

SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Maritime Transport Sector

Internal Rules

Under the Commission Decision of 20 May 1998 annexed to the Communication "Adapting and promoting the social dialogue at Community level" COM (1998) 322, ECSC, the European Community of Shipowners' Associations and the FST, the Federation of Transport Workers' Unions in the European Union, submitted, on 2 December 1998, a request to the European Commission to create a Social Dialogue Committee on Maritime Transport.

In his answer of 18th February 1999, Commissioner P. Flynn confirmed the establishment of a Social Dialogue Committee for maritime transport.

In accordance with article 5.1 of the Commission Decision, the rules of procedure of the Committee are established hereunder.

The Committee shall assist the Commission in the formulation and implementation of Community policy aimed at

- improving and harmonising living and working conditions in maritime transport within the context of the relevant articles of the Treaty.
- improving the economic and competitive position of the Community's maritime transport.
- promoting Community seafarers' employment opportunities.

The Committee is consulted by the Commission on the initiatives as regards social policy and on the development of European transport policy having a social consequence.

The Committee encourages and develops the social dialogue in the maritime transport sector. It organises the work to be undertaken on the topics identified jointly and proposes, if necessary, the creation of Working Groups to facilitate its work. It will consider appropriate follow-up, evaluate the result of the work at European level and implementation at other levels. It transmits the results of the social dialogue to the respective competent authorities as necessary.

The composition of the Committee, comprising delegations representing the European Community Shipowners' Associations and the Federation of Transport Workers' Unions in the European Union, is in accordance with the May 1998 Commission Decision.

The Committee shall elect from among its members a chairman and vice-chairman who shall hold office for a term of two years. The chairman and vice-chairman shall be chosen alternately from amongst the two groups of associations represented.

Note: Adopted on the 4th November 1999

The chairman or vice-chairman whose term of office has expired shall remain in office until he has been replaced. Should the chairman or vice-chairman cease to hold office before expiry of his term, he shall be replaced for the remainder of the term by a person appointed in the manner prescribed above upon a proposal from the group to which his association belongs.

The Committee shall create a Steering Committee to plan and coordinate its work. The Steering Committee may invite the rapporteurs of any working groups provided for to attend these meetings.

The Commission services provide the secretariat of the Committee and of the restricted meetings. The Secretariat shall endeavour to convene meetings in good time, produce appropriate background papers and records of meetings.

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