



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue
Social dialogue, Industrial Relations

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR WOODWORKING

25 September 2014
Working Group meeting
MINUTES

Chair : Coen VAN DER VEER (EFBWW)

A) Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

3. Adoption of draft minutes of Working Group Meeting dd. 21 March 2014

The minutes were adopted.

4. Strategic Framework on OSH 2014-2020.

After an introduction on the history of this document, EFBWW expressed their criticism on its content, which is considered as weak and "too late". According to the workers' representatives, occupational diseases are insufficiently covered by the document, and more initiatives towards streamlining with other policies are necessary. Regarding the implementation of REFIT, a risk towards different levels of protection arises. Since the expectations mentioned in the social partners' position papers have not been met, EFBWW proposed to contact the new Commissioner and to resend the joint position on the subject in parallel. CEI-Bois reacted by saying that the issue had not yet been discussed with their members.

5. New project : Perspectives and Challenges of the Woodworking Industries in Europe.

This project was submitted for funding under the social dialogue call for proposals. If accepted, the first part of the project would deal with OSH related issues, which will be presented in a two day seminar. A second seminar will then deal with industrial policy and concrete links to related EU-policies.

6. OSHA Campaign – SD activities.

The social partners discussed the possibility to join the OSHA Campaign, which was presented during the plenary meeting in May, and for which the working material has become available. Also for the woodworking sector, the main problem is the absence of sector-specific data on the occurrence of psycho-social risks. Several national approaches were presented: company visits (DK), self evaluations based on checklists (NL), a stress barometer (DE), and recognition in legislation (BE). A further discussion will be put on the agenda of the next plenary meeting.

7. AOB

- a) CEI-Bois reported on the Wood Action days that were held in the European Parliament to inform newly elected MEPs of the challenges for the Woodworking sector. On this occasion, MEPs received a copy of the Manifesto for the Woodworking sector mentioning key areas of attention for the industry.
- b) EFBWW suggested discussing the consequences of enlargement on social dialogue at one of the upcoming meetings. More in particular, the possibility to support e.g. capacity building of national social partner organisations in new member-states could be discussed, including the ways to finance this.
- c) The social partners discussed the idea to organise a joint thematic meeting with the Furniture sector in 2015. EFBWW will propose this in the upcoming WG meeting with EFIC and UEA.
- d) The Consultative Committee on Industrial Change (CCMI) of the European Economic and Social Committee published a preliminary draft opinion on the contribution of the woodworking sector to the carbon balance (CCMI/123). The contents of the opinion was criticised by some members of the CCMI, since it does not mention the paper sector, which has a higher production than the woodworking and furniture sectors together (in spite of the lower employment rate in the paper industry).

B) Vocational education and training (VET)

- 1. Welcome and opening of the meeting (N/A)**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda.** See point A2.
- 3. Adoption of the minutes of the Working Group meeting dd. 21 March 2014.**
See point A.3
- 4. Project : Demographic Change.**
CEI-Bois announced the final seminar of the project, taking place on 6 and 7 November next, where the final outputs of the project will be disseminated and discussed. A dedicated website will be made operational.
- 5. Bolster Up Project**
EFBWW presented the outcomes of the furniture sector project. More in particular, the "Handbook for European Furniture Professions", main output of the project, was presented. It contains country-related descriptions of qualifications for cabinet-maker and upholsterer; also the "European Core Profiles" for both professions have been included in the handbook. The ultimate aim is to agree on European Core Qualifications that are acceptable by national stakeholders. The EU social partners of the furniture industry intend signed a relevant "Memorandum of Understanding". CEI-Bois took note of the report.
- 6. Sector Skills Council.**
No progress to be reported in this dossier.
- 7. AOB**

The social partners discussed the possibility to address the Commission with a joint letter on the issue of wage setting mechanisms following the recommendations in the Country Specific Reports of the European Semester. CEI-Bois will consider co-signing such a joint letter.

Annexes :

- List of participants