



Brussels, 14 December 2020

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE HORECA

**DRAFT Minutes of the Steering Group meeting
 24 September 2020, 11 am - 1 pm
 Video conference meeting**

Participants to the meeting

Mr. Joé RIEFF (European Commission) chaired the meeting.

HOTREC		EFFAT	
Jean-Marc BANQUET D'OX (Chair of HOTREC SSD)	UMIH/France	Andreas GOLLNER	VIDA/Austria
Susanne KRAUS WINKLER	APHA/Austria	Valerie KIHR	
Santa GRAIKSTE	AHRL/Latvia	Ilse DOCEKAL	
Fatima HOLLANDER	VISITA/Sweden	Pasquina ANGLANI	CSC-ACV/Belgium
Angelo Giuseppe CANDIDO	Federalberghi/Italy	Mehmed AVDAGIC	PPDIVUT/ Bosnia- Herzegovina
Daniel DEBONO	MHRA/Malta	Maja RADIC	
Paul SCHOORMANS	KHN/Netherlands	Panayiotis IOANNIDES	SEK/Cyprus
David BAR-SHALOM	HORESTA/Denmark	Peter LYKKE NIELSEN	3F/Denmark
István KOVÁKS	HHRA/Hungary	Jens-Petter HAGEN	NU HRCT/ Denmark
Sami NISAMETDIN	Finish Hospitality Association/Finland	Katri JAKOSUO	PAM/Finland
Pierre-Alexandre NAUD	UMIH/France	Pierre DUJOURDY	CFDT/France
Jens Zimmer CHRISTENSEN	HOTREC President	Pal KOVACS	VISZ/Hungary
Marie AUDREN	HOTREC	Martin O'ROURKE	SIPTU/Ireland
Marta MACHADO		Pilar RATO RODRIGUEZ	CCOO Servicios/ Spain
	Carles CATALA		
	José MARTINEZ LOPEZ	FeSMC-UGT/Spain	
		Maria Carmen DONATE	UNITE/UK
		Dave TURNBULL	BFAWU/UK
		Ian HODSON	EFFAT
		Kristjan BRAGASON	
		Kerstin HOWALD	
		Elke LIBBRECHT	

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda of the meeting has been approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the SSDC Steering Committee meeting of 24 September 2019

The minutes of the SSDC Steering Committee meeting on 24 September 2019 have been approved.

3. COVID-19 and the hotel & restaurant sector

The social partner secretariats reviewed the general economic situation in the HORECA sector after the outbreak of COVID-19. This discussion was followed by interventions of the national members of the workers and employer organisation. Member States adopted different approaches to minimize the spread of the virus. However, overall, the sector is suffering from a massive drop in demand. State Aid measures by Member States offering financial support, are now essential. Support in the form of short time working schemes is a positive example. Between March and September 2020, there have been a lot of layoffs. It was noted that workers leave the sector and seek employment opportunities elsewhere. It is difficult to retain talent, and skilled employees leave the sector. There has been agreement that skills development and training schemes are important and that financing schemes, such as the SURE should further be extended.

4. Qualification & training

HOTREC presented its position paper on “Attracting and retaining the workforce at the hospitality sector”.

HOTREC is aware of the need of training opportunities for employees. EU funding is much needed. EFFAT and affiliates highlighted that the overall attractiveness of the sector decreased. Workers should have a say about training and skills, as better opportunities would increase the attractiveness of the sector. HOTREC highlighted, that the sector still provides attractive job opportunities for the low skilled, who have difficulties to find employment.

EFFAT informed the participants that the Commission will not further promote the European Hospitality Skills Passport (EHSP) on the EURES portal which has been developed by the social partners.

HOTREC highlighted that many micro enterprises lack knowledge about how to access funding from the MFF and proposed that the Commission should provide specific guidance on that.

5. Other items on the EFFAT-HOTREC Work Programme 2020-2021

HOTREC informed about the latest developments regarding digital platforms and the recent ruling by the European Court of Justice, conceding the right to local municipalities to regulate short-term housing. Airbnb has announced a better collaboration with municipalities as regards information exchange. The seminar of the EU platform on undeclared work, dedicated to the HORECA sector, is scheduled for the first quarter of 2021 instead of 2020. EFFAT reported that the recommendations from the project of sexual harassment and violence at the workplace have been finalised and proposed that a related common position could be published by the HORECA social partners.

6. Plenary meeting

Social partners exchanged ideas on the next plenary meeting. Further talks were scheduled for a later stage. Most probably an online meeting would need to be organised.

7. Updates on legislative matters

This point was skipped with the agreement of all members, due to time constraints.