



COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE
DG Emploi, affaires sociales et inclusion

Législation sociale et de l'emploi, Dialogue social
Dialogue social, Relations industrielles

SOCIAL DIALOGUE PLENARY MEETING IN CONSTRUCTION

14/06/2012 (14h00-17h00)

1. Welcome

The meeting is chaired by Mr François Jacquel (FIEC) who replaces Mr Thomas Schleicher (FIEC) who could not participate to the meeting. The appointed chairman welcomes the participants.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 15/12/2011

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15/12/2011 are considered as approved, if there are no remarks in the coming weeks by the participants.

3. EU Health and Security strategy 2013-2020

Mr Domenico Campogrande (FIEC) indicates that the joint position paper of the sector is almost finalised, nevertheless FIEC would like to wait for the assessment of the Commission of the previous strategy for Health and Safety.

Mr Werner Buelen (EFBWW) gives the floor to Mr Kevin Williamson (EFBWW) who underlines that it was important for EFBWW to keep the reference to self-employment in point 10 of the third version of the position paper. On the point 19 of the document, Mr Schmidt (EFBWW) states that SME may not apply different health and safety standards than other companies. Mr Werner Buelen (EFBWW) also reminds that during the last plenary meeting, it was agreed not to mention the issue of administrative burden in joint documents. From the point of view of the Unions, this mention is a way for the Employers not to take in account the legislative obligations. Mr Campogrande (FIEC) indicates that, in all cases, it is important to refer to wording which was previously validated in former joint papers.

It is agreed that both secretariat will continue to work on the position paper once the Commission will issue the evaluation of the previous strategy for health and safety.

4. **Joint projects for 2012**

a) EU skills council "construction"

Mr Domenico Campogrande (FIEC) indicates that the external expert who was appointed by FIEC and EFBWW has received a representative number of answers from the affiliates of both organisations concerning the opportunity to settle a specific skills council. There is a positive reaction to this possibility. The draft final report will be circulated soon and the final conference will take place on the 27th of November. The report will be presented on this occasion and it will be, then, decided if the sector of construction will set up a sector skills council.

Mr Domenico Campogrande (FIEC) also indicated that FIEC would probably participate in a pilot project on energy saving in the framework of the initiative "sector skills alliances" by mid-August.

b) Information modules on Asbestos

Werner Buelen (EFBWW) informs the assembly that the coordinator of the project Mr Bernd Eisenbach (EFBWW, DE) passed away. The participants observe one minute of silence.

The first seminar of this project is planned on 21 of June 2012

c) Guide on Health and Safety

Mr Domenico Campogrande (FIEC) indicates that the guide on Health and Safety is now translated in 13 languages. It will be also made available in PDF format downloadable on the FIEC and EFBWW websites. The Estonian translation is not yet finalised because the translation has not been checked by the affiliates. The next step is to distribute this guide at the national level. FIEC proposed to submit a new project to disseminate and promote the guide Europe wide.

d) Paritarian social funds

Mr Werner Buelen (EFBWW) reminds that the objective of this specific project is to provide know-how to the social partners in Poland, Bulgaria and Romania on how they can establish paritarian funds. Poland has received positive support of the Fundacion Laboral from Spain. In Romania, there are already existing structures but these need to be reinforced, OPPBTP from France offered to give them some support. The Social partners from Bulgaria are working closely with German BG BAU. The EFBWW organises and coordinates at the EU level the technical assistance.

5. Vocational training (report from the working party on 15/2/2012)

Mr Alfonso Perri (FIEC, IT) summarises the work of the working party which was dedicated mainly to the problem of attracting young people to the sector, the mutual recognition of competence and skills. As an example, he mentions the worrisome situation of Greece where almost 40 % of workers working in the construction sector have not been trained. In Germany there is also a lack of qualified workers even if big campaigns are organised. France is a bit more advanced. Some pedagogical messages have been addressed to the teaching profession.

Mr Jacquel (FIEC, FR) underlined that the responsibilities are shared and it is the role of the sector to attract young people and to offer them opportunities. Mr Kyösti Suokas (EFBWW, FI) indicated that some trained young people have difficulties to find permanent work places because some employers prefer to work with flexible contracts and their situation remains most of the time precarious. Mr Romano Baldi (EFBWW, IT) states that it is difficult to find qualified young people who have technological competences as well. This is why, it is important to continue to put pressure on the education systems so that specific IT orientated courses are offered to young people.

Mr Domenico Campogrande (FIEC) indicates, that in the framework of the world skills event in SPA – Francorchamps, FIEC will organise a workshop on the 5th of October, in the morning on skills on the construction sector. A brochure on tutorship will be presented. EFBWW will also be invited to participate in this event.

6. Occupational Health and Safety (report from the working party meeting on 20/03/2012)

Mrs Cristina Garcia Hergueda (FIEC, ES) summarises the work of the working party on health safety which was dedicated to the Asbestos issues, the new European strategy on OSH 2012-2013 as well as different social dialogue projects in that field (Guide to OSH management as well as information modules on asbestos).

7. Employment (report from the working party meeting on 24/5/2012)

Mr Werner Buelen (EFBWW) indicates that the Employment package was presented by the European Commission. Some issues are concerning more directly the construction sector as for example the proposal dealing with undeclared labour. The Commission is preparing a specific Communication on this topic. The topic of self-employment as well the possible introduction of a social identity card which are linked to the enforcement directive related to posting of workers directive are also concerning more directly the sector. The employment package aims also at promoting social dialogue. Concerning the wage developments which are also tackled in the Communication of the Commission, it is important from the point of view of EFBWW to respect the principle of autonomy of Social partners. Mr Werner Buelen says that although the employment package is rather vague and worrying, it is an occasion to present the position of the social partners on this different points/issues.

Mr Campogrande (FIEC) also mentions that greening and green jobs is also an important topic from the Employment package to be addressed.

Mr. Jacquel (FIEC, FR) indicates that a delegation of FIEC met Mr Jean Louis De Brouwer director of Europe 2020 – Employment policies at the European Commission. He suggested on the occasion of this meeting that the construction sector could be a pilot sector to test targeted and practical actions in link with the Employment package. He encouraged the social partners to jointly identify priority issues and to develop specific actions. The Commission could endorse this pilot initiative.

In order to do so, Mr Domenico Campogrande (FIEC) suggested that a small joint working group could prepare a working document on the employment package

involving both parts. More specifically, concerning the identity card, FIEC and EFBWW have asked the EUROFOUND (European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions) to make a study on the already existing cards in different Members states, as well on possible the legal basis for an EU social identity card. If the foundation cannot carry out this study on this last topic, it was suggested to submit a joint project. Regarding the issue of wages, Mr Campogrande (FIEC) indicates that it will probably more difficult to make concrete proposals since it would be difficult to find a consensus.

Mr Franck Schmidt (EFBWW, DE) insists on the fact that the EU should not intervene in the negotiation process of wage at the national level. Mr Kyösti Suokas (EFBWW, FI) says that in Finland there is a social identity card but the system is not working very well. From 2013, every worker will receive a tax number and the employer will have to send a document listing the tax numbers of all workers working for the company.

Regarding a possible joint opinion on the enforcement directive there is a common opinion from both sides regarding the controlling measures to be made by Members states, nevertheless, there are different views on the principle of joint liability. The EFBWW and FIEC secretariats will assess the option of reaching a joint position, however it remains possible that FIEC will issue a separate position paper.

Regarding ICT directive, according to the Parliament the notion of group has to be extended to subcontractors, which is problematic for company transfers. Regarding EU mobility, EFBWW indicates that there are also some concerns. There are currently informal talks between the Parliament and the Council. EFBWW and FIEC will joint raise these concerns to the Trilogue negotiators.

8. **Miscellaneous**

- Concerning the Directive on public procurement, it has been indicated that the deadline for the opinion of the European parliament has been shifted of one month. The directive will probably not be adopted before the end of the year. Mr. Frank Schmidt-Hullmann (EFBWW-DE) raises the question if FIEC and EFBWW could find a joint approach on the subject. Mr. Ulrich Paetzold (FIEC) replies that the issue is very complicated (in particular the proposed concession Directive).

- Mr Campogrande (FIEC) indicated that Mr Tajani, Vice-president of the European Commissioner, came to the general assembly of FIEC in Istanbul on 8th of June. He has informed on this occasion that a special chapter of the future communication on the future of the construction sector will be dedicated to human capital, which could be of interest for the social partners.

9. **Next meetings**

- 2-3 October 2012 : Working party for Health and Safety
- 4 October 2012 : Working party on vocational training
- 14-15 November 2012: Working party on Employment
- 14 December 2012: Plenary meeting