas Guth (Eurogas) presented the Eurogas study. Eurogas commissioned this study to demonstrate there are many different pathways to 2050, but the purpose is to establish which would be the most affordable way. The study presents two competing scenarios Eurogas and 1.5TECH to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and compares those to a baseline (ETO2019).

Main findings:

- Total costs for the Eurogas scenario are 4.1 trillion euro lower - equivalent to saving 130 billion euro per year
- Subsidies to incentivise consumers to opt for decarbonised energy solutions are 80% lower
- Eurogas shows that climate objectives can be met more cost-effectively, using existing assets, limiting subsidy schemes and leaving market fundamentals in place

7. Intervention from Eurogas members on industrial opportunities from low-carbon technologies made in Europe

Andrea Galieti (ENGIE) presented the new project on Industrialization of pyro-gasification to produce renewable gases. He explained the details of Gaya program, with the purpose of founding a new sector of industrial excellency in renewable gases.

Salamander project was also presented as the first of a kind industrial plant to produce renewable gas from waste.

This technology is:

- Environmentally sustainable
- Reduces incineration, landfill and exports of waste
- Encouraging circular economy and industrial ecology
- Replicable and scalable anywhere in Europe (waste is everywhere)
- Developing European industrial excellency; developed in and by Europe and exportable
- Creating non-relocatable jobs in Europe

Q&A

Patrick Mathieu (FO Energie et Mines) asked about the validation of Guarantees of Origin in different countries. Andrea Galieti noted the necessity of a standardization of the GO at the European level.

8. Discussion and possible update the Work Programme

To be discussed in the next meeting.

9. AOB

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting. The next meeting will take place on 27/04/2021.