

Brussels, 17 February 2015

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE CONSTRUCTION
--

**Minutes of the Working Group Meeting
Health and Safety
13 November 2014 (14:00-17:00)**

Chairman: Mr Ulrik Spannow (EFBWW)

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chairman, Mr Ulrik Spannow (EFBWW), welcomed the participants. The draft agenda of the meeting was adopted.

32 participants are present, including 4 guests – one IALI, 2 Bilbao Agency, 1 Novotec-SP. The European Commission is not present at the meeting.

The secretariats reported about changes in the proceeding of the European sectorial Social Dialogue. In future, we will have only opportunities for one annual working party meeting for each thematic group. We will try to arrange a second meeting of each thematic group by other means.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 03.04.2014

The draft minutes of the previous meeting were adopted without any modifications.

3. ABClean project - Presentation by Angel Vincente from NOVOITEC institute in Spain gave a presentation on the aims, structure and status of the ABClean project. EFBWW is project partner but not FIEC.

The overall aim of the project is to increase the capacity of European countries to properly deal with the asbestos problem. More precisely the project aims at the development of an European certificate for an Asbestos Awareness Officer. It is foreseen to develop (on-line) training modules and tests to train persons in response of the health and safety organisation regarding asbestos. Target group of the project are not companies, professional removing asbestos.

Participants raised some critical questions during the following discussion of the presentation. Aspects of this discussion were, among others:

- What is the length of the single training modules and is the length appropriate?
- Why there is no link to European Directive 92/57
- Some unites of the training are mentioning only personal protective equipment but no other elements of the protection hierarchy
- Is it planned to sell the training?
- What makes the difference to other training certificates?

Regarding the evaluation and dissemination phase: why workers and labour inspectorates are not mentioned as stakeholders involved in this activity?

It was agreed to keep the Social Dialogue updated about the further progress of the project.

4. Strategic framework for European occupational safety and health (2014 – 2020) - Discussion

The Chairman Mr Ulrik Spannow gave an introduction into the item. He pointed out that for the last year we were missing a strategy for the important area of workplace safety and health but, now, we have a strategic framework for the years coming. He also underlined that this framework will be further discussed and maybe hanged by the European Parliament after the finalisation of the on-going assessment of the existing European legislative framework and by the Council of the European Union. The Chairman considers the paper as weak, as it is not pointing out precise actions planned for the coming period.

Having now the strategic framework, both social partner organisations can assess the document and we should consider a joint position on this document.

Mr Campogrande also welcomed the presentation of this strategic framework. He sees various positive aspects in this document, i.e. focusing on better implementation of the existing legislation, new risks, the demographic change, the special concerns of SMEs and other aspects. He proposed to wait until the presentation of the current evaluation of the legislative framework in 2016 before elaborating a new joint position paper.

Mr Gehring proposed to resend the old joint position paper on the expected “new OSH strategy” to the European Commission, mainly to draw the attention of the new Commissioner on our position and to show that we take our responsibilities in this policy area.

The participants agreed to resend the joint position paper to the European Commission, namely the Commissioner Ms Thyssen.

5. Well-being and psychosocial health in construction – Proposal and discussion of possible joint activities

The Chairman welcomes the on-going campaign of the OSH Agency in Bilbao and mentioned that the European Social Dialogue for the construction sector is, regarding psychosocial risks at the workplace, not starting from scratch. We have an old FIEC/EFBWW Joint Recommendation on psychosocial risks (2006) and latest research of the Dublin Foundation is showing that 80% of the managerial staff is considering the topic as highly relevant. He underlines the important role of collaboration between social partners on this tricky subject.

Mr Campogrande refers to some practical approach in Austria and pointed out some elements for joint action

- Research in existing methodologies
- Extracting joint elements in practical approaches
- Joint position

Ms Garcia Herguedas (FIEC) underlines the importance to learn how the various countries address the issue and to find best practices

Mr Gehring, additionally, proposed to consider some basic research, starting from the earlier research FIEC and EFBWW were undergoing in 2006, jointly with the CLR research network.

The Chairman concluded that the secretariats draw a few lines for a comprehensive joint activity approach. The outcome of the action is somewhat open but we will jointly work on the issue. As a next step, we will have some practical examples presented at the next meeting of the working party on occupational safety and health.

6. Joint projects - project on “Dissemination of the H&S Guide and the Asbestos Information Modules”

Mr Rolf Gehring (EFBWW) reported on the overall results of the project. The four regional as well as the final seminar in Brussels were very well participated. They provided a platform for networking and participants considered the two products (the Guide for the establishment of OSH Management Systems and the Asbestos Information Modules) were very useful.

Participants from both sides confirmed the positive response to the seminars. Participants considered possible follow-up activities, like the translation of the material into further languages, as possibly useful. However, both parties agreed to wait first for some more feedback from national levels and will then thoroughly consider possible joint action.

7. Joint projects Project on construction machines – draft project application - Discussion and approval

The chairman introduced this item by remembering various health and safety problems coming from (different type) of construction machinery and the previous activities of the European sectorial Social Dialogue.

The ad-hoc working party has met twice. The group discussed a first draft of a project description at the second meeting. This group shall amend this draft and then circulate the proposal in both organisations.

The overall aim of the project is to find technical solutions for various aspects of the workplace safety and health (safety in general, rear surveillance, quick couplers, ergonomic, emissions). For each topic, a one-day workshop shall be organized. The aim is to run these workshops jointly with the European machinery producer's organisation CECE.

8 Miscellaneous

- **EESC own opinion on asbestos**

The CCMI (Consultative Commission on Industrial Change), a sub-group of the European Economic and Social Committee, is preparing an own-opinion on asbestos. FIEC (Domenico Campogrande) as well as EFBWW (Rolf Gehring) are involved as external experts. The rapporteur of the CCMI Committee in the EESC is Mr. Plosceanu (Employers Group).

The drafted opinion is thematically comprehensive but is focussing on aspects like action plans for the safe removal of asbestos and the combination of measures regarding the energy efficiency of buildings and the removal of asbestos. Also aspects concerning the problems of asbestos victims are highlights. The EESC will adopted the opinion at its plenary meeting in February 2015.

9. Next meetings

The next meeting will take place on 4th March 2015 in the afternoon.