



European Social Dialogue – Wood

Preparatory Meetings - 9.00 to 10.25

Plenary Meeting - 22 May 2023, 10:30 to 13:00, Hybrid

Participants List to be included as an Annex.

Draft Minutes

Торіс	
 Welcome and opening of the meeting Adoption of the agenda Adoption of the minutes 6.02.2023 Minutes of this meeting 	CEI-Bois chaired the meeting. The agenda was adopted without changes. Minutes were adapted without changes. It was agreed that since the EC will no longer be assisting with the minutes it will be on the chairing social partner to take the minutes.
2. Measures to tackle labour shortages: Lessons for future policy	Presentation by EUROFOUND. The project started in 2019 and tries to identify where the shortages are and what measures are being taken on national level to address them. In 2022 about 40 policy measures were looked at to see how effective they were. The project focused mainly on the health and ICT sectors, The outcome of the study shows that labour shortages are particularly prevalent in sectors with challenging working conditions, Low levels of investment coupled with the impact of the pandemic and a gender-segregated labour market are contributing to the shortage of workers in sector where the EU's ageing population and workforce is also set to exacerbate these shortages further in the coming years. Further, education infrastructure, greater autonomy over working hours, access to training and career progression and more meaningful work are also important measures to tackle the problem. There is the assumption that the lessons learned could be applied to other sectors such as the woodworking. There are currently case studies happening on how companies address the labour shortages.

	Following the presentation social partners discussed what
	role they could play in tacking shortages for the woodworking sector.
	EFBWW representatives highlighted that when looking at the results of the study, the issue of attractiveness of the sector need to be looked at it in a broader sense. It is important to go beyond the image as such and discuss also working conditions, health and safety, work life balance, and salary.
	Labour migration was also touched upon. The question of 3 rd country nationals' recognition of qualification and linguistic barriers tent to raise concern.
3. Overview of the ongoing challenges & opportunities of the wood working industries	
a) Wood promotion: Wood for Bauhaus Initiative	CEI-Bois informed about the latest development regarding the Wood4Bauhaus Alliance of which both social partners are founding members. The alliance has been received quite positively by the EC and it is often referenced. In addition, one of the key outcomes from the EC will be the New European Bauhaus (NEB) Academy, based out of University of Primorska in Slovenia with which W4B has good relations.
	In February 2023 the alliance members met and agreed on three specific ideas for further investigation:
	 A Friends of the Wood4Bauhaus in the European Parliament aimed at the new 2024 MEP intake
	 The preparation of five case studies of major timber buildings from architect to customer
	 A refresh of our policy recommendations and their subsequent promotion
	Furthermore, a conference on Wood construction for CO2 reduction will be organised in the framework of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU where the main conclusions of the EESC's exploratory opinion on Wooden construction for CO2 reduction in building sector. The Wood4Bauhaus alliance was contacted to be part of the conference. CEI-Bois' Board Member Mr Fryer will be representing the alliance.
	Event information available <u>HERE</u> .
b) Digitalisation in the construction and woodworking sector	EFBWW informed on their workshop on the Digitalisation in the Construction and Woodwork Sectors held on the 17 of May 2023 in Brussels. The workshop was part of a research project implemented by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation and the EFBWW. The Fraunhofer Institute for Production Systems and Design Technology was assigned to carry out the research. The study looked into how digitalisation affects the workplace in the construction and woodwork sectors. Special focus was given to the question in how far digitalisation opens pathways to progressive type of work organisation and how those process of its implementation

	can be guided by social dialogue, collective agreements, and forms of worker participation. EFBWW informed that the topic remains very relevant and could be integrated in the SSDC agenda. For example, one important element is bringing together the machinery producer and the users. Digitalisation is an ongoing process, but it is not a linear one, there are different levels to it and grades of using the technology. Conditions also may vary from one country to another. The study is available <u>HERE</u> .
 c) 2023 European Year of Skills report expert meeting 13.02.2023 ongoing actions 	A presentation on the ongoing EC Year of Skills activity was done by DG EMPL. It was reminded to social partners that there are various ways to engage, give more visibility and promote the Year of skills.
	The power point presentation will be shared with participants after the meeting.
	Social partners discussed a possible follow up on their expert SSDC meeting on Skills, held in February together with EFIC. It was agreed to opt for a joint position paper.
4. Joint project Resilient Wood	The project implementation continues. The Sawmill focus group concluded its data collection part in March 2023 by organising a dedicated focus group.
	The 3rd project steering group met in April, hosted by EFBWW and set up the calendar for the next step (dedicated workshops). One workshop date remains open, as pending the availability of the Italian consortium partner.
	The midterm conference is set on 7 September 2023 in Croatia. Official communication will begin as soon as the venue has been confirmed.
	It was reminded that the mid-term conference will be linked to the 2023 Year of skills initiative and CEI-Bois has prepared a short social media campaign.
5. Occupational Safety and Health a) Wood Dust Prevention	A Taskforce that will work on the revision of the Less Dust brochure has been set up. A first meeting will be called soon. For reminder this is a joint initiative with the furniture sector.
	EFBWW also informed about the project that focused on comparing the different types of wood dust measurements used. They informed the project has restarted since the pandemic and they might have more results/information to share. Social partners agreed that it would be useful to invite the project partners and dedicate a point during the joint wood and furniture meeting in Autumn 2023.
6. SP Work Program 2024-2027	EFBWW is working on proposing a first draft. Social partners agreed that the structure should be more general to allow flexibility for action. The possibility to opt for a 4-year WP was also raised. There were no oppositions as such, but CEI-Bois proposed that it might be more useful to align the 4 years SP workplan with the new EC and EP.
7. Information pointa) representativeness study	The Eurofound representative informed that the first draft has been sent end of April. Social partners had 2 weeks for comments. Following the comments, the draft will be

	corrected, and a final draft will be submitted for a formal written evaluation. The formal written evaluation is expected to take place in June 2023. The report will be published in Q4 2023.
b) ongoing initiatives of interest for Social Partners	EU policy officer, informed on various topics of interest for the SP : EU Talent Pool: Commission proposal planned for Q4 2023; Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Stocktaking Summit, Stockholm 15-16 May - the Summit conclusions available via the following link; Reinforced quality for traineeship initiative; Council recommendations on societal economy initiative; Disability card.
c) SSDC revision	EU policy officer updates SPs on the ongoing work. Namely the establishment of SD coordinators. Some have been
	nominated but not all. Further communication will follow on this as the network of coordinators is established.
	EFBWW, fully supported by CEI-Bois raised for the record that with regards to the SSDC future management, financing and administration of meetings the whole consultation process with social partners and the Commission remains highly unsatisfactory.
3.7 AOB	SP were informed that in June a new colleague from the Commission will be responsible for the woodworking and furniture sectors.