

Brussels, 17 July 2015

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE CONSTRUCTION
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Minutes of the Working Group Meeting

Health and Safety

4 March 2015 (14:30-17:00)

Chairwoman: Ms Cristina GARCIA HERGUEDAS (FIEC)

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chairwoman, Ms Garcia Herguedas (FIEC), welcomed the participants. The draft agenda of the meeting was adopted, with the addition of the ABClean project under point '9 Miscellaneous'.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 13.11.2014

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

3. Nano-Scaffold - Presentation of the project results and discussion

The Chairwoman emphasised both the potential of nanotechnologies to improve construction products, and the limited awareness regarding potential risks.

Mr López de Ipiña and Mr Haezebroeck reported on the 'Nano-Scaffold' project, launched in 2012 under the 7th Framework Programme. Its aim was to develop, validate and disseminate a cost effective Risk Management Model. The project produced a number of publications (handbook, toolkit, quick guides) which are available free of charge. In addition, the project managers aim to develop technical specifications for standardisation. The project managers invited the social partners to support them in dissemination, including at national level.

The subsequent discussion covered unknown risks to nanotechnologies, the precautionary principle, as well as the costs of technical specifications.

4. Assessment of the existing EU H&S legislation - Presentation of the on-going assessment and discussion (DG EMPL)

Mr Van Rie (European Commission) presented the state of play of the ex-post evaluation of the framework directive on Health and Safety and its 23 individual directives. Involvement of different stakeholders had been ensured during this exercise in particular the tripartite Advisory Committee for Safety and Health at Work (ACSH) set up a tripartite Working Party specifically for this purpose – and an Inter Service Steering Group with representatives from the Commission's different services are following a study undertaken by an independent contractor on the ex-post evaluation. National Implementation Reports including the views of social

partners had been drawn up and the independent study includes interviews with social partners at EU level (more than 20) and at national level (more than 200).

The Commission report will rely on 1) the national implementation reports 2) an independent study by an external consultant; and 3) Commission's own experience with these Directives. The evaluation aims at assessing the relevance of the legislation (are the aims of the Directives up to date in addressing workers' health and safety?), its effectiveness (are the Directives achieving what they set out to? What benefits and costs are associated with those achievements?) and its coherence (inconsistencies, overlaps, synergies between the Directives; interrelation with other EU measures covering aspects related to workers' health and safety). The final report (containing the reply to the evaluation questions, 24 Directive reports and 27 Country Summary Reports) is expected for June 2015.

Following the presentation, the social partners agreed to assess and possibly follow-up on the evaluation report through joint opinions.

5. Well-being and psychosocial health in construction - Presentation and discussion on examples from the national level

Mr D'Egidio (ANCE - FIEC) reported on the Italian legislation on the assessment of worked related stress risks. The legislation provides for (obligatory) preliminary assessments by employers, as well as in-depth assessments and corrective measures where relevant. The subsequent discussion focused on the role of social partners in consultative bodies, such as the Italian Permanent Consultative Commission for OSH, the Spanish 'Comisiones Obreras'.

Ms Garcia Herguedas (CNC - FIEC) reported on the European campaign 'Health Workplaces Manage Stress' launched by EU-OSHA, as well as on a Spanish assessment methodology based on surveys. Ms Garcia provided also information on techniques for (individual) stress management (make stress your friend).

The social partners envisaged a joint project, to be presented in 2016, addressing work-related aspects of stress and focussing on the promotion of good practices from a sector-specific angle. They agreed to develop a draft proposal at secretariat level during Autumn 2015.

6. Asbestos: CCMI report 130 of the EESC

Mr Plosceanu (European Economic and Social Committee and ARACO-FIEC) reported on the own-initiative opinion of the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI) on freeing the EU from asbestos. Thanking EFBWW and FIEC for close cooperation, Mr Plosceanu invited the social partners to the conference 'Freeing Europe safely from asbestos' on 24 June in Brussels. The social partners gladly accepted the invitation, and looked forward to further cooperation on the topic.

7. Social Dialogue work programme - Discussion and exchange of views on the next work programme

The social partners discussed the definition of the new multi-annual work programme to follow up on the programme covering 2012-2015. They agreed to liaise at secretariat level to produce a first draft by the summer of 2015, followed by

discussions in the second semester of 2015, in view of finalisation by the end of the year.

8. Project on Earth-moving machines on construction worksites – draft project application - Discussion and approval

The employers welcomed the draft proposal provided by EFBWW, indicating that they would provide detailed written comments. The social partners agreed to involve the Committee for European Construction Equipment, and submit the project for funding under the Commission's budget line 'Support for Social Dialogue' in 2015.

9. Miscellaneous

- Respirable Crystalline Silica

FIEC and EFBWW reiterated that they do not consider it appropriate to join the NEPSI agreement. They agreed to inform the NEPSI secretariat of their position.

- ABClean

Mr Gehring (EFBWW) called attention to the ABClean project, inviting social partners to comment on the training modules, to be circulated by EFBWW and FIEC secretariats.