

Project “Involve” (“fostering the involvement of workers in SCEs and national cooperatives and worker-owned enterprises”)

Call for proposal: VP/2006/003

Agreement ref N° VS/2006/0661

First Monitoring Committee meeting

Held at CECOP, 59b rue Guillaume Tell, 1060 Brussels

22-02-2007

Present:

- Marco Gilento, ETUC
- Jan Olsson, CECOP
- Bruno Roelants, CECOP

1 Definition of the scope and tasks of the Monitoring Committee in relation with the project objectives

The 4 project objectives are re-read and commented in detail. It is noted that objectives 2 and 3 are linked, both having to do with research and the research group, while objectives 1 and 4 are linked to the work of the monitoring committee. Participants agree that the second sub-objective under the objective of setting up a joint monitoring committee (*“Supervise the practices related to information, consultation and participation of workers in national worker cooperatives in the European union at large, as per the 2002/14/EC Directive on worker’s information and consultation in the European Community”*) has to do with both aspects linked to research (objectives 2 and 3), and not only objective 2 (*“The drafting and dissemination of a systematic study of systems of information, consultation and participation of workers in worker cooperatives in the various member states in application of Dir 2002/14/CE”*) as could be understood. Thus the monitoring committee will also monitor the *“best practices in worker cooperatives concerning the existing systems of information, consultation and participation of workers; training systems aimed at promoting them; supervision systems aimed (among other things) at supervising them”* which the research will examine.

2 Detailed examination of the two bullet points in the objectives related to the monitoring committee.

2.1. First bullet point. *“Identify, monitor and follow up the establishment of SCEs made up partly or totally of worker cooperatives or workers-members and the implementation of their structure of information, consultation and participation of workers, as per the 2003/72/EC Directive on workers’ involvement in SCEs”.*

The two sides agree to first monitor the evolution of the directive on the involvement of workers in the European Society (SE).

In this respect, Marco Cilento informs CECOP that ETUC is finalising a comparative survey of the situation in 4 of the SE that have already been established. He informs that, among the around 50 SE that have been registered to this date, the great majority are “empty” structures from the point of view of employment: they do not have workers. Only around 10, involved in production or services, have been established with staff and have thus gone through the negotiation process.

The 4 SE in question are:

- Allianz (Insurance), Germany, with around 100 000 workers
- Elcotea (ICT), Sweden
- Strabac (construction), Austria
- Fresenius (medical apparatus), Germany, with around 70 000 workers (negotiation in progress).

Marco Cilento informs that he will send a copy of this survey to CECOP when completed.

Marco Cilento also suggests that the Monitoring Committee should also follow up the evolution of the proposal for the SPE (European Private Society) status, to be examined by the EP. The SPE statute would have no reference at all to national law. He will send more information to CECOP on this topic.

Discussing then the question of the SCE, the two sides recognise that the utilisation of this statute will take time to be used on a large scale, looking at the slow evolution of the SE which is two years earlier than the SCE. It is agreed that CECOP will request its own members to identify ongoing projects of SCE, which will then be examined by the Monitoring Committee.

2.2. Second bullet point (“*Supervise the practices related to information, consultation and participation of workers in national worker cooperatives in the European union at large, as per the 2002/14/EC Directive on worker’s information and consultation in the European Community*”).

The monitoring Committee will consider

- Compared legislation (on the basis of the study already published by the Commission)
- The practice in ordinary companies
- The practice in worker/social cooperatives

The work of the Monitoring Committee in this field largely depends on the results of research by the Research Group.

3. Date and composition of next meeting

It is thus agreed to have the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee when the research will already be well under way, namely on 29 May 2007. Thus, the Monitoring Committee meeting planned for 29 March 2007 is cancelled.

According to the provisional results of the research, the presence of additional experts on ETUC and CECOP side at the next meeting will be previously discussed by e-mail.