

Minutes of the Tenth meeting of the Expert Group

on the Social Dimension of SES

Wednesday 20th November 2013

The European Commission, Directorate E2

- CANSO
- ATCEUC
- ETF
- IFATCA
- IFATSEA
- IFAIMA

Apologies

- ECA

Welcome

The meeting was chaired by the European Commission who welcomed all and thanked the members of the group for attending.

The agenda was accepted with the proviso that, as the Chairman had secured the services of 2 colleagues from DG MOVE to brief on the SESAR Pilot Common Project, and that they were time-limited, the Group would move item 4 to the opening position, and the agenda would then run as advertised. No further AOB topics were requested by the members.

The Chairman gave a brief overview of progress on SES 2+ and the Eurocontrol work on Centralised Services. Members opined that it agreed with the concept of CS – if they bring benefits – but failed at this time to understand why Eurocontrol did not simply do them themselves. They stressed that this model of a centralised service was not likely to be the only possible solution and that others should be explored and noted that the new CS CONOPs were out, as was the new FAQs document – but that they still awaited questions they had posed earlier in the year; they also noted that there was no reference to CS in the SJU programme for 2014-2020. Some considered that the work to date did not pay due regard to 'the cost of change', and that this would need significant attention and a comprehensive transition period, reminding all that beside the risk of moving from one monopoly to another, it was important to consider the issue of contingency, without risking too much duplication. The Chairman summarized, suggesting that the group members should continue to follow this topic to the limit that their resource would allow.

4. SESAR Pilot Common Project (PCP)

The Chairman welcomed the Legal representative from DG MOVE, Unit E2 who briefed attendees on the current thinking and timing of the draft PCP Implementing Rule. There were a number of questions posed:

Would the consultation include the content of the legal IR text? When speaking about the maturity aspect, which 4 AFs were ready? What did the consultation process encompass? The Commission responded by highlighting that AFs 1-4 were considered mature and would, subject to this consultation, be made binding; the remaining 2 (AFs 5 and 6) were not yet ready and

would appear as 'binding orientations' in the IR. The consultation soon to be launched would focus on the annexes (the technical detail), seeking to identify any concerns with the Commission's understanding of the readiness of the listed topics; the legal text was to be presented to the Single Sky Committee for discussion in due course, the Chairman reminded attendees that the SSC papers would be made available to them at the same time. The Commission noted that the consultation would include the Cost Benefit Analysis, the Standardisation and Regulation Roadmap, and a general description of the main elements of the legal IR text.

Attendees asked how long the consultation process would last, and whether consideration had been given to other ongoing relevant IR work (such as the PBN IR). The Commission indicated that the process for the technical consultation would last for at least 8 weeks with the SSC covering its responsibilities over at least 2 sittings beginning with SSC 52 in December; she also noted that the material made every effort to highlight connections with all ongoing relevant work.

Responding to a further input, the Commission made it clear that it would continue with its accepted practice of offering first sight of the legal text to the SSC, with whom it would negotiate over a number of Committee sittings; the ICB and this Expert Group would of course be granted access to the documentation at that time and would be encouraged to offer their view on it. The Commission stressed the importance of attendees not waiting for the legal language, but focus on the technical content as soon as it appeared; the Chairman offered to send the detail as soon as it was made available.

Members reminded the Commission that the PCP was the point at which SESAR finally became reality; they similarly reminded all that the Social Partners had always supported SESAR as a positive step and ensuring open dialogue and comprehensive consultation would help to keep the situation that way. They asked for the slides used to be made available. (Edit – attached herein).



SESAR

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1. Adoption of the minutes of 13 September 2013

Minutes accepted with no further amendments.

2. Performance Scheme RP2 Preparation

The Chairman introduced the topic by summarizing the current situation, thanking the relevant members who had spoken to the agenda item at the last SSC, and suggesting that the group should consider generating a joint paper for submission to the Single Sky Committee in December, at which the Commission would seek a positive opinion on the targets for the second reference period. Members asked for a resumé of the States input at the last SSC on this topic, the Chairman pointed out that this was not possible but summarized the general mood, and that the Commission recognized some difficulties to the point of arranging 2 intervening one-day workshops on the topic (15th and 27th November). It was noted that Expert Group members were uncomfortable with the negotiation process – they felt that the Commission proposal, in exceeding the PRB advice, undermined the PRB position. They continued noting that RP1 had itself created national tension, and RP2 was likely to continue, or even increase that feeling. They felt that the Commission had considered RP1 as 'little more than business as usual', but in their opinion was not – it had been challenging and the targets being discussed for RP2 would be very ambitious.

Some members of the group questioned the whole scheme, suggesting the evidence base was flawed and too reliant on traffic increase. They questioned the true cost of environmental and capacity gains – citing Users failure to pick-up on availability that the ANSPs were generating. They stated that they refused the system in its current guise until these fundamental issues had been addressed. They felt all had already been said, that nobody was listening anyway and there seemed, therefore, little point in attending the workshop planned for 27th November.

Others felt that safety was still not being addressed adequately and needed to be. The issue of interdependencies was not being properly confronted and that continued squeeze on cost, the drive for reduced environmental impact and increased capacity would lead to reduced safety margins. Members noted that financial constraint was leading to structural change and we needed to map where that was happening and what the effects on safety were.

The Chairman called for a joint paper on the topic, offering an Expert Group opinion for presentation to the SSC in December; such a paper would need to be made available to the Chairman by December 10th. Members agreed – they would like to offer something on the targets themselves, not the process. The group agreed to discuss (ex-committee) a possible contribution.

5. AOB

There was no further business.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion on the best point of influence, the Chairman/Secretary proposed association of the group to the Single Sky Committee calendar for 2014; those meetings were briefed as:

SSC 53 – 02/03 April 2014

SSC 54 – 01/02 July 2014

SSC 55 – 21/22 October 2014

SSC 56 – 16/17 December 2014

We would therefore propose programming the Expert Group to meet approximately one month in advance of the SSC, meaning that although the specific papers would not be available for the upcoming SSC, the agenda would be known and the discussion flow from the previous SSC would be captured. The Chairman therefore proposes that the Expert Group aims to meet within the weeks of:

EG/11 – Week of 03 March 2014

EG/12 – Week of 02 June 2014

EG/13 – Week of 08 September 2014 (N.B. 6 weeks before SSC)

EG/14 – Week of 17 November 2014

The Chairman suggests a date of 07 March for EG/11 (1000-1400), with a caveat that should discussions on RP2 fail to reach fruition at SSC in December 2013, and an ad-hoc SSC be raised in the New Year, we may choose to review that date.