Labour Relations

I. Introduction

Wherever it operates, the Company wishes to grow its economic success in consideration of common principles and standards consistent with International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the principles laid down by the UN Global Compact, which the Company has adopted. The principles are in compliance with the Airbus Code of Conduct and with the International Framework Agreement signed in 2005.

II. Governance

In the International Framework Agreement, the Company reiterates its willingness to respect the regulation regarding fundamental human rights, equal opportunities, free choice of employment, as well as prohibition of child labour and respect and ensuring the conditions for industrial dialogue.

The Company in particular intends, via its agreements, to respect the disposition of the following ILO conventions: numbers 111 (discrimination – employee and occupation), 100 (equal remuneration), 135 (workers’ representatives), 29 (forced labour), 105 (abolition of forced labour), 182 (child labour), 138 (minimum age), 87 (freedom of association and protection of the right to organise) and 98 (right to organise and collective bargaining).

The head of each business is responsible for ensuring compliance with these principles.

The provisions of this framework agreement define the Company’s standards to be applied wherever Airbus operates provided they are not in contravention of local law, insofar as more favourable conditions do not exist already. Monitoring will be defined to ensure that the provisions of this agreement are not breached wherever Airbus operates, insofar as more favourable conditions do not exist already.

The Company is in continuous dialogue with social partners on its sites in Europe, principally through meetings with management at the European Committee level but also through meetings and negotiations at national or local level. Sites outside Europe are covered by Airbus’ IALA framing the social dialogue and social culture in line with local labour legislation, culture and practices of respective countries and by the newly installed Airbus Global Forum – see below.

Regular social dialogue is ensured as per ILO requirements and local legislation thanks to Airbus’ Societa Europea Work Council (SEWC) agreement in 2015 and reshaped in 2018.

Industrial relations and social dialogue are fully part of Airbus’ DNA and, therefore, its continuous evolution and improvement are embedded in the Company’s Human Resources strategy supporting Airbus’ business challenges. Strengthening the role of industrial relations and social dialogue is an enabler of shaping the future of work through workplace cooperation, collective bargaining by enhancing cooperation between employees’ representatives and top management.

III. Initiatives

Airbus joined the Global Deal for Decent Work and Inclusive Growth initiative (“Global Deal”). The engagement letter was signed conjointly by Airbus’ Chief HR Officer, Head of Group Social Policies & Industrial Relations and Head of Responsibility 

& Sustainability. Developed in cooperation with the ILO and the OECD, the Global Deal is a multi-stakeholders’ partnership that seeks to address two of the greatest challenges of our time: to reduce high and rising inequalities in opportunities and outcomes and to restore fading trust in the ability of governments and institutions to make economic growth work for all against a backdrop of rapid changes in the world of work. The Global Deal’s founding principles aim at encouraging action through voluntary commitments, increasing knowledge base about social dialogue and sound industrial relations and providing platforms for sharing experiences and best practices. Airbus’ active representation demonstrates that social dialogue’s globalisation is rooted in Airbus’ R&S strategy and commitments reflecting Airbus being an employer of choice.

In line with its commitments, the Company demonstrated its engagement through the following significant initiatives in 2019:

– in June, the first Airbus Global Forum (AGF) was held chaired by Airbus Chief HR Officer in presence of Airbus European Select Committee and Airbus Staff Representatives from Airbus main operating regions: Africa/Middle East, Asia Pacific, India, China, Latin America and North America. The AGF was launched with the aim of piloting constructive exchange of information with staff representatives at a global level, in line with responsibility and sustainability policies to further engage the social dialogue towards Company globalisation;

– in Spain and in France professional elections took place. For the first time, all French Airbus companies have voted between November and December;

– the main French entities of Airbus have signed beginning of March a group agreement with four representative unions (FO, CFET-CGC, CFTC and CFDT) about Employment and Career Paths Management. This new agreement is part of the Airbus “Future of Social Dialog” approach, which consists, in particular, of coordinating and simplifying the implementation of the new social norms that come out of most of the French government reforms (Loi “Avenir professionnel”). Employment and Careers Paths Management incorporates all processes and tools, in association with economic, technological, social and demographic changes and with respect to Airbus’ strategy, which enables:

– for the Company to improve its ability to anticipate its future competences and employment requirements, and to meet these by putting in place appropriate actions and mechanisms,

– for employees to better manage their individual career paths and develop their competences and employability.

New Gender Neutral Family Leave Policies and improved suite of family leave policies were implemented on 1 June 2019 in the UK. Airbus believes that these policies provide equal opportunities by ensuring they are accessible and equitable to all. Through thorough benchmarking, Airbus is confident that its policies compare well to other organisations and that Airbus is taking a lead in supporting cultural change. The aim is to help improve recruitment and retention and contribute towards closing the gender pay gap. The policies have been well received by employees so far and, in particular, Airbus has seen an increased interest in requests for information about Shared Parental Leave;

– programme for “Continuous Development for social partners” with social partners started. The implementation of modernised career management arrangements for