



EUROPEAN SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN EDUCATION

Steering Committee, meeting 20 September 2011

Minutes

Chair: Charles Nolda (EFEE)

1. Preparation for ESSDE on 25 October 2011

The draft agenda for the plenary meeting was discussed. ETUCE would contact the cabinet of the Commissioner for Education and Culture for the keynote speech. It was considered that point 9 on the draft agenda is too abstract at this stage in the ESSDE's evolution and it was therefore dropped.

2. Initial discussion on joint work programme for 2012/13

EFEE informed the Steering Committee that it would not yet be in a position to adopt the work programme at the plenary meeting on 25 October. It was proposed to have a first discussion and to agree on the process to be followed in order for the work programme to be adopted before the end of the year.

There was broad consensus that the 3 themes currently covered by the working groups should be carried forward. ETUCE stressed that the working group on Higher Education & Research should in any case continue to meet in order to guarantee a successful launch of social dialogue in this subsector.

It could be considered to add a fourth theme. The issue of "public/private interface" was mentioned.

In this context, Stefaan Ceuppens pointed out that the number and type of meetings in a given year should be based on and justified by a solid work programme, but that it would in any case be difficult to maintain in 2012 the number of meetings that were held in 2011.



3. Stocktaking on projects

EFEE and ETUCE took turns in providing a brief update on the state of play of the different projects.

Projects currently running are:

- Lifelong learning guidelines (national implementation stage)
- Stress
- Leadership and Governance in Schools
- Third-party Violence (multi-sectoral project)
- Recruitment and retention

Projects currently submitted and under evaluation by the Commission are:

- Third-party Violence
- IT in schools
- Evaluation
- Sector Skills Council feasibility study

4. Current consultations, e.g. on Professional Qualifications Directive: scope for joint input?

It was noted that EFEE and ETUCE sent in separate contributions to the consultation on the Commission's Green Paper on the Professional Qualifications Directive. Nevertheless, there was certainly common ground to be found in the responses, namely: a certain scepticism as to the Commission's proposals, which is not expected to boost mobility in a significant manner, given the persisting issues as regards social security coordination as well as the current unemployment rates in the EU. ETUCE expressed its particular concern about the possible restriction on the liberty of national authorities to regulate the entrance to the teaching profession (e.g. as regards language requirements).

It was agreed to include this point on the agenda of the plenary meeting.

It was agreed that in the future, the Committee would first consider elaborating a joint position in response to Commission consultations.

5. Cross-sectoral negotiations on Working Time Directive: to note respective positions of ETUCE and EFEE

All agreed that this issue is rightfully being dealt with at cross-industry level.



6. Reflection on ESSDE's first year

All participants were satisfied with the good cooperation and positive dialogue in this first year of the ESSDE.

The trade unions understand that EFEE is still facing challenges as regards the building of its organisation and the expansion of its membership. Although the trade unions tend to have higher expectations as regards the outcome of the social dialogue, they are realistic about what the employers can offer currently. At this stage, "the process is more important than the product".

All agreed that more can be done as regards joint responses to consultations of the European Commission.

7. AOB

In order for the Committee to finalise its 2012-2013 work programme before the end of the year, the Commission was asked to provide for the possibility to organise an additional meeting of the Steering Committee in December.



List of participants 20/09/2011

<p><u>Employers</u></p> <p>EFEE</p> <p>Mr Gerhard KLASSEN (DE) Mr Charles NOLDA (EU) Ms Maria PONTIERI (IT)</p> <p>3 employers representatives (1 woman, 2 men) (1 EU, 0 new MS, 2 old MS)</p>	<p><u>Workers</u></p> <p>ETUCE</p> <p>Ms Cecilie BECH LINDGREN (trainee, EU) Mr David POISSONNEAU (EU) Mr Martin ROMER (EU) Ms Ilse SCHAAD (DE) Mr Ronald SMITH (UK)</p> <p>5 workers representatives (2 women, 3 men) (3 EU, 0 new MS, 2 old MS)</p>
<p><u>European Commission</u></p> <p>Mr Stefaan CEUPPENS (EMPL.B.1)</p>	