



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

**SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE
CONTRACT CATERING**

Minutes of the Plenary meeting

2 October 2012

1. Opening address, EFFAT Vice-President and FERCO President

The plenary meeting is co-chaired by Mr Rafaël Nedzynski, EFFAT Vice-President, and Mr Norbert Hummel, FERCO President, who jointly welcome the participants. Mr Nedzynski apologized for the absence of Mr Harald Wiedenhofer (EFFAT General Secretary).

2. Approval of the agenda and the minutes of the SDC plenary meeting of October 2011

The agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the plenary meeting held on 6 October 2011 are approved.

3. EFFAT-FERCO Online Training Tool “Food Hygiene Training for all”

Kerstin Howald, EFFAT Tourism Sector Secretary, informed about the background of the Online Training Tool “Food Hygiene Training for all” which had been launched in October 2011. Rocco Renaldi, FERCO Secretary General, presented the evaluation report on the Online Training Tool “Food Hygiene Training for all”. The report was prepared on the basis of FERCO members’ replies to a questionnaire sent during the month of August and it concluded that there is still much room for improvement in a context where there is a relatively high staff turnover. Although no similar investigation has been done on the dissemination of the tool by EFFAT members, from the website statistics it is also clear that the tool is not being widely used and a greater effort was asked from both parties. The participants also indicated that a press release had been printed and was available to all members.

EFFAT and FERCO renewed their commitment to further engage in the dissemination of the EFFAT-FERCO online training tool on food hygiene, and members of both associations were asked to take more concrete actions in this regard.

It was finally concluded that the Work Programme for 2013 should focus on completing the dissemination of the tool and that discussions on future developments should be suspended pending wider use of the existing instrument.

4. Public Procurement – implications of and next steps in the review of the EU Directive

FERCO Secretary General made a presentation on the revision of the EU public procurement legislation and the actions undertaken by FERCO to date. EFFAT is trying to influence the legislative procedure in various alliances, e.g. in a network of trade unions, NGOs and Fair Trade associations, with other affected trade union federations, and with the sectoral social partners. This topic is important for trade unions, notably the fight against abnormally low offers, given that contract catering is a labour-intensive sector as put forward on the joint statement with UNI Europa/EFCEI, EFFAT/FERCO, UNI Europa/CoESS (June 2012).

There was consensus on the fact that currently the lowest price is the criterion most used by public authorities when selecting tenders for contract catering services. This was confirmed by interventions from the Netherlands, Hungary, Italy and Spain. The fact that public authorities

want to avoid litigation and prefer a more objective and unquestionable criterion was put forward as a possible reason for this.

It was therefore noted that more concrete actions at national level to raise public authorities' awareness on the use of most economically advantageous tender criterion were needed. Notably, a wider dissemination of the EFFAT-FERCO Guide on this issue was called for. Actions at national level were also said to be fundamental in parallel with the actions undertaken at EU level to influence the change of EU legislation in this regard.

5. Corporate Social Responsibility – Highlighting best practice

VENECA presented a Dutch perspective and concrete examples of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) actions in the Netherlands, which was followed by an interesting debate. The presentation covered aspects such as corporate social responsibility provisions in the collective agreement applicable to the sector and Veneca's engagement in various areas such as sustainability, healthy lifestyles and public procurement ([See presentation attached](#)).

EFFAT and FERCO renewed their commitment to implementing the EFFAT-FERCO Agreement on CSR, but it was noted that the agreement needs to be updated to bring it in line with new developments such as the new Commission Communication on CSR. The FERCO Secretariat volunteered to work on a first draft and it was agreed that the update of the agreement would be added to the Work Programme for 2013.

6. EFFAT-FERCO Work Programme 2013

The work programme for 2013 was presented and was approved with modifications. The modifications concern the points mentioned above regarding the focus on dissemination of the online training tool and with regard to the inclusion of a point on the update of the EFFAT-FERCO CSR agreement.

In addition to these amendments, FERCO requested for the removal of the point on Economic and Financial Crisis from the Work Programme for 2013 as no concrete action was proposed. There was no consensus on this issue and it was agreed that FERCO would submit the issue to its General Assembly for discussion.

On Vocational Training, an overview of national implementation of the EFFAT-FERCO agreement was requested by EFFAT.

Two European Commission initiatives on Health and Safety at work were mentioned as potentially relevant for our sectoral dialogue, namely the new EU Strategy for Health and Safety at work for period 2013-2020 and the legislative initiative to adopt a Directive on work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSD).

7. Conclusions

Kerstin Howald, EFFAT Tourism Sector Secretary, and Mr Norbert Hummel, FERCO President, thanked all participants for the active participation and closed the meeting.