



# ETF RAILWAY SECTION



## ETF RAILWAY SECTION READY TO NEGOTIATE AUTONOMOUS AGREEMENT ON WOMEN IN RAIL

On 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the ETF Railway Section had Women in Rail as a crucial point on the agenda. The Section gave a mandate to its delegation to enter into negotiations with employers. The aim is to negotiate an Autonomous Agreement according to Article 155 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, establishing binding minimum standards for measures to improve the integration and participation of women in the railway sector. Likewise, the Section took a decision on the members of the negotiating delegation: Giorgio Tuti (President of Social Dialogue for Railways, President of the ETF Railway Section, SEV, Switzerland); Maria Cristina Marzola (Vice President of the ETF Railway Section, FILT-CGIL); Michelle Rodgers (RMT, UK, Women's Representative of the ETF Railway Section); Jolanta Skalska (EVG, Germany); Katarina Mindum (SZH, Croatia); Marie Poincel (CGT, France); Plamena Koleva Zhelyazkova (FTTUB, Bulgaria); Isabell Gwenger (vda, Austria).

In November 2018, the Women in Rail Task Force composed of CER (Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies) and ETF members received a mandate to prepare the scope for negotiations of a future agreement.



Apart from that, the Section evaluated the current work programme of Rail Social Dialogue and discussed its priorities for the upcoming period of 2020-2021. Michelle Rodgers (RMT's President, UK) was elected

unanimously by the Section as the representative of women railway workers.

## STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN RAIL SOCIAL DIALOGUE GIVES A GREEN LIGHT TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS

On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019, the ETF and CER gathered for the Steering Committee meeting of the Rail Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee (SSDC). The Steering Committee agreed for ETF and CER to enter into negotiations towards an Autonomous Agreement. They also approved the scope for these negotiations, which has been prepared jointly by the CER-ETF Women in Rail Task Force over the past months. The negotiations are due to start after summer and will continue in 2020. More information is available on the ETF website: <https://www.etf-europe.org/its-all-on-track-for-women-in-rail/>

Another topic on the agenda was the "Rail Mobile Workers" project. The SSDC President Giorgio Tuti (ETF) and the Vice-President Matthias Rohrmann (CER) together with Sabine Trier, Deputy General Secretary of ETF and Libor Lochman, Executive Director of CER, signed the joint conclusions of the joint project on Rail Mobile Workers.



The project examined the implementation and application of the ETF-CER agreement on working conditions for mobile workers engaged in interoperable cross-border rail services (Council Directive 2005/47/EC). In order to follow-up on these project findings, CER and ETF decided to give further attention to it in the next SSDC work programme 2020-2021. Implementation of the current work programme



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2018-2019 and priority areas for the next work programme were discussed as well.

## **RAILWAY SECTION STEERING COMMITTEE DISCUSSED PRIORITIES FOR NEXT YEARS**

The ETF Railway Section Steering Committee (SC) met on 1 April and 3 July 2019. The main focus of both meetings was to prepare the strategy on how to approach employers within the framework of Social Dialogue and the topic of Women In Rail. Moreover, the SC discussed priority areas for the next two years for Rail Social Dialogue. Furthermore, the SC made a strategic planning of the Railway Section for the upcoming year with a view to 2021. Another major topic on the agenda was social dumping in rail and possible strategies how to address it. Lastly, the SC had an exchange with the Chairs of the Advisory Groups.

## **ETF VISIT TO POLISH RAILWAY TRADE UNIONS: SOCIAL DUMPING OCCURS EVERYWHERE**

In January 2019, the ETF's Deputy General Secretary Sabine Trier and Michaela Nemeckova, Political Assistant, met in Warsaw with two Polish trade unions, the National Section of Railwaymen NSZZ "Solidarnosc", and the Trade Union Federation of Polish Railways' Employees (FZZK). The main aim of both meetings was to exchange between ETF and the Polish trade unions organising railway workers. The ETF provided the Polish affiliates with an update on the ETF Railway Section's workplan and priorities for the upcoming months. Likewise, the representatives of the Polish trade unions shared with the ETF their current concerns and informed about the struggles Polish railway workers are facing. Both FZZK and the National Section of Railwaymen NSZZ "Solidarnosc" agreed to strengthen mutual collaboration between the ETF and the Polish trade unions and to support each other during the ongoing fights for dignity at work and fair working conditions for all.

## **CONDOLENCES FOR PASSING AWAY OF STANISŁAW STOLORZ**

In April 2019, it was with the deepest regret and sadness that the ETF learned about the passing away of Stanisław Stolorz, the Chairman of the Trade Union Federation of Polish Railways' Employees (FZZK). The ETF's President Frank Moreels and the ETF's Deputy General Secretary Sabine Trier sent on behalf of the ETF family sincere condolences to Stanisław's family and FZZK.

## **LOCOMOTIVE DRIVERS' ADVISORY GROUP CONCETRATES ON DRIVING AND REST TIMES**

The ETF Locomotive Drivers' Advisory Group met on 12 March 2019 in Brussels. The main topics were ERTMS interphase's visibility for locomotive drivers, monitoring drivers' licences and driving time, or language requirements for locomotive drivers. The Czech Railway Workers' Trade Union (OSZ) gave a presentation with an overview of how working and resting times could possibly be monitored. The group exchanged views on this and subsequently took a decision to establish an ad-hoc working group to look into the question of monitoring and enforcement of driving and rest times.

## **ON-BOARD PERSONNEL ADVISORY GROUP DEBATES THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE EUROPE-WIDE TRAIN CREW CAMPAIGN**

The ETF On-Board Personnel Advisory Group met on 20 March 2019 in Prague. The meeting was kindly hosted by Czech Railway Workers' Trade Union (OSZ). The group discussed possibilities of campaigning to keep skilled staff on board of trains and raising awareness of Driver Only Operations (DOOs) also known as Driver-Controlled Operations (DCOs). It was agreed that ETF affiliates can organise their national actions in 2019 and choose the best date and moment according to their national context. If they wish so, the materials developed for the previous European



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campaigns can be used but there will be no European day of action coordinated by ETF in 2019. The next meeting of the advisory group in Autumn will be used in order to discuss a coordinated action for 2020.

Other items on the agenda concerned training, qualifications and certification of on-board staff, precarious working conditions and departure procedures in different European countries.

## RAILWAY SECTION VETERANS' MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG

On 8 and 9 May 2019, "veterans" of the Railway Section met in Luxembourg on the invitation of former Railway Section President Guy Greivelding. Members of the 2013 negotiation delegations from Austria (Erwin Langsenlehner), Belgium (Jean Louis Brasseur), France (Jean Yves Petit) and Norway (Oystein Aslaksen) who negotiated the CER-ETF "Agreement on working conditions for mobile railway workers assigned to interoperable cross-border service" (now Council Directive 2005/47/EC) and the CER-ETF Agreement on a European locomotive license, the content of which was integrated into Directive 2007/59/EC gathered together with former active Section members from France, Belgium and Luxembourg.



As typical trade unionists all are still active either for their union or in (local) politics. They were in particular interested in the outcome of the Rail Mobile Workers' project and the findings of the application of the agreement on working conditions 15 years after signature in 2004. They also assured their solidarity to the ETF Railway Section actions. The next meeting with

hopefully more 'veterans' is already scheduled for 2020 in France.

## MAINTENANCE WORKERS' ADVISORY GROUP HAD AN EXCHANGE WITH THE EUROPEAN RAILWAY AGENCY ON ECM

The ETF Maintenance Workers' Advisory Group met on 30 April 2019 in Brussels. One of the key topics was digitalisation and its impact on maintenance. The group developed a questionnaire which will be circulated to the ETF affiliates in order to collect information about recent developments in this field across Europe. Apart from that, the group had an exchange of views with Mrs. Nathalie Duquenne of the European Railway Agency (ERA) who gave a presentation on the ERA work on the revision of Commission Regulation 445/2011 on a system of certification of entities in charge of maintenance (ECM).

## ETF SUPPORTS UKRAINIAN RAILWAY WORKERS

In May 2019, ahead of the Ukrainian railway workers rally in Kiev for safety, fair contracts and decent pay, the ETF Executive Committee has given its full support to seven demands made by the Trade Union of Railwaymen and Transport Construction Workers of Ukraine (TURTCWU). The TURTCWU was calling on the government to respect the collective agreements of the railways and take urgent action to maintain the Ukrainian railway system.

<https://www.etf-europe.org/ukrainian-railway-workers-have-our-support-as-they-rally-in-kiev-for-safety-fair-contracts-and-decent-pay/>

## UPCOMING MEETINGS IN Q3-Q4 2019, BRUSSELS

- **Railway Section: 5 November**
- **Plenary Meeting of Rail SSDC: 6 November**
- **On-Board Personnel Advisory Group: 22 October**
- **Locomotive Drivers' Advisory Group: date to be confirmed**