

**Minutes of the working group of the
Social Dialogue Committee for the Construction Sector
on "Initial and continuing vocational training"
Brussels, 12.02.2008**

Mr Lair (FFB - FIEC), the executive chairman of this meeting, welcomed the participants and asked Mr Perri (ANCE - FIEC), chairman, to take the floor. Mr Perri addressed his welcome to the participants. He stressed the necessity to work on training topics and the fact that training is also among the EU priorities.

He mentioned the RE.FORM.E.'s network conference in June in Gijon and invited the working group to participate.

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 13/09/2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 13/09/2007 were approved unanimously.

2. Social Partner Projects in the field of vocational training

- EQF (European Qualifications Framework)

(Slides are joined to the minutes)

Mr Bernd Garstka – (Berufsförderungswerk der Bauindustrie -FIEC), referred to the presentation he had given at the last meeting and added that this project has since been accepted by DG EAC and will therefore be co-financed. He gave a short presentation concerning the ongoing work on the project and mentioned in particular two conferences to be held.

Mr Campogrande (FIEC) emphasized that input is needed from other countries and that discussions should continue within the framework of the social dialogue.

Mr Coillot (CGT – EFBWW) highlighted the willingness to take part in the working process but insisted that there were problems due to the differences in languages.

- "Bricklayer"- application for a grant

Mr Gehring (EFBWW) gave a short overview of the actual state of affairs. The application was not yet finalized but this could be achieved by the end of the month (deadline for applications). Ms Clarke (University of Westminster – EFBWW) stressed that preparatory work had been done and a network had been established, and that there existed already a draft. Mr Campogrande (FIEC) regretted that the description of the project had not been forwarded to FIEC in due course and that therefore more time would be necessary to discuss this project internally.

Mr Garstka (HDB) pointed out that it would be good to combine the two projects. The EQF project was a low-budget one and it would be essential to get inputs from other projects. After some discussion the chair proposed that the EFBWW send the description of the project and the application form to FIEC by the end of this week. Depending on the comments from its members, FIEC will confirm in due course its position regarding a possible participation in the project. The participants agreed this procedure (*Note : in the meantime FIEC has confirmed its willingness to participate in the project and a request for funding has been introduced by EFBWW in due course*).

3. European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training – ECVET

(Slides are joined to the minutes)

Mr Aribaud (European Commission, DG EAC, B5) gave a presentation on ECVET, a tool created to support Life Long Learning and to make learning contents comparable. In the following discussion he pointed out that ECVET and EQF could complement each other. Because of different systems and different situations within the Member States, there existed different levels for professions in several sectors, as i.e. in construction. The harmonization would take quite a lot of time. It would be essential not to mix up the instruments and the harmonization itself.

Whereas EUROPASS was an instrument of transparency concerning qualifications and competences of individuals, the ECVET tool was created for the codification within the framework of mobility. The EUROPASS should be used to support ECVET.

4. Activities in the area of vocational training

- Activities in Portugal on the elaboration of a National Qualification Framework in the construction sector (presentation by FEPI COP)

(Slides are joined to the minutes)

Mr Mourato (FEPI COP – FIEC) presented the 2007 Reform of the Portuguese National Qualification/Skills Certification System and its instruments.

- The European projects RE.FORM.E/CoPilote/Q-case on vocational training.

Ms Martino (ANCE/Formedil – FIEC) presented the RE.FORM.E- network, which is a network organised on a voluntary basis to improve the mobility of workers and trainers and to exchange ideas about good practices. There exist three types of projects:

- a) methodology of trainers
- b) work on tutors
- c) innovation – sectoral skills framework for the construction sector

Ms Martino referred to the Gijon Conference which will take place on 26/27 June and presented the draft programme (attached to the minutes). It was agreed that – would the working group attend – the preparatory meeting could be scheduled on 26 June in the evening, and the participation of the social dialogue working group on 27 June in the morning.

The deadline for registration is 24/03/2008.

5. EFBWW-FIEC work programme 2008 – 2011

Mr Campogrande (FIEC) indicated that the FIEC SOC-1 “Vocational training” sub-commission progressed on the discussions regarding two items that are apart of the FIEC-EFBWW work programme, namely :

- a) Thematic visits: Rumania, Sweden and Portugal are ready to organize such visits; FIEC would prepare the themes/aspects of the visits. The financing would have to be discussed in June.
- b) To attract young people, computer games should be created, to demonstrate what the construction sector is, how it works, etc. Examples are already available on the French employers' website.

Information on the progresses achieved on these 2 issues will be given at the next meeting.

6. Any other business

The chair thanked all participants, in particular those who had prepared papers and presentations, as well as the interpreters.

7. Next meeting:

Gijon, 27.6. 2008; preparatory meeting 26.6.2008 in the afternoon

ANNEX

Slides EQF, Mr Garstka

Slides EQVET, Mr Aribaud

Slides Portuguese System, Mr Mourato

Draft Programme Gijon-Conference, Ms Martino