



EUROPEAN SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN EDUCATION

Steering Committee, meeting 28 October 2010

Minutes

Chair: Mr David Simmonds (Chair EFEE)

1. Preparation for the Working Group meetings concerning Quality in education and Demographic challenges on 8 November

Orientation papers for these 2 Working Groups had been prepared jointly by the EFEE and ETUCE secretariats. Their goal is to provide guidance to the members of the Working Groups as regards the concrete objectives to be pursued and to inform them on the possible types of outcomes. The WGs should strive towards mutually agreed outcomes with real added-value. It was nevertheless stressed that one should be realistic as regards the ambitions for these WGs, notably in view of the diversity of EFEE members.

The orientation paper for Working Group 1 (Quality in education – WG1) was well received. It was agreed that the focus should be put on defining the general requirements which are to be met in order to develop a genuine "culture of evaluation" in schools, while avoiding conclusions of a too general nature.

The discussion on the orientation paper for Working Group 2 (Demographic challenges – WG2) led to a consensus that the focus should be on recruitment and retention issues in the light of workforce demographics. More general demographic issues, such as migration, are not to be covered by this WG. It was agreed that the title "Demographic challenges in the workforce" would better reflect the objectives of the WG. The secretariats were asked to revise the orientation paper in that sense. They were also requested to make an inventory of existing material on this topic (from ESTAT, OECD,...) as input for the WG's debate.

It was agreed that ETUCE and EFEE will take turns chairing WG1 and WG2 – the first meeting of WG1 will be chaired by ETUCE, the first meeting of WG2 by EFEE.

2. Consideration of the latest draft of the proposed Joint Declaration on investment in education

Even if ETUCE had not yet had the time to examine EFEE's revisions of the draft Joint Declaration in detail, the general orientation of the Declaration was discussed at length. While a number of elements will require further clarification and agreement on all elements will not necessarily be possible, all parties confirmed that sufficient common ground exists for taking the discussion forward – e.g.: both employers and workers have an interest in providing good quality education, which is impossible to achieve without appropriate funding.

It was agreed that ETUCE would send a new proposal to EFEE, on which basis the secretariats would work together towards an agreed text, if possible before Christmas. The ambition is to adopt the Joint Declaration at the next Plenary meeting (scheduled for 18 January 2011).

3. Preparation of the calendar of social dialogue meetings for 2011

The following provisional planning was agreed:

- Tuesday 18/01/2011: Plenary
- Tuesday 15/02/2011: WG3
- Monday 21/03/2011: WG1 and WG2
- Tuesday 22/03/2011: Steering Committee
- Wednesday 15/06/2011: WG3
- Tuesday 20/09/2011: WG1 and WG2
- Wednesday 21/09/2011: Steering Committee
- Thursday 06/10/2011: Plenary

The Commission stressed that these dates are not yet to be considered as final, as they still need to go through the Commission's internal planning process.

4. Consideration of the role of the Higher Education Working Group

There was broad consensus amongst the Committee members that the Working Group on Higher Education (WG3) should define its own agenda and priorities. The secretariats will nevertheless establish an orientation paper with a view to informing the discussion. The paper would be based on the conclusions of the Malta seminar for Employers in Higher Education and Research (May 2010) and a further consultation of EFEE's and ETUCE's members.

Although this should not be the primary focus of the WG, it was agreed that the meetings could provide an opportunity for gathering ideas on how to promote and strengthen social dialogue in Higher Education, notably on the employers' side.

List of participants 28/10/2010

<p><u>Employers</u></p> <p>EFEE</p> <p>Mr Gerhard KLASSEN (DE) Mr Michael MORIARTY (IE) Mr David SIMMONDS (UK) Ms Bianka STEGE (EU)</p> <p>4 employers representatives (1 woman, 3 men) (1 EU, 0 new MS, 3 old MS)</p>	<p><u>Workers</u></p> <p>ETUCE</p> <p>Ms Kounka DAMIANOVA (BG) Mr David POISSONNEAU (EU) Mr Martin ROMER (EU) Ms Ilse SCHAAD (DE) Mr Ronnie SMITH (UK)</p> <p>5 workers representatives (2 women, 3 men) (2 EU, 1 new MS, 2 old MS)</p>
<p><u>European Commission</u></p> <p>Mr Stefaan CEUPPENS (EMPL.F.1)</p>	