



**EUROPEAN SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN EDUCATION**

**Steering Committee meeting**

**19 January 2015**

**Minutes**

Chair: Martin Rømer (ETUCE)

**1. Adoption of the draft agenda – Adoption of the minutes of the meetings of 29/09/2014 and 06/11/2014**

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the previous meetings will be adopted by written procedure.

**2. Discussion on the follow-up of the High Level Dialogue on education and further cooperation with DG EAC and DG EMPL**

Agnes Roman welcomed the decision of the new European Commission to move the skills files from DG Education and Culture to DG Employment, as it should create a closer link with employment policies. The reorganisation however requires a revision of the organisation of the "strengthened cooperation" on education with the European social partners that had been initiated by DG EAC.

While the strengthened cooperation provides a platform for an enhanced contribution of the social partners to EU policy development, it remains difficult for the SPs to *initiate* topics themselves – as this is mainly done at the level of the informal ministerial meetings. A joint ETUCE/EFEE letter has been sent to DG EMPL with the request to be granted observer status in the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training, where matters related to teachers are increasingly discussed.

Bianka Stege (BS) suggested adding a reference to the Alliance for Apprenticeships (AfA) in the ESSDE work programme, and pleaded in favour of intensifying the link with the cross-industry social partners in the context of the strengthened cooperation with the Commission.

While BS raised some questions about the recognition of the added value of sectoral social dialogue by the Commission, Martin Rømer (MR) called for better promotion of the work of the ESSDE among Commission services.

### **3. Discussion on the ESSDE Work Programme 2015**

The workers sounded out the employers' appetite for a joint project on the financing of education, referring to the European Semester process in which social partners should try to play a more important role. The employers confirmed that funding, as well as the efficiency/effectiveness of investment in education, are issues which are also at the core of their interests.

Stefaan Ceuppens highlighted that stronger involvement of European and national social partners in the European Semester is one of the topics that will be addressed at the High Level Conference "A new start for social dialogue" that will take place on 5 March.

### **4. Other ESSDE meetings in 2015**

It was agreed that the first working group (9 March, chair EFEE) would cover several topics, including Opening up Education, teacher education with a focus on digital learning and innovative teaching methods, the Alliance for Apprenticeships.

The second working group (29 June, chair ETUCE) will be dedicated to higher education and research and will include a point on RESAVER.

The agenda of the plenary meeting (25 November) will be defined at a later stage.

### **5. Discussion on two ESSDE draft Joint Declarations**

#### ***a) Supporting early career researchers in Higher Education in Europe***

The joint declaration was adopted.

#### ***b) Professional autonomy, accountability and efficient leadership***

The draft text of the joint declaration on "School Leadership" was discussed in detail and alternative formulations were agreed. The revised text was adopted.

A second project on school leadership is currently not planned, but may be considered in the future.

### **6. Update on two proposed projects for 2015-2016 and division of tasks**

#### ***a) European Sectoral Social Partners in Education promoting the potentials of their dialogue through knowledge transfer and training. The ESSDE capacity building project II***

#### ***b) Social Partners Promoting Decent Workplaces in the Education Sector for a Healthier Working Life***

Susan Flocken and Alexandra Rüdig provided a short update on the state of play of implementation of these 2 joint projects.

### **7. General discussion on improving visibility of ESSDE**

MR called upon the Commission to maintain appropriate support for the sectoral social dialogue committees.

He called for the social partners to: (1) develop stronger communication strategies towards their own members and the Commission services, (2) reflect on which topics could be the subject of more committing texts, with higher impact at national level, (3) continue promoting the ESSDE at national level and assist each other to strengthen the respective memberships.

While the employers broadly agreed with these suggestions, one should be realistic as regards the possible degree of commitment of any negotiated text, notably given the diverse nature of EFEE's membership. They nevertheless agreed to start a reflection on possible topics for such a social dialogue outcome. BS added that EFEE will start using Twitter this year and that it will take a stronger leading position in the CEEP Education and Training Task Force.

She also suggested taking stock of what has been done over the past years, possibly through a survey of the social partners' members.

It was finally agreed to elaborate a common ESSDE "flyer".

#### **8. Discussion on forming joint positions on submissions to European Commission and Education Committee of the EYCS Council**

With a view to reinforcing the ESSDE influence, it was agreed that the social partners would try to elaborate joint positions – rather than separate ones – ahead of future meetings of the Education Committee of the Council, as well as for other types of meetings, wherever possible.

#### **9. AOB**

None.

List of participants 19/01/2015

<p><u>Employers</u></p> <p><b>EFEE</b></p> <p>Ms Sarah KIK (EU) Mr Michael MORIARTY (IE) Ms Maria PONTIERI (IT) Mr David SIMMONDS (UK) Ms Bianka STEGE (EU)</p> <p><b>5 employers representatives</b> <b>(3 women, 2 men)</b> <b>(2 EU, 0 EU-13, 3 EU-15)</b></p>	<p><u>Workers</u></p> <p><b>ETUCE</b></p> <p>Mr Udo BECKMANN (DE) Ms Kounka DAMIANOVA (BG) Ms Susan FLOCKEN (EU) Mr Lasse RASMUSSEN (EU) Ms Agnes ROMAN (EU) Mr Martin RØMER (EU) Ms Alexandra RÜDIG (EU) Mr Dennis SINYOLO (EU)</p> <p><b>8 workers representatives</b> <b>(4 women, 4 men)</b> <b>(6 EU, 1 EU-13, 1 EU-15)</b></p>
<p><u>European Commission</u></p> <p>Mr Stefaan CEUPPENS (EMPL.B.1)</p>	