



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue
Social dialogue, Industrial Relations

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR WOODWORKING

17 September 2015
Working group meeting
MINUTES

Chair : Mr Patrizio ANTONICOLI (CEI-Bois)

- 1. Welcome and Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Adoption of agenda and of draft minutes of the working group meeting dd. 19/03/2015**

The agenda was adopted and the minutes of the previous working group meeting were adopted.

The German employers requested to include an agenda point on the use of EU Regional Development Funds in Poland. It seems that the funds can cover up to 60% of the cost of machinery, which creates a competitive advantage. In reply to a query by the Commission, Poland said that the funds were used in accordance with the rules. Consequently, the issue is now being re-discussed in Germany (also in the context of wage negotiations) and a lawyer has been appointed. The social partners discussed the possibility to issue a joint document on the problem, or to invite an EU official to a next meeting in order to have more information on the use of those funds.

- 3. Evaluation of the EU OSH Legislation.**

EFBWW informed the participants that the EU had asked the Danish COWI institute to evaluate existing EU OSH legislation. Their final report is not yet available, but it is expected that the European Commission will publish it early 2016, together with position papers by the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health. It was proposed to follow this process closely, so as to be able to react jointly as soon as this is possible.

- 4. Project : perspectives and challenges of the woodworking industries in Europe**

Since the first version of the project was rejected by the EU mainly for administrative reasons, the social partners decided to develop a fine-tuned proposal, including a new section on attractiveness. The project would be submitted for the next social dialogue call. In terms of attractiveness, the social partners stressed the importance of qualifications leading to career development, the orientation to the future of certain sub-sectors, and the health and safety aspect, i.e. the possibility to stay at work healthily. Although the project would have a wide focus, the intention is to keep it in line with the work programme of the SSDC.

5. New project : Psychosocial hazards in the woodworking sector : concepts, status and prevention strategies

The social partners discussed the possibility of drafting a project proposal focussed on prevention activities and good practices, based on sector-specific information and research. The aim is to develop a cross-sectoral project (involving both the woodworking and furniture sectors), since that would have more chance to be accepted for funding under a social dialogue call for proposals in 2016. A proposal for a project will be further developed at secretariat level, in order to present it in the March 2016 meeting.

6. European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA)

EFBWW informed the employers about its involvement in a joint project with ETUC on apprenticeships at cross-sectoral level. The project consists of two pillars; the first one focussing on an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of apprenticeships schemes (implemented by BusinessEurope and UEAPME). The second pillar is aimed at an inventory of quality frameworks for apprenticeships and work-based learning, implemented by ETUC.

7. Cumulative cost-assessment study

CEI-Bois informed the meeting about its involvement in this study, launched by DG GROW. The study fits in the Better Regulation initiative. It aims at quantifying the impact of EU regulation on the prices of products, and the impact of legislation on the F-BI sector in terms of side-effects. EFBWW expressed its interest to be involved in the study, a.o. to assess to what extent the issue of dumping will be included.

8. EFBWW Industrial policy

EFBWW presented its views on the industrial policy for the F-BI Industries. The importance of the renaissance of industrial policy is reflected in their policy paper. The core issue is that the society has evolved towards a knowledge society, where services play an increasingly important role. Existing professions are transformed in a more service-oriented approach. The knowledge society is also based on continuous product and process innovation. These elements have a strong impact on working conditions and industrial relations in their present form. In addition, the industrial policy has to take into account the globalised economy that calls for a consistent EU policy. In terms of funding, the concerned sectors should explore the possibilities of "Horizon 2020", as well as structural funds.

9. Operationalisation of work programme 2016

The social partners agreed to develop a "rolling" work programme, based on the achievements in 2015 and resulting in a two-year work programme for 2016-2017. The industry policy for the sector will be a pivotal point in the document.

10. AOB

a) EFBWW informed the employers on the state of play of the "Bolster-up" project, aimed at establishing the concept of European Core Qualifications in the EU furniture industry. The job profiles for cabinet maker and upholsterer are included in a handbook. A follow-up project could be presented by June 2016, based on input

from stakeholders. An extension to other countries, coverage of an increased number of professions and an update of the guide would fall within the possibilities.

b) EFBWW presented the EU ESCO initiative, aimed at bridging the gap between the educational and professional world. The participants received the ESCO information booklet. Ms LORENZINI mentioned the possibility to register for the initiative, especially since the woodworking sector falls in the scope of the project. First results are expected by 2017. Mr GEHRING questioned the feasibility and eventual added value of the project, taking into account the comprehensive scope and the amount of work for the development and translation of terminology.

c) The social partners agreed not to enter the EU scheme of sector skills councils, but rather to continue using the SSDC VET working group meetings for discussions on skills-related matters.

d) EFBWW and CEI-Bois announced that they considered sending a written proposal to the furniture sector employers confederations for the organisation of a joint working group meeting of both the woodworking and the furniture SSDC.

Annexes :

- List of participants
- ESCO brochure