



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Governance
Social dialogue

**PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE
FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY**

**15 December 2017
MINUTES**

Chair: Commission

1. Approval of the agenda – adoption of the minutes

The agenda and the minutes d.d. 16/12/2016 were adopted.

2. Presentation of AGM (DG EMPL)

DG EMPL informed the social partners of the features of the AGM (Advanced Gateway to Meetings) system, the on-line tool for managing invitations and reimbursements (presentation attached). industriAll complained that – in their view - an important workload volume was transferred from the Commission to the participants. In addition, the Commission was requested to look into a number of problems with registration of participants in the system. It also expressed concern about the possible loss of employment at the Commission side, following the introduction of the new registration tool.

3. Update on EU Social Dialogue and Social Pillar

DG EMPL informed the social partners of the latest stage in this dossier, namely the Social Summit in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017. industriAll repeated its claim for a more social Europe, and considered the Gothenburg summit merely a first step in the process, since the 20 priorities of the Social Pillar are described vaguely and will need implementation through the commitment of social partners. Also, Mr LEFEBVRE wondered what the added value of the Social Pillar would be without new legislation in the social area.

4. Report "Suppliers speak up"

The report produced by Ethical Trading Initiative Norway was presented by Mr ZIBELL (industriAll) as a practical guide with best practices regarding purchasing behaviour and its impact on working conditions and corporate social responsibility (presentation attached). industriAll believes that the document contains potential areas for common reflections by social partners. Mr LEFEBVRE pleaded for an open discussion in a cooperative spirit. For CEC, Ms ARIAS considered the report to be a good source of inspiration for SMEs. Mr SAGRIPANTI (CEC) pointed at the disadvantageous working conditions in SMEs which are of lesser importance for brands of the high-end range of shoes. Mr KREUZER described the report as a good analysis without the intention to "name and shame". He referred to the discussions on the "Change your Shoes" project which was far more problematic for the sector. In addition, he drew the attention to the CSR project of the textile social partners, which might be the basis for a footwear project

with the aim of enhancing its image. The social partners agreed to continue the discussions at a later stage, possibly involving other actors of the value chain (e.g. the commerce sector). The report is downloadable at :

<http://etiskhandel.no/noop/file.php?id=13481>

5. Cross-border and cross-sector collaboration : Opportunities for clusters in EU Regions

By way of introduction, Ms SOBCHAK (DG GROW) stated that many start-ups cease their activities in the first year after their creation. Cross-fertilisation by means of clusters can be a tool to avoid this phenomenon. She then provided the social partners with an overview of opportunities for regional cooperation. The Thematic Smart Specialisation Platform has the involvement of 64 regions up to now. The Innosup-1 cluster provides support for innovation in Horizon 2020 countries. The European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Smart Specialisation Investments (ESCPS), on the other hand, is aimed at cross-regional coordination actions in COSME countries, bringing regions together in order to develop regional strategies.

More information can be found using the following links :

<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/clusters/observatory>

<http://www.clustercollaboration.eu>

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/industrial-modernisation>

6. Discussion and approval of 2018 Work Programme

Ms ARIAS presented the draft work programme for 2018 which highlights the following priorities : development of EU social dialogue, skills and qualifications with a strong focus on EU projects, attractiveness of the sector, CSR, trade and EU industrial strategy. Mr LEFEBVRE welcomed the ambitions of the programme, but pleaded for a more long-term roadmap (covering 3-4 years), which would enable the committee to develop its priorities with a higher level of detail and ambition. Also, he suggested to be more concrete in the domain of attracting youngsters, developing a link with IT; Finally, he asked to delete the Blueprint project (sectoral cooperation on skills) from the items on skills, since industriAll is not involved in the project. He suggested, however, keeping that item as an info point on the agenda of the committee. Following a suggestion from Mr KREUZER on the CSR item, the footwear SSDC would see whether the Textile CSR risk management project could be adapted to the needs of the footwear sector. The social partners adopted the work programme, taking into account the modifications suggested by IndustriAll Europe on deleting the Blueprint.

7. Social Dialogue Project "Attracting new skilled workforce for quality jobs in the European footwear sector".

Ms DONDENA (Assocalzaturifici) presented the state of play of the project (presentation attached). Based on the results of the diagnostic phase, 4 best practices were selected for further implementation during the project : sectoral communication, technological development, mentorship and educational systems. The first communication campaign ("inmyshoes") was thus started in July 2017, and will make use of various dissemination means, including a young workers' day and a contest. Mr LEFEBVRE requested to explicitly foresee occasions for youngsters to intervene during the final conference, which is expected to be held in Padua.

8. Erasmus+ project "Skills 4 Smart TCLF Industries 2030"

Ms ARIAS informed the participants of approval of this project by the EU (presentation attached). The project is expected to start early 2018 for a duration of 48 months. industriAll is not among the 21 partners in the project.

8. AOB

The social partners were informed that unit EMPL.A.2 expects to publish its three calls for proposals (Support for Social Dialogue, Training and Education for Workers' organisations, Industrial Relations) in the first quarter of 2018.

- Annexes :
- List of participants
 - Presentation : "AGM"
 - Presentation : "EU Pillar for Social Rights"
 - Presentation : "Suppliers speak up report" (industriAll)
 - Presentation : "Cross- border and cross-sector collaboration: Opportunities for clusters in EU regions"
 - Presentation : "Attracting new skilled workforce for quality jobs in the European footwear sector"
 - Presentation : "Skills 4 Smart TCLF Industries 2030"