

MINUTES

Meeting:	MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
Date:	Thursday, 12 June 2018
Time:	09:00-10:45
Venue:	Hotel Meliá Bilbao – Meeting room Gehry

These notes include the comments made by the different groups and the Commission both at the official Bureau meeting and the informal wrap-up meeting which takes place after the interest group meetings with the view of consolidating positions and views for the plenary session. As much as possible they are meant to complement the discussions, viewpoints and decisions as these are reported in the Governing Board meeting minutes.

1. Draft Agenda (B/18/A2)

The Chair welcomed the attendees and introduced the timeline and the agenda arrangements for the Board meeting.

She explained that the meeting would be spread across two days. The first day would start with a plenary. During the plenary, the Agency would introduce the items on the Agenda that required in-depth discussion by the Board – both at the interest groups level and collectively¹.

The Board would then split into interest groups and work through the Agenda. The interest group meetings would continue on the second day in the morning. In the afternoon of the second day, the Board would re-convene in plenary and work through the whole Agenda.

Finally, the Chair asked all Bureau members whether they had a potential conflict of interest with any of the items to be discussed, in compliance with the Agency's policy on management of conflict of interests. No Bureau member declared any.

There was no issue for "Any other business".

However, the Commission informed that they would update the Board about:

- Outcome of 4 Agencies' evaluation under DG EMPL
- EU-OSHA's founding regulation – state of play
- European Labour Authority – state of play
- Brexit – state of play of the negotiations
- Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and expected impact on EU-OSHA.

¹ More specifically, the following items would be introduced:

- No 9: OSH topics for the revised Multi-annual Strategic Programme
- No 11: Strategic resource programming, including HWC cycle
- No 12: Workers' survey on exposure to carcinogens in the EU
- No 13: Hazchem@work and EU-OSHA – feasibility study

Regarding the adoption of the Multi-annual Strategic Programme 2018-2023, the Director informed the Bureau that the final draft had not yet been submitted to the Bureau considering that there were several issues that remained to be discussed and would be decided at the upcoming meeting.

Finally, she informed that the Agency had a new Staff Committee since February. At their request and provided that the Bureau agrees, a representative is invited to attend Bureau meetings whenever Staff Regulations implementing rules are presented for adoption at Bureau meetings.

The Workers' group informed that Ben Egan would start attending Board and Bureau meetings as an observer whenever Esther Lynch would not be able to attend. This was to ensure there is always an avenue of communication between EU-OSHA decision-making and the secretariat of the ETUC in the coming period, which is very important for both organisations. The Chair and the Bureau welcomed Mr Egan to his first Bureau meeting.

CONCLUSION: The draft Agenda was adopted.

2. Draft minutes (B/18/M1)

The draft minutes of the January meeting had been circulated previously. No comments had been received.

The Workers asked that under item 3 – “Governing Board meeting preparation”, the section related to the discussions on the HWC cycle should be amended to reflect that the provision of additional information was an offer from the Agency and not a request from the Bureau.

CONCLUSION: The draft minutes were adopted with the requested amendment.

3. Staff Regulations implementing rules (B/18/01)

The Agency submitted to the Bureau for adoption the following implementing rules:

- EU-OSHA Decision on new mission guide (B/18/02a)
- EU-OSHA Decision concerning the function of adviser (B/18/02b)
- EU-OSHA Decision on middle management staff (B/18/02c)

The Agency's proposal to adopt the mission guide by analogy; and, for the other decisions, to adopt the model decision agreed by the Commission, was agreed by the Bureau. The Commission had already expressed its favourable opinion and thanked EU-OSHA for an exemplary adoption of the implementing rules.

Asked by the Bureau whether the Staff Committee had had any specific comments to the rules, the representative informed that the Committee had been consulted and gave its input, in particular, regarding the need to ensure that a staff representative is invited to the selection panels of middle managers and advisers.

The Workers expressed concerns about the perception of “time pressure” on staff travelling as it emerged from the wording of the mission guide. EU-OSHA provided clarifications on the matter.

CONCLUSION: The Bureau adopted the new mission guide and the two implementing rules as proposed by the Agency.

4. Governing board plenary preparation (G/18/A2)

The Chair invited the Bureau members to take note of the Agenda of the Board meeting and the timetable as explained at the beginning of the meeting.

The Agency proposed that the Bureau should mainly focus on the items which would require more in-depth discussions by the Board and which would be tackled during the first plenary of the Board as well as other items where a decision by the Board was required.

Whereas on the other topics there was overall good alignment between the Agency's proposals and the Bureau's feedback, the discussions focussed mainly on the duration of the HWC campaign cycle (item 11) and the workers' survey on exposure to carcinogens (item 12).

In particular, regarding the HWC campaign cycle, the Agency recalled the need to take into account the broader implications of the current two-year cycle on the other activities carried out by the Agency in terms of resources programming. Beside the campaign – which remains the Agency's biggest activity - there are other important activities that require better promotion and resourcing such as ESENER and OiRA. Recent ex-post evaluations included clear recommendations about making better use of the information generated as a result of the Agency's activities and working to ensure a more widespread coverage of the defined target groups. With the aim of dedicating greater resources to achieving the planned impact in these activities, mainly through communication and promotion, the Agency proposed to move from the current two year to a three year campaign cycle.

Both the Workers and the Governments expressed some reservations but were open to consider a three year cycle on a pilot basis. The Governments in particular suggested that a decision on the cycle in the future should be taken also depending on the theme selected by the Board. The Workers stressed that a check-and-balance system should be foreseen to periodically assess the results achieved during the implementation and that an evaluation should take place to provide recommendations for the future. The Commission agreed to the pilot approach, whereas the Employers stated that other options for saving could have been better explored such as reducing printed materials and that they would not support a move to a longer cycle as it would be difficult for companies to keep the momentum on a single theme for such a long time.

Still on the HWC, the Governments informed that the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee was willing to opening a discussion with EU-OSHA's Board to identify common themes for future information and inspection campaigns. This would ensure greater visibility of the selected theme by better coordinating efforts and exploiting synergies. The Workers, however, expressed some concern as they observed that the SLIC is mainly a governmental body and not a tripartite body and their position does not reflect the positions and concerns of the social partners. This issue would have to be tackled anyway within the Advisory Committee for Safety and Health at Work.

On the proposal to carry out an activity on a survey on workers' exposure to carcinogens the Bureau could not find a compromise. The Agency had presented a proposal with three different implementation scenarios. Whereas the Workers and the Commission showed clear support for the initiative, the Employers and the Governments were not of the same opinion. In particular, for the Governments, there were concerns about resourcing a new big activity at this particular moment.

There were some discussions on EU-OSHA's role in the development of the HazChem@Work database. Whereas the Employers were open to consider a direct engagement by EU-OSHA in the project leading to the full development of the database, the other groups expressed concerns on the expected impact on the rest of the activities and did not find it as matching the Agencies' priorities as established in the MSP.

Finally, an in-depth discussion took place in relation to the Agency's proposal to amend the Board's decision on substantial amendments to the work programme. The Agency's proposal included a redefinition of what qualifies as a "substantial amendment" by taking into account also qualitative criteria and not only quantitative criteria and a stronger focus on the financing decision rather than on increases or decreases in the operational budget. However, after some exchange of viewpoints and additional proposals by some members of the Bureau, it was decided to withdraw this item from the Board agenda. As a result, the current decision (ref. G/17/13CN) will remain in force.

5. Any other business

There was no “any other business”. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

List of participants

Name	Representing
Kris DE MEESTER	Employers
François ENGELS	Employers
Jesús ALVAREZ	European Commission
Charlotte GREVFORS ERNOULT	European Commission
Gertrud BREINDL	Government
Renārs LŪSIS	Government
Charlotte SKJOLDAGER	Government
Ben EGAN	Workers
Viktor KEMPA	Workers
Sonja KÖNIG	Workers
Andreas STOIMENIDIS	Workers
Christa SEDLATSCHKEK	EU-OSHA
Jesper BEJER	EU-OSHA
William COCKBURN	EU-OSHA
Petya KIRTICHEVA	EU-OSHA
Brenda O'BRIEN	EU-OSHA
Ilaria PICCIOLI	EU-OSHA
Andrew SMITH	EU-OSHA
Maurizio CURTARELLI	Staff representative
Alessandro CALISSI	EU-OSHA Trainee