



International Workshop in Vienna, 16.4.2008

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### **Résumé of the workshop and key points for further networking**

Already this morning, I posed a number of questions, which are important from our point of view and which should be discussed in this round:

- *Which are our priorities for the remaining course of the project? Which topics should be taken into account for the European Map and the exchange of information?*
- *Aside from the national level of exchange and networking, do we need further levels of networking, e.g. at company level (in multinational companies)?*
- *Which countries do we like to involve?*
- *How do we manage the language barrier? How do we organise the required language variety on the website?*
- *Which support can be provided by the EMB with regard to networking and public relations?*
- *What are our main objectives for the final conference? For example, do we want to address the public or do we want to achieve a "Europeanisation" of the declaration of Muenster? Or is this goal far too ambitious? Instead, do we want to use the conference to place our cooperation and network on a rather stable platform and to plan follow-up activities?*

From today's discussion, I would like to sum up the following aspects and suggest, to work on these points together:

- We should make the presentations of country profiles available for all participants of our network. Also from project partners, who were unable to participate today, we will try to get hold of and distribute these profiles in a written form.
- We would like to translate and make all profiles available in all languages, so that our colleagues in the European agricultural technology companies may participate from our exchange. That is why, we would like to suggest the translation of all country profiles by each project partner into their respective language. For example on basis of the English version which will be provided by the project coordinators.
- Today, we have presented the German and English version of our website, which, in their own language, will serve as basis for all project partners for further cooperation. The link is [www.landtechnik.igmetall.de](http://www.landtechnik.igmetall.de).
- We need to check whether a section of the website can be utilised for questions and answers on project and country profiles and for a platform of direct exchange among the works councils.
- We need to agree to on date and detailed programme of the final conference in September 2008, probably at short-notice on basis of a written proposal by the project coordinators.



- The conference has the aim to address as many project partner organisations as possible and their employee representatives of the companies involved.
- As another perspective of cooperation, we would like to encourage the establishment of a delegation of project partner organisations. Based on an analysis of our country profiles and a conclusion on the main challenges of the sector development, this delegation will seek discussion with the EU Commissioner at the DG Enterprise and Industry, Guenter Verheugen.

The main mutual challenges to be addressed by our further cooperation are:

- Increasing lack of skilled workers due to failures in making appropriate investments in training, posing risks on production sites, employment and product quality
- The increasing number of temporary employment poses a serious threat on employees and also on the economic performance of companies
- In this context, there are extensive risks for further industrial development of the sector in Europe
- Working time and organisation of working time
- Just in Time – industrial production concepts
- Organisation and influence of trade unions and employee representatives at company level
- Demands for more resources and release from work for employee representatives in the sector (not only for EWC delegates)

Additional ideas for cooperation in the future:

- Utilisation of financial funds (employers/politics) for an on-going European dialogue within the sector
- Conference with production planners on sector development in the future
- Working on issues of food, environmental and energy as global challenges and issues of conflict