



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue
Social dialogue, Industrial Relations

SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE
CONTRACT CATERING

DRAFT Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting
7 February 2014

1. Opening and welcome of Participants

Cristina Freitas da Costa opened the meeting and apologised on behalf of Mr Storey who could not attend the meeting.

2. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved without modifications.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the Steering Committee on 12 September 2013 and of the Plenary 2013

The minutes were approved. Following the comments received to the minutes of the 2013 plenary meeting, Dauphinelle Clement mentioned she had prepared a final consolidated version of the minutes and would send it to the social partners.

4. Corporate Social Responsibility

- Revision and update of the CSR agreement

Cristina Freitas da Costa introduced the work of the social partners on the revision and update of the CSR agreement.

She pointed out that the draft prepared by EFFAT after the Steering Committee meeting in September 2013 reflects perfectly what has been discussed, she only suggested some minor formal changes to the text proposed and is just waiting for confirmation from the FoodServiceEurope Board concerning the extension of the CSR agreement to environmental protection. Rafaël Nedzynski informed that the text proposed on environmental protection had been taken from the EFFAT-FERCO Vocational Training Agreement signed in 1999. Cristina Freitas da Costa noted that although the text is the same, since the context is different FoodServiceEurope Board members have been asked to consider the new text. This issue will be discussed during the Board meeting in March.

For these purposes, Cristina Freitas da Costa identified two questions that would perhaps benefit from additional clarification:

- Are there concrete actions that we are engaging to adopt?
- What does the sentence "*Measures taken in contract catering enterprises in order to improve the environmental protection should also contribute whenever practicable to the improvement of the working environment*" mean in practice?

To the first question, Rafaël Nedzynski replied that the purpose is mainly to look for good practices and examples to be shared. To the second one, Rafaël Nedzynski noted that one of the purposes is to encourage environmental protection measures that do not compromise the working conditions (for example, if in order to save energy the lighting provided is too weak that might degrade the working conditions to an unacceptable level, while other options might be better alternatives to attain the same objectives) It can also touch upon subjects like waste management, avoiding any toxic effect for the workers at the working place, etc.

Kerstin Howald asked whether content wise we want to enrich the agreement as we agreed during last meeting, or whether the annual reports would be kept separately and the recommendations for future action be identified therein. For example, for gender equality, a separate joint recommendation could be elaborated, following the discussions during the Plenary meeting. Cristina Freitas da Costa agreed to make a separate joint recommendation. Mr Nedzynski suggested adding also some text about antidiscrimination.

It was agreed that EFFAT will prepare a draft conclusion report on equal opportunities and FoodServiceEurope will ask its members for agreement on the new environmental protection section of the CSR agreement.

- Selection of focus topics for implementation and reporting in 2014

As suggested during the Plenary meeting, the focus topic for CSR reporting in 2014 would be health and safety at work. Mr Nedzynski suggested including stress at work as part of the topic for 2014. Kerstin Howald underlined that we should not have a too narrow approach: it is the first time that the SSDC works on Health and Safety at work. She proposed to ask the SSDC members which are the main issues regarding H&S.

Mr Nedzynski said the risks are mainly the same in all Member States and they are known. Our aim should not be to report on the risks themselves, but rather on prevention processes and best practices. He added that INRS made in France an in depth analysis of risks. He proposed to send the document to the secretariats so this can be used as background information.

It was agreed Mr Nedzynski would draft a list of topics to be covered in the questionnaire concerning procedures and prevention actions. On that basis, Cristina Freitas da Costa will prepare a draft questionnaire.

Cristina Freitas da Costa proposed that a draft questionnaire for EFFAT – FoodServiceEurope members should be ready for discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting in May 2014; we need to send it out before the summer in order to ensure we have received the replies ahead of the Steering Committee meeting in September where we will be able to finalize the presentation of conclusions of the survey and of best practices at the SSDC Plenary meeting in October.

Dauphinelle Clément proposed to launch an OIRA project for the contract catering sector (OSHA tool: Online Interactive Risk Assessment). She informed that OSHA was looking for candidates to launch an OiRA tool in 2014. Funds will be available to develop this tool. Dauphinelle Clément proposed to the secretariats to get directly in touch with the project manager responsible in OSHA

5. Modernisation of Public Procurement – State of affairs of the review of the directive

- **Update and further communication actions**

Cristina Freitas da Costa made a rapid state of play on legislative procedure on the revised public procurement directive. The Coreper has already decided the text to adopt. It should be formally adopted at Council meeting (competitiveness) on 20-21 February 2014. EFFAT and FoodServiceEurope agreed that they would send a Press release to all Member States' representations, as well as to their respective press contacts on the day of formal adoption by the Council.

To the text prepared by FoodServiceEurope, Cristina Freitas da Costa proposed to add an additional reference to the need for Member States to adopt at national level a definition of what is an “abnormally low tender”. This is a point of importance that was deleted from the Commission’s proposal during the trilogue negotiations.

- **The economically most advantageous offer in Contract catering at national and EU level, including contacts with mayors of various European cities**

In view of the difficulty of identifying and contacting the relevant persons responsible for the procurement of services in each city, Mr Nedzynski suggested we contacted the European association of municipalities in order to establish contact and disseminate the Guide through that network. This suggestion was welcomed and Cristina Freitas da Costa volunteered to pursue this point.

6. Feasibility of undertaking a joint project in 2014

Cristina Freitas da Costa informed that the FoodServiceEurope Board was not in favour of using our resources for capacity building and suggested a joint project focussing on measures to promote the attractiveness of the contract catering sector and highlighting the job and career opportunities in the sector. While capacity building is very relevant, in the identified countries there are still no trade associations in place and in the employer's view it is not yet the right moment to engage in capacity building with the social partners. Kerstin Howald stated that capacity building can be of interest as well for the attractiveness and the competitiveness of the sector. EFFAT was not in favour of the FoodServiceEurope alternative proposal of an action to promote the value of job opportunities in the contract catering sector; any action in this field would need to ensure that employers also strive to actually improve the working conditions in the sector, otherwise it would just be a PR campaign.

As no agreement could be found on the selected topic, it was agreed to put it for discussion in the next Steering Committee meeting in May 2014. In between, EFFAT and FoodServiceEurope will discuss the point internally with their members.

7. Other items on the Work Programme 2014

- Fight against obesity / participation of FoodServiceEurope in the EU platform

Cristina Freitas da Costa informed that FoodServiceEurope’s commitments to the EU Platform, including the joint EFFAT-FoodServiceEurope commitment, will expire in 2014. FoodServiceEurope members have started a reflexion on follow-up commitments. In line with the EU Platform’s evolution and new requirements, future commitments will need to be more concrete and targeted, which may prove difficult to achieve given the nature of FSE’s association.

8. AOB and conclusions

EFFAT reiterated its interest in participating to one of the next Food Service Round Table meetings with FoodServiceEurope’s associate members in Brussels, as discussed earlier with FoodServiceEurope President, Norbert Hummel. Cristina Freitas da Costa replied that she will discuss internally and would look for a topic that could be of common interest.

Dauphinelle Clément reminded participants of the importance of significant attendance of the meetings, the Commission might question the commitment to social dialogue, if no employers’ representatives show up.

The group concluded the meeting by reminding that the date for the next meeting is the 23 May 2014.

List of participants – Contract Catering Social Dialogue Committee
Steering Committee meeting – 7 February 2014

Employers

Ms Freitas de Costa (FoodServiceEurope)

Workers

Ms Howald (EFFAT)

Mr Nedzynski (EFFAT / FGTA-FO, France)

European Commission

Ms Clément (DG EMPL)