



EUROPEAN SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN EDUCATION

Plenary meeting

6 November 2014

Minutes

Chair: Michael Moriarty (EFEE)

1. Welcome, approval of the draft agenda; approval of the minutes of the plenary meeting of 29 September 2014

The draft agenda was approved.

The draft minutes of the meeting of 29 September would be adopted at the next meeting.

2. Keynote speech: The Strengthened cooperation between the Commission's education and training services and the European social partners in the field, including the ET2020 stocktaking

Youri Devuyt (YD) presented the state of play of the mid-term stocktaking of the ET2020 strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training, including some preliminary findings (see presentation in annex). He commended the "strengthened cooperation" of DG EAC with the European social partners (cross-industry and education sector) that had been launched in October 2013. In this context, the European social partners participated for the first time in the Council's Education Committee welcomed on 5 November.

3. Discussion on future priorities for Education and Training 2020

Bianka Stege (BS) and Agnes Roman highlighted the main elements of their organisations' respective contributions¹² to the stocktaking exercise.

Responding to delegates questions/remarks, YD explained that: professional development of teachers was and will remain one of the priority areas under ET2020; the recognition of non-formal and informal learning is one of the topics

¹ EFEE: http://www.educationemployers.eu/new/efee_position_on_future_focus_of_et2020_strategy/

² ETUCE/ETUC: <http://www.csee-etuice.org/images/attachments/positionET2020.pdf>

addressed in the context of the public consultation on the European Area for Skills and Qualifications³ (in the first half of 2014) and the ensuing conference (June 2014), on which basis the future orientations will be defined; the link between the EU-national-regional-local levels in the education field is obviously important, but also sensitive given the EU's limited competences in this domain; ET2020 is based on the premise that the more general, societal objectives of education and its labour market orientation can be jointly pursued.

The social partners expressed their wish to continue to be closely involved in the EU policy processes. In this context, YD referred to: the already mentioned participation in the Education Committee, the "strengthened cooperation", the ESSDE, and the ET2020 working groups.

4. The new structure of the European Commission under President Jean-Claude Juncker

Stefaan Ceuppens presented the structure of the new European Commission and highlighted a number of statements of President Juncker, Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Thyssen regarding social dialogue and the intention to "re-launch" it (see presentation in [annex](#)).

5. Presentation by ETUCE and EFEE secretariats on results of current projects and proposed future projects

Current projects:

a) Supporting early career researchers in higher education in Europe – and the role of employers and trade unions

BS provided a brief update of the progress of the project, announcing the closing conference on 21 November, where a possible joint ESSDE outcome will be discussed.

b) Professional autonomy, accountability and efficient leadership

The action, which included a literature review and 3 peer learning activities, will culminate in the final conference on 13 November. Here too, a joint ESSDE outcome will be considered.

Future projects:

c) European Sectoral Social Partners in Education promoting the potentials of their dialogue through knowledge transfer and training. The ESSDE capacity building project II

Referring to the work programme of the ESSDE, Alexandra Rüdig presented the main features of the project, which follows up to a first similar action, now targeting 8 other countries (7 EU Member States and 1 Candidate Countries). Social partners commended the good cooperation in the context of the first capacity building project.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/more_info/consultations/skills_en.htm

d) Social Partners Promoting Decent Workplaces in the Education Sector for a Healthier Working Life

Susan Flocken (SF) presented the objectives and main elements of the project, which aims amongst others at producing practical guidelines on how to promote joint social partner initiatives at national, regional, and local level to prevent and combat psychosocial hazards in education.

6. Taking stock of the developments of the joint ESSDE Work Programme 2014-2015

AR and BS expressed overall satisfaction with the evolution of the ESSDE, highlighting its contribution to better communication and mutual understanding and trust. Social partners are committed to engage further, as demonstrated by the joint projects they are undertaking.

AR expressed the hope that it would be possible to take the ESSDE to the "next level", deepening the debate, better promoting its outcomes, and striving for stronger outcomes. BS commented positively on the work done in the context of the joint projects, and proposed to reflect on how to make the committee meetings more (inter)active.

Session on “How education supports employment” and “Schools of the 21st century”

7. Discussion on what we as social partners can contribute to increase quality in education

Referring to the fast changing environment, Pat O'Mahony (Education and Training Boards Ireland) set forth his views on how education should change from a teaching-led to a learning-led model, enabling people to become lifelong learners, and for the teaching profession to become attractive again. The policy on the Continuum of Teacher Education, adopted by the Irish Teaching Council in 2011, attempts to contribute to this aim (see the text in [annex](#)).

Addressing the topic from a gender equality angle, as part of a more general push for quality in education, SF presented the practical guidelines that were elaborated in the context of an ETUCE project (see [annex](#)).

8. The European Social Fund 2014-2020 – Opportunities for social partners in education, with a particular focus on the Youth Employment Initiative, education and training, and active ageing

Marie-Anne Paraskevas explained the main elements of the 2014-2020 EU Cohesion Policy and the European Social Fund in particular. She developed notably the priorities related to youth, gender equality, active ageing (see presentation in [annex](#)).

9. **AOB**

None.

Annexes

- Point 2 – Presentation ET 2020 Stocktaking & Joint Report
- Point 4 – Presentation The new European Commission
- Point 7 – Presentation Pat O'Mahony, ETBI
- Point 7 – Practical guidelines gender equality (EN, FR)
- Point 8 – Presentation EU Cohesion Policy – ESF

List of participants 06/11/2014

<u>Employers</u>	<u>Workers</u>
<p>EFEE Ms Ulla AHLBLAD-BORDI (FI) Ms Franciska AL-MANSOUR (SI) Ms Sarah KIK (EU) Ms Maija MÄNTYLÄ (FI) Mr Joseph MICALLEF (MT) Mr Michael MORIARTY (IE) Mr Pat O'MAHONY (IE) Ms Nina PÄRSSINEN (FI) Ms Nives POCKAR (SI) Ms Maria PONTIERI (IT) Mr Ioannis SAVVIDES (CY) Mr David SIMMONDS (UK) Mr Laszlo SOMOGYI (HU) Ms Bianka STEGE (EU)</p> <p>14 employers representatives (8 women, 6 men) (2 EU, 5 EU-13, 7 EU-15)</p>	<p>ETUCE Mr Mathias ASTROM (SE) Ms Alexandra CORNEA (RO) Ms Piroska GALLO (HU) Ms Nina LAHTINEN (FI) Ms Susan FLOCKEN (EU) Ms Monika KONCZYK (PL) Mr John MACGABHANN (IE) Mr Sandi MODRIJAN (SI) Ms Claudie PAILLETTE (FR) Ms Vaike PARKEL (EE) Mr Igor RADEKA (HR) Mr Lasse RASMUSSEN (EU) Mr Claude RIES (LU) Ms Alexandra RÜDIG (EU) Mr Joaquim SANTOS (PT) Mr Stefanos SAVVA (CY) Ms Juraj STODOLOVSKY (SK) Ms Ilze TRAPENCIERE (LV)</p> <p>CESI Ms Aurélie QUINTIN (EU)</p> <p>EPSU -</p> <p>19 workers representatives (11 women, 8 men) (3 EU, 9 EU-13, 6 EU-15)</p>
<p><u>European Commission</u> Mr Stefaan CEUPPENS (EMPL.B.1) Mr Youri DEVUYST (EAC.A.1 – Education and training in Europe 2020 governance) Ms Marie-Anne PARASKEVAS (EMPL.E.1 – ESF Policy and Legislation)</p>	