

Terms of reference ATM working group

(adopted on 17 October 2002)

1. Aims - Tasks

Context

Smooth operation of the air transport system requires air navigation services allowing optimum use of Europe's airspace and a consistent, high level of safety in air transport with the best possible economic result.

The parties of the ATM working group of the sectoral social dialogue in the field of civil air traffic will support the EU in achieving its goal of improving the efficiency of the ATM sector and the responsiveness to the users' demands.

The ATM sector will undergo structural change, initiated by the Single European Sky regulations proposed by the Commission. Therefore, the focus of the parties will be

- to develop the social dimension of the process
- to promote agreements on work organisation with the aim of addressing the areas where there are mutually recognised opportunities for improvement
- to improve and harmonise working conditions whilst maintaining or improving the economic viability of the ATM sector

The parties will discuss all agreed items in this context with a common understanding of the equal importance of environmental, social, economic and financial aspects, keeping safety in mind.

The parties will exchange views, search for common ground, adopt joint positions in text and where appropriate prepare proposals for legislation.

The establishment of a long-term, reliable and stable partnership will enable negotiations to take place in an atmosphere of trust. The parties will therefore make every effort to observe this mandate, ensure continuity and maintain their representative status.

Negotiations can only lead to agreement, however, if both parties recognize and confirm in writing their own and their counterpart's ability to enter freely into collective bargaining on the basis of parity between the two sides.

The social partners will continue to do their best to include all representative organisations in the process of social dialogue.

Both parties of the working group declare that they prefer to co-operate on the social issues of any structural change within the social dialogue, rather than promoting conflict.

2. The organisation of the working group

As it is a key element of the autonomy of the social partners it is up to them to decide who sits at any negotiating table and a list of delegates will be sent to the secretariat in advance of the meeting.

Each side will provide a co-chair. Each side will chair alternate half day session. Whoever chairs the meeting has to be neutral and will guide the meeting without giving comments about the position of one or another party.

If the mandate of chair or co-chair expires, or chair or co-chair retires from social dialogue, a successor will be appointed by the respective party. The mandate will regularly last two years.

The parties will agree on the agenda for each meeting three weeks before the meeting.

In case the parties feel the need of external support, chair and co-chair will discuss with the secretariat about financing this support and do the necessary paperwork.

Observers are permitted if both parties agree.
