

## MINUTES

<b>Meeting:</b>	46 <sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 1 June 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	Novotel Luxembourg Kirchberg Hotel 6, Rue Du Fort Niedergruenewald, Kirchberg, Luxembourg

### 1. Adoption of the draft agenda (G/17/A2)

The Chair welcomed all participants to the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board of EU-OSHA and read out the administrative arrangements.

In compliance with the Agency's policy on the management of conflict of interests, the Chair asked members to declare whether they may have a potential conflict of interests with any of the items in the agenda. No Board member reported any.

The Chair asked whether there would be any items under "Any other business". The Governments' representatives wished to pay a tribute to their UK colleague (alternate member) who would soon leave on retirement. The Director said she would have an item on "Cost-free seconded national experts".

In addition, under item 3 "Director's progress report", the Dutch Government representative will update the Board on the latest developments of the Roadmap on carcinogens and the Latvian Government representative will present the work of the European Platform for undeclared work to which EU-OSHA is observer.

In addition, the Commission will give an update on the following issues:

- Revision of EU-OSHA's Founding regulation – where the process stands
- 4 Agencies' evaluation – progress update
- Launch of the European Pillar of Social Rights and foreseeable impact on EU-OSHA's priorities
- Follow-up to the ex post evaluation of the EU OSH acquis and any other issues arising from the work of the ACSH which may impact the Agency's work
- The next batch of substances that are being considered for the second amendment to Directive 2004/37/EC (carcinogens and mutagens)

CONCLUSION: The draft agenda, together with the additional points proposed, was adopted.

### 2. Draft minutes (G/17/M1)

The draft minutes of the last meeting held on 26 January 2017 were circulated in advance of the meeting.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

The Workers had a request for amendment under Item 3 "Healthy Workplaces Campaign Strategy 2018-2019 (G/17/02)". Such request made reference to the conclusions, where it was reported that, in the context of the campaign, the reference to biological agents should be deleted. The Workers proposed that the sentence should read instead "The decision on whether biological agents should be covered by the campaign is up to each Member State".

CONCLUSION: The draft minutes from the January 2017 meeting were adopted with the comment made by the Workers.

### 3. Director's progress report (G/17/13)

The Director's progress report was presented at the interest group meetings earlier in the day. Before giving the floor to the Director for some highlights, the Chair took up the other issues mentioned in the draft agenda and invited the relevant speakers to take the floor.

#### Update on the implementation of the Roadmap on carcinogens

The Dutch Government representative informed that some of the actions included in the Roadmap had been addressed and invited the Board to refer to the Roadmap websites, where a section on information on good practices, including a list of national events on the subjects, had been set up. He then encouraged his Austrian, Belgian, Finnish and Spanish colleagues to inform about the initiatives undertaken at the national level under the Roadmap umbrella.

#### Presentation on the European platform for undeclared work

The Latvian Government representative who was recently appointed Co-chair of the platform, gave a [presentation](#) on its objectives and planned actions.

#### Update from the Commission

The process towards the adoption of EU-OSHA's revised founding regulation is ongoing. The text is currently with the Parliament. A report is being prepared by the EMPL Committee and is expected to be adopted in June. It will then have to be adopted in the plenary.

The evaluation of the four Agencies under DGEMPL's remit (EU-OSHA, CEFEDOP, ETF and EUROFOUND) kicked off in January and the stakeholders' consultation is currently on-going. The final report is expected in December and it will feed into the discussions around the next multi-annual financial framework. Should there be evidence suggesting further amendments to the founding regulations of the four Agencies that would also be examined. The Directors of the concerned Agencies will be kept informed and a validation meeting is expected to be organised also with the involvement of Directors and Boards towards the end of the year. The Commission encouraged Board members to have their say in the public consultation which will remain open until 5 July.

The Commission also referred to the recently adopted communication on the European pillar of social rights which is expected to exert a broad political impact on EU social policies – OSH and the Agency's work is not directly affected, but it could be as the initiative gains momentum.

Finally, the January communication on modernisation of OSH legislation and policies highlighted that the three main priorities are (1) fighting occupational cancer; (2) ensuring better compliance with the OSH directives and (3) removing or updating outdated provisions. In particular under (2) the Commission is envisaging a role for EU-OSHA when it comes to guidance on musculo-skeletal disorders and on psychosocial risks. The collaboration from EU-OSHA, the Director explained, remains to be clarified in particular when it comes to resources and timeline. The Agency will follow up with the Commission and the Board to ensure proper planning and possible re-arrangement of other areas of work.

#### Update from the Director

On 30 March, EU-OSHA, together with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT), received the European Ombudsman Award for Good Administration. The three agencies were recognised for a jointly developed innovative project that facilitates the translation management of multilingual websites.

The Director as well as other Agency staff took part in the Maltese EU Presidency conference: "Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups" in Malta on 26-27 April. On this occasion, the Good Practice Awards ceremony took place as part of EU-OSHA's Healthy Workplaces for All Ages Campaign.

The awarded and commended examples of good practice show the benefits that can be achieved by organisations that recognise the potential for keeping employees healthy throughout their working careers.

On 16-17 May, the Agency organised the 7<sup>th</sup> OiRA community meeting in Brussels and a conference which brought together EU-OSHA, OiRA partners and the European Commission to engage and support small and microenterprises through the use of digital tools for risk assessment in the workplace. It was a very successful meeting. The discussions addressed how to increase the use of these tools, maximise the added value of the OiRA community and better allocate resources, and how to assess the contribution of these tools to the improvement of OSH standards. 2017.

EU-OSHA hosted the second focal point meeting of the year in Bilbao on 10-11 May. The main objective of this meeting is to ensure a good alignment between the Agency's offer for the PD 2018-2020 and the Focal Points' needs. The follow-up to the recommendations of the ex-post evaluation of the HWC on stress and psychosocial risks was also discussed.

The Agency held the annual planning seminar on 15 May. The main objective was to analyse the outcome of the mid-term evaluation of the MSP 2014-2020 and ensure to feed in the Board with a practical proposal on which direction to take in the mid-term. This topic would be addressed more thoroughly under item 8.

Furthermore, the Director informed that a visit from a delegation of members from the Parliament's EMPL Committee is expected on 16-17 July. The purpose of the visit is to learn more from the work of the Agency and it will also be an opportunity for EU-OSHA to present its main activities and the role played in OSH in the EU in the past few years.

Finally, the Director joined the Commission in encouraging Board members to participate in the public consultation related to the evaluation of the four Agencies under DG EMPL's remit and to make their opinion heard.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

The Board congratulated the Agency on the award received by the European Ombudsman.

With regard to the Director's progress report, the Employers observed that the activity "Work related diseases" should also take into consideration rehabilitation and return to work for other diseases, not only occupational cancers. Also, in relation to "Costs and benefits of OSH", they recommended that the Agency should look into the methodology developed by ECHA. With regard to the Healthy Workplaces Campaign on dangerous substances, the Agency should cooperate with ECHA and SCOEL as well as the Working Party on Chemicals. Finally, for OiRA and OSHwiki, the Board should take stock of the achievements reached so far and re-assess the situation to ensure to reach maximum impact. Finally, they asked for clarifications on the experts meeting held in the context of the new activity "Musculo-skeletal disorders" – in particular, what the purpose of that meeting was and who was invited.

*The Agency clarified that in its work on older workers – "Safer workers at any age" project – the issue of rehabilitation and return to work measures was tackled extensively, covering diseases other than occupational cancer. There is a good cooperation ongoing with ECHA which has an impact on a number of Agency's activities. For OSHwiki, it is planned that – similar to the approach for OiRA – the Bureau discuss about the next steps at their meeting in November and in January 2018, the Board will receive a feedback on the discussions. With regard to the experts meeting on "Musculo-skeletal disorders", major experts on the topic – ranging from academics to practitioners – worked together to identify the main needs and gaps and help the Agency design a meaningful intervention. The outcome of these discussions will be shared with the Board for information.*

CONCLUSION: The Board took note of the Director's progress report. The Agency will send the outcome of the discussions held within the MSDs experts meeting to the Board for information.

#### **4. Amending budget I 2017 (G/17/14)**

After the Board adopted the final budget at the end of last year, there has been a need to prepare an amended budget, which the Board was called to adopt. In the meantime, the Agency was informed that there had been a decrease by € 60.000 in both revenue and expenditure in Title II due to a decreased contribution from the Basque Government. The amendment also includes the appropriations for the specific projects/programmes (result of carry-over/carry-forward of the 2016 appropriations to 2017) and preparing the budget structure for the new project IPA 2016 programme pending final agreement between EU-OSHA and the European Commission.

CONCLUSIONS: The Board adopted the amending budget I 2017.

#### **5. Analysis and Assessment of the Annual Activity Report 2016 (G/17/15)**

The Annual Activity Report is a key document for the discharge procedure. It is the report where the Director gives an account of the activities of the Agency, gives assurance that the resources have been spent for the intended purposes and that the transactions carried out were legal and regular and provides key information about the internal control systems. The report includes comprehensive information on the implementation of the management plan, budget and staff resources for 2016 as well as information on the performance indicators. It is a requirement under the Agency's Financial Regulation (article 47).

The Chair of the Board will have to transmit it to the Institutions (Parliament, Council, Commission and Court of Auditors) by 1 July together with the Board's analysis and assessment.

CONCLUSION: The Board adopted the assessment of the Annual Activity Report 2016.

#### **6. Annual Report 2016 (G/17/16)**

The Annual General Report gives an account of the Agency's activities during 2016. It is a requirement under the Agency's Founding Regulation (article 10). The Board is required to adopt it and then forward it by 15 June to the European Parliament, the Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Court of Auditors, the Member States and the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

CONCLUSION: The Board adopted the Annual Report 2016.

#### **7. Opinion on the Final Accounts for the Financial Year 2016 (G/17/17)**

The European Court of Auditors delivered its observations based on the report from the external auditor stating that in their opinion, the Agency's accounts present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as of 31 December 2016. On that basis, the Board should adopt an opinion. The accounts shall then be sent by 1 July, together with the Board's opinion, to the European Parliament, the Court of Auditors, the Council and the Commission.

CONCLUSION: The Board adopted the opinion on the final accounts.

#### **8. EU-OSHA's strategic direction after 2020 (G/17/18)**

The current Multi-annual strategic programme will end in 2020. With the introduction of the programming document replacing the annual management plan as a result of the new Financial Regulation, the Agency has to launch the planning exercise related to 2019-2021 already as from

this summer. The timeframe of the next programming document will then fall outside the strategy timeframe. This is why some strategic directions after 2020 is already needed at this stage.

The Agency highlighted the importance of being able to rely on an agreed strategic framework in a context of uncertainty on EU OSH policies after 2020 and lack of information about resources, at least for the near future.

The Board recognised the Agency's concerns and acknowledged the importance of an agreed framework for medium/long term planning. They agreed that the current multi-annual strategic programme should be extended to 2023 and, in particular, that the 6 priority areas and strategic objectives identified therein remain valid - with the understanding that a discussion should be reopened should any new important element arise (e.g., new EU OSH policies and resource information as mentioned above, but also additional tasks further to the adoption of the new founding regulation or the outcome of the evaluation of the four Agencies under DGEMPL's remit). In parallel, internal discussions should be held in about the possible topics to be addressed. A Board seminar should be organised in January brainstorm on possible future topics; also in January, the Board will adopt the extended strategy and the draft programming document 2019-2021.

CONCLUSIONS: The Board agreed that the current multi-annual strategic programme should be extended to cover the next planning exercises; the Agency should prepare a decision for the Board for January 2018 which should be overseen by the Bureau in November 2017; the Agency should facilitate a Board discussion (e.g., in the form of a Board Seminar) on the content of the strategy – including possible topics.

## 9. Bureau mandate for OSHwiki (G/17/19)

In September 2016, the Internal Audit Service (IAS) defined a Strategic Audit Plan 2017-2019 which was presented to the Board in January 2017. In that plan, it was commented that additional controls were needed for the OSHwiki project, noting that the Agency had already started preparing a strategic plan for the OSHwiki project. The plan would take into account the findings and recommendations of the 2016 study on future options regarding the development of the OSHwiki.

Along the same lines as for OiRA, it is suggested to mandate the Bureau to adopt the OSHwiki strategy and follow up on its implementation. This should allow for more in-depth discussion and closer monitoring.

CONCLUSIONS: The Board adopted the mandate to the Bureau on OSHwiki, provided that the OSHwiki Scientific Committee is properly involved and consulted on strategic issues regarding the project.

## 10. Ex-post evaluation of the Safer Workers at Any Age project (G/17/20)

The pilot project delegated to EU-OSHA by the European Commission on behalf of the European Parliament was completed in 2016 and, as foreseen in the delegation agreement, was submitted to an external ex-post evaluation to look into relevance, effectiveness, complementarity, EU added value, coherence and impact – among other issues.

The overall conclusions indicate that the project contributed to a very large extent to the mission/vision of EU-OSHA and especially to the achievement of its strategic objective for the priority area 2 – facts and figures. It has also significantly contributed to the EU policy objectives in the field of OSH and ageing. The project outputs and results successfully support the aims of the European Parliament pilot project, basically by providing very detailed and extensive information about current OSH and older workers-related policies, strategies and experiences developed at EU Member States by policy makers and company practices, as well as their effectiveness and the views of different stakeholders.

The Head of the Prevention and Research Unit presented the findings to the Board with the aid of a [presentation](#).

CONCLUSION: The Board took note of the successful completion of the project and of the encouraging findings of the evaluation.

## 11. Any other business

### Tribute to UK Government representative

The Chair gave the floor to the Governments, who paid a tribute to the UK representative (alternate member) who would soon leave on retirement. The Director and the Board joined the Governments to express their gratitude for his commitment and dedication and their appreciation for the expertise he had been sharing during his mandate as Board member.

### Cost-free Seconded National Experts

The Director informed the Board that the Agency would like to launch a call for expression of interests for national experts who would be seconded to the Agency at no cost. This would be a mutually beneficial option both for the Agency – which would benefit from the expertise of the experts in question – and the expert and the organisation to which he/she belongs. More details will follow.

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The Chair thanked the Board members, the Agency's Director and staff, the interpreters and closed the meeting.

**LIST OF ATTENDEES:**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>INTEREST GROUP</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
1	Gertrud BREINDL	Government	AUSTRIA
2	Marta GLOWACKA	Employers	AUSTRIA
3	Alexander HEIDER	Workers	AUSTRIA
4	Véronique CRUTZEN	Government	BELGIUM
5	Kris DE MEESTER	Employers	BELGIUM
6	Viktor KEMPA	Workers	ETUC
7	Aleksandar ZAGOROV	Workers	BULGARIA
8	Jesús ALVAREZ	Commission	EUROPEAN COMMISSION
9	Charlotte GREVFORS ERNOULT	Commission	EUROPEAN COMMISSION
10	Giacomo MATTINO	Commission	EUROPEAN COMMISSION
11	Gordana PALAJSA	Workers	CROATIA
12	Nenad SEIFERT	Employers	CROATIA
13	Anastassios YIANNAKI	Government	CYPRUS
14	Jaroslav HLAVÍN	Government	CZECH REPUBLIC
15	Radka SOKOLOVÁ	Workers	CZECH REPUBLIC
16	Henrik BACH MORTENSEN	Employers	DENMARK
17	Rasmus RAABJERG	Workers	DENMARK
18	Charlotte SKJOLDAGER	Government	DENMARK
19	Aija MAASIKAS	Workers	ESTONIA
20	Maret MARIPUU	Government	ESTONIA
21	Wiking HUSBERG	Government	FINLAND
22	Paula ILVESKIVI	Workers	FINLAND
23	Katell DANIAULT	Government	FRANCE
24	Patrick LÉVY	Employers	FRANCE
25	Abderrafik ZAIGOUICHE	Workers	FRANCE
26	Sonja KÖNIG	Workers	GERMANY
27	Eckhard METZE	Employers	GERMANY
28	Ellen ZWINK	Government	GERMANY

	NAME	INTEREST GROUP	REPRESENTING
29	Christos KAVALOPOULOS	Employers	GREECE
30	Ioannis KONSTANTAKOPOULOS	Government	GREECE
31	Andreas STOIMENIDIS	Workers	GREECE
32	Katalin BALOGH	Government	HUNGARY
33	Károly GYÖRGY	Workers	HUNGARY
34	Erika MEZGER	Eurofound	EUROFOUND
35	Fabiola LEUZZI	Employers	ITALY
36	Alessandra PERA	Government	ITALY
37	Ziedonis ANTAPSONS	Workers	LATVIA
38	Renars LUSIS	Government	LATVIA
39	Inga RUGINIENE	Workers	LITHUANIA
41	Aldona SABAITIENĖ	Government	LITHUANIA
40	Francois ENGELS	Employers	LUXEMBOURG
42	Martin DEN HELD	Government	NETHERLANDS
43	Rik VAN STEENBERGEN	Workers	NETHERLANDS
44	Joanna FAŁDYGA	Government	POLAND
45	Rafal HRYNYK	Employers	POLAND
46	Fernando MACHADO GOMES	Workers	PORTUGAL
47	Marcelino PENA COSTA	Employers	PORTUGAL
48	Carlos PEREIRA	Government	PORTUGAL
49	Corneliu CONSTANTINOAI	Workers	ROMANIA
50	Anca PRICOP	Government	ROMANIA
51	Romana ČERVIENKOVÁ	Government	SLOVAKIA
52	Peter RAMPÁŠEK	Workers	SLOVAKIA
53	Silvia SUROVÁ	Employers	SLOVAKIA
54	Lučka BÖHM	Workers	SLOVENIA
55	Nikolaj PETRIŠIČ	Government	SLOVENIA
56	Laura CASTRILLO	Employers	SPAIN
57	Ana GARCIA DE LA TORRE	Workers	SPAIN

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>INTEREST GROUP</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
58	Dolores LIMÓN TAMÉS	Government	SPAIN
59	Boel CALLERMO	Government	SWEDEN
61	Ned CARTER	Employers	SWEDEN
60	Karin FRISTEDT	Workers	SWEDEN
62	Stuart BRISTOW	Government	UNITED KINGDOM
63	Terry WOOLMER	Employers	UNITED KINGDOM
64	Christa SEDLATSCHKE	EU-OSHA	
65	Jesper BEJER	EU-OSHA	
66	William COCKBURN	EU-OSHA	
67	Brenda O'BRIEN	EU-OSHA	
68	Ilaria PICCIOLI	EU-OSHA	
69	Andrew SMITH	EU-OSHA	
70	Marina GÓMEZ	EU-OSHA Trainee	