



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR WOODWORKING

18 May 2015
Plenary meeting
MINUTES

Chair : Mr Patrizio ANTONICOLI (CEI-Bois)

1. Welcome and Opening of the meeting

2. Adoption of agenda and of draft minutes of plenary meeting dd. 27/05/2014

- CEI-Bois proposed not to deal with points 6 and 7 of the agenda for the following reasons :

a) the internal working group of CEI-Bois had not been able to adopt the texts in their current form, nor to reach an internal position;

b) within the EU institutions changes in the process had been made; more in particular, the document on the circular economy was sent back by the European Parliament to the Commission. Therefore, CEI-Bois invited the trade unions to work on a new joint position paper.

EFBWW agreed with the proposal, and stated that the EU policies on energy efficiency are apparently more operationalised than its circular economy policy. EFBWW also intends to discuss the paper with its counterparts in the construction sector, and to add elements about the sectoral organisations' own role and contributions.

- The minutes of the previous plenary meeting were adopted.

3. Report of the WG Vocational Education and Training.

a) The "Demographic Change" project, managed by CEI-Bois, held its final conference on 6 and 7 November 2014, where the final outputs (i.a. a brochure) were presented. A dedicated website had been developed. The project was positively assessed and appreciated widely at international level. It was proposed to enrich the existing webpage and to include its follow-up in the work programme of the committee.

b) The "Bolster Up" project aimed at establishing European core qualifications in the EU furniture industry. The goal was to guarantee minimum training standards for cabinet-makers and upholsterers. The fulfilment of certain criteria related to core competencies could play an important role in terms of mobility and enhance the reliability of EU qualifications. The results of the project were a handbook and a memorandum of understanding signed by the social partners involved. A follow-up project is planned in 2016. The importance of this kind of project in terms of adaptation to new technologies and flexibility were underlined by the employers' side.

4. Report of the WG Occupational Safety and Health.

a) EFBWW repeated its criticism on the content of the EU OSH Framework, which is considered as insufficient. According to the workers' representatives, occupational

diseases are insufficiently covered by the document, and more initiatives towards streamlining with other policies are necessary. The implementation of REFIT creates the risk of different levels of protection since the key issue of the package comes down to simplification of legislation. Since the report on the evaluation of legislation by the Danish institute is expected to be published this year, the possibility of a joint position on the subject may be considered.

b) The social partners discussed the possibility to join the ongoing OSHA campaign on psychosocial hazards. EFBWW, already an official campaign partner, made the following proposals :

- Follow-up of discussions in EU institutions or in the UE social dialogue;
- Collection of good practices;
- Data collection re. existing concepts of psychosocial hazards;
- Development of a project combining research and practical approaches. Taking into account the limited resources available, this could be presented in 2016, possibly in cooperation with the Furniture SD Committee.

c) The social partners briefly discussed proposal COM(2014)0581 for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on requirements relating to emission limits and type-approval for internal combustion engines for non-road mobile machinery. This proposal concerns amongst others chain saws, which are also used in the woodworking industry. Although the proposal mainly focusses on emissions and their environmental impact, EFBWW would like the committee to deal with the indirect impact on workplace health. CEI-Bois invited the workers' side to make a proposal on the possible way forward.

5. Proposal : Social Partner Project "Perspectives and challenges of the Woodworking Industry"

A previous version of this project application was not accepted for funding. CEI-Bois intends to apply for funding under the recently published "Social Dialogue" call for proposals with an adapted work programme. EFBWW, co-applicant, expressed their appreciation for the updated first pillar of the project, which now has a broader view towards working conditions. However, due to the limited capacity of EFBWW in a congress year, their participation in the project still has to be discussed in the standing committee.

6. Resource efficiency in the building sector

Not discussed, see point 2.

7. Circular Economy

Not discussed, see point 2

8. Work Programme 2015-2016

A work programme, covering a two-year cycle, would be developed at secretariat level, taking into account the implementation of the ongoing programme. The importance of demographic change and the link with the finished project was stressed. Also, the possibility of an item on the circular economy is under discussion. A broader vision on OSH, and the possibility of renaming it into "Working Conditions" will be taken into account.

9. AOB

a) EFBWW drew the attention to a letter addressed by ETUC to Commissioners Thyssen and Timmermans, on the subject of the necessity of an OSH Strategy, and of consultation of social partners in the context of the Better Regulation Package that is due for adoption.

b) CEI-bois expressed their views on the EUTR revision, dealing with illegally harvested wood, and criticised the unequal implementation which leads to weak entry points; also the limited scope of the regulation is a point of concern, since it does not cover all wooden products.

Annexes :

- List of participants