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CEEP Water Task Force: Next steps on DWD review & UWWTD review

Communication sent to members of the CEEP Water Task Force (19/3/2018):

The CEEP Water Task Force will continue its work on the review of two key pieces of the EU water legislation, the Drinking Water Directive (DWD) and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD). In this context, I would like to inform you about the two following points:

CEEP work on position paper/amendments on DWD proposal

As already mentioned in my previous emails and as agreed at the last Task Force meeting, the [first CEEP Feedback](#) only focused on some more general key CEEP messages on which a compromise was possible in a first short timeframe. Thus, your comments that are addressing more detailed, technical aspects of the proposed legislative text will be integrated during the next steps in the upcoming weeks when we will be drafting a more detailed CEEP position/amendments, based on your input. Therefore, I would like to invite you to [send me your very concrete proposal for amendments to the Commission’s legislative proposal within the next month, by Monday, 9 April 2018, CoB at the latest.](#)

Based on your input, we will then draft the more detailed CEEP position/amendments during a meeting that you can join either physically at CEEP offices or through phone conference. As both the European Parliament and the Council are advancing very quickly with their work on the DWD proposal (see below), we see the need to anticipate this meeting by one week in order to achieve a bigger impact through a position/amendments that are ready before the end of April. Instead of on 19 or 20 April, we are now aiming at organising it already on either 12 or 13 April.

Please indicate your availability for this meeting/phone conference by [filling out this questionnaire](#) by next Monday, 26 March, at 12 pm (lunch time) at the very latest. Afterwards, I will inform you about the final choice of the date.

For your information, the European Parliament fixed the following timeline for its work on the Commission proposal:

- 4 May: Finalisation of Draft Report by Rapporteur Michel Dantin (of the EPP group; the Shadow Rapporteurs are as follows: Rory Palmer for S&D, Ulrike Müller for ALDE, Benedek Javor for the Greens; others still need to be confirmed, including probably Lynn Boylan for GUE/NGL)
- 7 June: Debate in the ENVI Committee
- 13 June: Deadline for amendments in the ENVI Committee
- 10 September: Vote in the ENVI Committee
- 1st October Parliament plenary meeting: Plenary vote

The Council Working Party on the Environment has already met twice (13 February and 1 March) and will meet again tomorrow, 20 March, as well as probably somewhere between 16 and 18 April.

Moreover, I would like to inform you that on 17 April, we will also meet again with other European associations (probably Eureau, APE and Eurocities) to discuss possible joint action to join forces on some key issues on which we share the same opinion.

CEEP input to Commission evaluation of UWWTD

The European Commission has started the REFIT evaluation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC). End of February, the evaluative study contract to get support in this work was launched. The study will examine the extent to which the UWWTD is relevant, effective, efficient, coherent and provides EU-added value and will involve a considerable amount of consultation with stakeholders. According to the Commission, first consultations should ensure that the scope of the evaluation is correct, i.e., that they identify the right key issues to focus upon during the project. Please find hereafter a [document describing the issues the Commission deems to be key](#) at this stage of the evaluation.

In this context, the Commission has also invited CEEP for a bilateral first discussion on the ongoing evaluation of the UWWTD this Friday, 23 March. In order to best represent the Water Task Force, I would like to invite you to send me your comments on the above-mentioned Commission document as well as any additional points that you deem key for the ongoing Commission evaluation **by this Thursday, 22 March, at the latest.**

Should you have any questions or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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CEEP – approval procedure for the CEEP opinion on the Future EU budget 2021–2027

Communication sent to CEEP members (16/3/2018):

We are pleased to send you a **first draft** of the [CEEP opinion on MFF 2021 – 2027](#).

The text is the result of the discussions held within the various CEEP Boards and Task Forces as well as specific contribution from members directly involved in structural funds and cohesion policies. It also builds on previous positions of CEEP, i.e. the CEEP response to the reflection paper on the future of EU finances.

The approach taken in this draft purposely **avoids discussing the size** of the budget and direct contribution from the Member States or issues linked to net balances. We followed the European Commission's attempt to **focus first on priorities**, and then link them to needs in terms of resources, knowing that this exercise is ongoing for the Members States.

The aim of the CEEP opinion is **to lobby** the European Commission (**before the publication of the MFF proposal on 2 May**), the Council and the EP on what are the key priorities for providers and employers of services of general interest. The structure that we foresee for the opinion follows the European Commission's approach as described in the document annexed to the draft opinion which is currently being circulated within the EU Commission.

We particularly wish to **raise your attention** about, and **ask for your contribution** on, the **chapter on strategic infrastructure**, as this is where we would really need more direct contributions from members. We drafted the chapters on infrastructures on the basis of previous sectoral organisations' work.

We feel it is particularly important for members from the Energy and Transport sector to carefully check the text and amend it as necessary.

Finally, I would like to call upon your swift reaction to this text. We know that Commissioner Oettinger will end internal consultation within the EU Commission by the 2nd week of April, which is why our opinion needs to be ready as soon as possible.

Therefore please send any comments/amendments/additional contributions you might have to Guillaume Afellat (Guillaume.afellat@ceep.eu) by 30 March 2018. Should we receive no comments by that date, we will consider the opinion as approved.

Thank you very much in advance for your essential support on this important dossier,

Kind Regards,

Valeria Ronzitti

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Appointment of the members of the CEEP Advisory Committee to the General Assembly (ACGA)

***Communication sent for attention of the members of the General Assembly
Copy to National Sections and sectoral members (16/3/2018):***

Dear Members,

We hereby send you a [letter](#) from CEEP General Secretary, Valeria Ronzitti, regarding the appointment of the CEEP ACGA members by the General Assembly next 1 June in Sofia.

Best Regards,

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For information to SAB members: Adoption of the “Social Fairness Package” by the European Commission (incl. the proposal for the EU Labour Authority)

Communication sent to Chair, Vice-chairs and members of CEEP’s Social Affairs Board (14/3/2018):

Yesterday, the European Commission adopted and presented its Social Fairness Package, including the proposals for setting up a European Labour Authority (ELA) and on “access to social protection for workers and the self-employed”.

You can find below the links to the texts presented yesterday, as well as the accompanying press release of the European Commission:

- [Proposal for a Regulation establishing a European Labour Authority](#)
- [Proposal for a Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed](#)
- [Press release – Commission adopts proposals for a European Labour Authority and for access to social protection](#)

Concerning the ELA, EU Social Partners did not gain the battle to obtain a tripartite agency. However, our joint pressure has led to the EC decision to set up a European Advisory Group to advise and assist on the swift establishment and future functioning of the ELA. The Group will be chaired by the Commission and composed of representatives at senior level of Member States’ authorities, Union-level social partners and the existing EU agencies in the field of employment and social affairs. This will allow CEEP to have a say in the shape and functioning of the agency.

In addition to this specific point on the Authority (which raised concerns from several members in the last Social Affairs Board), CEEP General Secretariat is currently analysing the proposals tabled by the European Commission and will soon get back to you with more information along the lines agreed at our last SAB meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any question on those topics.

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REMINDER: CEEP SGI Task Force meeting this Friday

Communication sent to members of the CEEP SGI Task Force (19/3/2018):

As already announced, the **next CEEP SGI Task Force meeting will take place this Friday, 23 March 2018, from 1.00 to 3.30 pm** at CEEP premises.

Please find hereafter again the [official invitation](#) and the [meeting’s draft agenda](#). I would like to thank all members who have already sent me their registration. Should you still wish to participate, please feel warmly invited to do and kindly send me your registration as soon as possible.

As suggested at the last SGI Task Force meeting, Stadtwerke Cologne very kindly worked on a [first draft of a CEEP opinion on a possible EU-UK trade agreement after Brexit](#). It will be one of the main points of discussion at the meeting on 23 March 2018. Should you not be able to participate, but would like to comment, please send me your remarks before the meeting date.

Please find below additional meeting documents:

- [Draft minutes](#)
- [European Court of Justice Judgement on Arbitration Courts](#)
- [European Court of Justice Press Release on its Judgement](#)
- [Commission Draft Brexit Withdrawal Agreement](#)

Should you have any question or remark, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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REMINDER: European Parliament Rapporteur at CEEP Transport Task Force meeting on 20 March 2018

Communication sent to members of the CEEP Transport Task Force (16/3/2018):

As you might already have noted in your agendas, the **next CEEP Transport Task Force meeting will take place on Tuesday, 20 March 2018, from 12.00 to 3.00 pm** at CEEP premises in Brussels.

I would like to thank all those among you who have already informed me about their participation. Should you not yet have done so, but wish to participate, please send me your registration as soon as possible. Please find hereafter the [official invitation](#), the [draft agenda](#) as well the [draft minutes](#) that Elisa Schenner, General Rapporteur of the Transport Task Force, kindly drafted.

As already announced, we are delighted to **welcome [Mr Andrzej Grzyb](#), Member of the European Parliament, for a lunch debate at our meeting**. Mr Andrzej Grzyb MEP (Poland, EPP group) is the Parliament's Rapporteur on the review of the Clean Vehicles Directive. Amongst others, he is member of the ENVI Committee that is leading on this file. Our exchange of views with him will be highly relevant as Mr Grzyb is currently working on his proposal for a draft Parliament report on the [Commission's proposal](#). For your information, please find hereafter a Parliament [briefing note](#) that gives a short overview of the proposal's context.

Please note that Mr Grzyb will be arriving earlier than so far foreseen. He will join our meeting **from 12.40 to 2.00 pm**. Therefore, thank you in advance for arriving well in time for a start of the overall meeting at 12.00 pm.

Should you have any questions or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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CEEP SAB – Future of autonomous social dialogue – strategic seminar 10 April 2018

Communication sent to Chair, Vice-Chairs, members of CEEP's Social Affairs Board (16/3/2018):

We had a thorough discussion at the last SAB meeting of 19 February 2018 on the future negotiations of the Work programme of the European Social Partners. A [discussion note with a draft mandate](#) was sent out together with the documents to facilitate the discussions in SAB of this agenda point. CEEP general secretariat gave SAB members an update on the latest developments.

SAB position

A long and thorough discussion took place on the state of play and on what strategy CEEP should have at the SDC meeting and beyond. SAB members agreed to follow CEEP line from the discussions at previous meetings and to be **a strong advocate for bipartite social dialogue**. CEEP **wants a work programme and have issues/topics to propose**. Negotiations should start this year, the current work programme could be prolonged meanwhile, but there is also a need to reflect on how the SPs work together/ their work processes.

SDC conclusions

At the Social Dialogue Committee on the 20th of February, all the EU Social Partners agreed to organise a strategic seminar on social dialogue, as soon as possible, which would precede an ad-hoc group, gathering already the negotiators, to discuss the issues of the future WP before finally starting officially the negotiations hopefully on the second semester 2018.

The strategic seminar is intended to bring for the first time members from the national level to discuss expectations for the future WP and for autonomous social dialogue in general.

The European Commission will finance the seminar which will gather around 50 participants in total, 25 for EMPL and 25 for TU with 6 reimbursed seats dedicated to CEEP.

Links to documents

You will find below the links to:

[The invitation](#)

[The draft agenda](#)

This seminar is not going to be an easy one. The positions already put on the table by both TU and EMPL are very far from one another. The gap is particularly large between BusinessEurope and the ETUC. **CEEP is more than ever in the middle and has a unique position as a potential compromise broker.** Peter Scherrer; head of the TU delegation said in the SDC that this was the seminar of the last chance and at the end of the day we will know whether we can have a work-programme or not.

Therefore I also issue here a call for interest to Members available and motivated to work together, in the coming weeks, with CEEP general secretariat **to ensure this seminar ends up on a positive note for the European Social Dialogue.**

We have 6 reimbursed seats available for National Members, please contact me should you be interested to participate to the seminar before Friday 23 of March.

I look forward to hearing from you and will send you more information about the seminar in the coming days.

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CEEP Newsflash – 16 March 2018

[CEEP Newsflash – 16 March 2018](#)

Social Europe e-newsletters : March 2018

Latest Social Europe e-newsletters attached:

[Social Europe e-newsletter – 13 March 2018](#)

[Social Europe e-newsletter – 20 March 2018](#)

Eversheds Sutherland : E-briefings, Updates and Conferences

See below links to information received from our partners **Eversheds Sutherland:**

[Current developments flyer](#)

[Employee-relations-2017](#)

[International assignments course](#)

[Crisis, HR and PR Briefings](#)