



EUROPEAN SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN EDUCATION

Steering Committee, meeting 14 May 2013

Minutes

Chair: Michael Moriarty (EFEE)

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda was adopted without modification.

2. Evaluation of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue in Education (ESSDE): results, progress and future activities

Some 3 years after the formal creation of the ESSDE, the social partners thought it was a good time to make a first evaluation of its functioning and achievements.

Speaking for the workers' side, Martin Rømer (MR) commended the "flying start" of the committee, demonstrated by the adoption of several joint texts and the organisation of many joint projects. However, a number of concerns have emerged since then, including:

- The outcomes of joint actions do not always live up to the trade unions' expectations, notably in terms of real mutual commitments to act;
- The EFEE membership remains fragile, there does not seem to be a consensus about the aims of social dialogue among its members, and participation of EFEE affiliates in conferences and other social dialogue activities remains relatively weak.

Speaking for the employers, Bianka Stege (BS) gave a more positive assessment of the achievements of the ESSDE to date. She reassured ETUCE that EFEE makes constant efforts to develop its membership, which is however a long and difficult process. In this context, Michael Moriarty also pointed to the diversity of national employers, which makes the elaboration of joint positions more complicated.

BS put forward a number of lessons learned, including:

- The need for early involvement of members in projects, consultations,... – given the sometimes complex internal consultation procedures of member organisations;

- Even if the opportunity for exchanges is very positive, the number of projects may have to be scaled down in order to be effective;
- Mutual expectations should be clarified before launching new actions/projects.

ETUCE agreed that all activities should indeed be scrutinised thoroughly as regards their objectives and (mutual) expectations. The ESSDE should do less, but better, which should also give EFEE more time for its much needed organisational development. ETUCE stands ready to further assist EFEE in developing its membership.

3. Recent, current and future projects

a) Self-evaluation of schools and teachers

BS gave a state of play of the ongoing project. The final conference will be held in Budapest on 21-22 May. The aim is to agree on a joint declaration on "The promotion of the culture of self-evaluation of schools and teachers" at this conference.

ETUCE agreed to submit the draft declaration to the conference and to the working group on "Quality in Education", after some modifications. The agreed text would be submitted for adoption to the plenary meeting in November.

b) Third-party violence

Susan Flocken informed the committee that the draft guidelines on "How to prevent and mitigate TPV and harassment in schools" have been accepted by EFEE and ETUCE. The text will be submitted to the plenary meeting of the ESSDE in November.

She also presented the joint report on the implementation of the multi-sectoral guidelines in the sector, as foreseen by these guidelines. EFEE confirmed its agreement with the report, which will also be presented to the ESSDE plenary meeting.

c) Higher education

BS presented an outline for a project proposal entitled "The impact of social dialogue in higher education". After an extensive exchange, it was agreed that EFEE would revise the proposal on the basis of the comments made and circulate the new draft for further comments.

d) Leadership

BS presented an outline for a project proposal on "Professional autonomy, accountability and efficient leadership", to be submitted by the Dutch VO-Raad, in partnership with EFEE and ETUCE. On the basis of the comments made, EFEE would revise the draft and resubmit it to ETUCE for final comments.

4. Other ESSDE meetings in 2013 – working group (12/09) and plenary meeting (12/11)

BS presented a draft agenda for the working group meeting of 12 September, proposing that it would cover the topic of private/public education. She pointed out that this would not necessarily be the start of a new standing working group.

ETUCE agreed on the idea dedicating a meeting on exchanging ideas on the topic. However, it was felt that the objectives of such an exchange need to be defined more precisely, and that more time is needed to prepare it.

5. AOB

MR informed the committee that Education International will be launching a major campaign on Quality (in) Education, which will run from September 2013 to September 2014. He may come back to the employers to examine the scope for joint initiatives in that context.

EFEE confirmed that it would be pleased to work together with ETUCE in the context of this campaign.

List of participants 14/05/2013

<p><u>Employers</u></p> <p>EFEE</p> <p>Ms Sarah KIK (EU) Mr Michael MORIARTY (IE) Ms Maria PONTIERI (IT) Ms Bianka STEGE (EU)</p> <p>4 employers representatives (3 women, 1 man) (2 EU, 0 new MS, 2 old MS)</p>	<p><u>Workers</u></p> <p>ETUCE</p> <p>Ms Christine BLOWER (UK) Ms Kounka DAMIANOVA (BG) Ms Susan FLOCKEN (EU) Ms Sine PLESNER-HANSEN (EU) Mr Martin RØMER (EU)</p> <p>5 workers representatives (4 women, 1 man) (3 EU, 1 new MS, 1 old MS)</p>
<p><u>European Commission</u></p> <p>Mr Stefaan CEUPPENS (EMPL.B.1)</p>	