



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment & Social Governance  
**Social dialogue**

## SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIAL CLEANING

**8 March 2016**  
**Working group meeting**  
**Minutes**

Chairman: Tim VAN RIE (European Commission)

### **1. Adoption of the draft agenda**

The Chairman welcomed the participants. The draft agenda was adopted.

### **2. Adoption of the draft minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2015**

The draft minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

### **3. Changes in the cleaning industry regarding the contracting out of services that occurred over the last 15 years**

- State of play of the project to update the Best Value guide for cleaning services

UNI Europa (Ms Harvey) informed the committee that the external expert for the joint EFCI-UNI Europa project had been selected. The steering committee had met two times to ensure the coordination and planning of the project. The working group had discussed and evaluated the existing guide in view of its update at its first meeting on 4 February 2016. As further steps, an outline of the guide would be circulated, in view of a working group meeting in April 2016. The EFCI (Mr Lill) recalled the aim of the project (developing a user friendly guide) and provided further information on the dissemination strategy (publication in 12 language versions, distribution on USB sticks, website with video, final conference). The EFCI and UNI Europa invited input from the national members to the guide.

- Discussion by participants on national trends in (public and private) procurement

The employers (Mr Lill) reported on general trends in the market for cleaning services: First of all, the internationalisation of the market implies that clients tend to work with the same contractor in different countries. Secondly, there is an ongoing expansion into different activities and services, including facilities management. Furthermore, there is a tendency towards insourcing of cleaning activities by the public sector in several Member States (including the Netherlands and Spain). In addition, in several countries (for instance Belgium) social economy enterprises have entered the market for cleaning services, and are exerting downward pressure on

prices (due to subsidies or lower wage scales in collective agreements). Finally, in a number of Member States (including Sweden and Denmark) specific wage scales for refugees have been discussed but have been rejected by national social partners concerned. The social partners agreed to continue these discussions at the next meetings.

#### **4. Joint Declaration in support of the UNI Europa Cleaners' Charter: State of play**

UNI Europa (Ms Harvey) invited the EFCI to co-sign the joint declaration, entitled: "Responsible procurement declaration for the Cleaning Industry". Mr Lill (EFCI) informed the committee that following amendments discussed at previous meetings, the employers were now in a position to adopt the joint text. The employers invited the trade unions to provide regular follow-up reports, to which UNI Europa agreed. As a consequence, Ms Harvey and Mr. Lill signed the joint declaration in the presence of the committee.

#### **5. Report from the European Commission on the Liaison Forum (25 January 2016)**

The European Commission (Mr Van Rie) reported on recent initiatives, including the follow-up to the New Start for Social Dialogue; the ex-post evaluation of 24 EU health and safety at work directives; the consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights; and the proposal for a revision of the posting of workers directive. At the request of the social partners, the Commission agreed to provide further information on the latter two initiatives at the next working group meeting.

#### **6. UNI Europa event of 30 November 2015 concerning the future of services and the role of social partners: Report by Anna Harvey**

Ms Harvey reported on the seminar that UNI Europa had organized with its sector social partners on the employers' side (covering 13 sectoral social dialogue committees in the services sectors). Ms Harvey presented the outline of proposed joint multi-sectoral conclusions. The EFCI (Mr Lill) welcomed the event and the initiative, while indicating that further discussions would be needed (including with other sectoral employers) in view of a joint text. As an initial reaction, the EFCI stated that a stronger emphasis should be placed on the role of (labour-intensive) service sectors in job creation. Moreover, he supported the need for capacity building in Central and Eastern Europe and asked to also better acknowledge the achievements realised since the establishment of a sectoral social dialogue committee in 1999. The social partners agreed to continue their discussions and Ms. Harvey will update on the committee regarding the outcome of UNI Europa's proposal to sign a joint text on the role of social partners

## **7.Update on the Commission legislative proposal to establish a European Platform to fight against undeclared work:**

Recalling their earlier joint positions, and noting that the legislative procedure was at the final stages, both UNI Europa and EFCI looked forward to being represented on the platform.

## **8. Any other business**

The social partners agreed to exchange information the impact of refugee crisis on national labour markets at their future meetings.

## **Annexes**

- Draft minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2015
- Draft Responsible Procurement Declaration for the Cleaning Industry
- Cleaners Charter: Responsible Contractor Policy for the Cleaning Industry