

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR SEA FISHERIES

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PRESENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR SEA FISHERIES

Under the provisions of the TFEU, the Commission is responsible for promoting and facilitating the European social dialogue. In 1974, the Commission set up the joint committees, one being dedicated to the social affairs in sea fisheries. The above-mentioned joint committee was a forum for information, exchange of views, analysis and reflection. In 1998, with a view of promoting the European social dialogue and particularly the sectoral social dialogue, the Commission supported the creation of Sectoral social dialogue committees which replaced the joint committees.

The Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee « SEA FISHERIES » (SSDC-F) consists of a maximum of 54 members representing the workers and employers affiliated to ETF, Europêche and Cogeca. The Committee usually meets in Brussels 3 times per year, including one plenary meeting. The SSDC-F also organises events and carries out projects co-financed by the EU on various subjects such as the CFP, safety, training, working conditions, mutual recognition of diplomas, EU enlargement.

The SSDC-F:

1. Supports and develops the social dialogue in the fisheries sector in order to contribute to the development of employment and the improvement of living and working conditions onboard fishing vessels;
2. Negotiates agreements within the limits of the competences established by Articles 153 to 155 of the TFEU;
3. Produces opinions on socio-economic issues and on the evolution of European policies which have an impact on our sector;
4. Provides expertise to the Commission, especially when it comes to produce the impact assessments studies of the proposed measures;
5. Works for the continuous dialogue between workers and employers in the fisheries sector.

Periodically, Eurofound carries out surveys to verify the representativeness of the European organizations of the social partners involved in the different social dialogue committees. Those [periodical studies recognise ETF, Europêche and Cogeca as representative](#) on the grounds that these organizations represent most of the fishermen and the employers in the fisheries sector of the EU 27 member States.

❖ **Results achieved in the past years:**

- The proposal for a Council Directive implementing the Agreement concluded between ETF, Européche and COGECA, of 21 May 2012 as amended on 8 May 2013 concerning the implementation of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 of the ILO;
- The social clause to be inserted in Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements;
- Key actions in the framework of a EU co-funded project:
 - Brochure to be used by national-level social partners on the possibilities offered by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to support social dialogue in fisheries and improvement of working and living conditions;
 - Glossary for the safe navigation and operation of fishing vessels in different languages developed through a mobile app;
 - Campaigns to promote the ratification and transposition of the Social Partners Agreement (SPA) on ILO Work in Fishing Convention 2007 (C188) into a EU Directive;
 - Study on self-employed fishermen in the EU;
- The European handbook for the prevention of accidents at sea and the safety of fishermen, which was translated in 18 languages and distributed worldwide (downloadable for free on www.europeche.org, www.etf-europe.org and www.refope.eu);

❖ **Main priorities for 2016-2017:**

- Swift adoption of the proposal for a Council Directive on the implementation of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention C188, 2007;
- The inclusion of social measures in the future CFP reform. Increase the role played by social partners in the formulation of the CFP, analysis of the socio-economic impact assessments, improve the visibility of social partners, ensure their involvement in the consultations carried out by the consultative bodies of DG MARE;
- Ratification and transposition of the STCW-F Convention into European law;
- Establishment of a task force to tackle working conditions in fisheries: IUU Fishing, decent work in fisheries and social opportunities;
- Key actions in the framework of a EU co-funded project proposal:
 - Feasibility study on a possible SPA with the aim of implementing the STCW-F Convention in the Union's acquis through a Council decision,
 - Analysis of the EU rule limiting increase in fishing capacity by imposing ceilings on gross tonnage and propulsion power, in relation to fishing vessel safety, crew accommodation and working spaces,
 - Study on the legislation in force in the EU regarding deck machinery, fishing gears and other machinery in the engine room.