



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

Brussels, 14 April 2014

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
CONSTRUCTION**

**Minutes of the Working Group Meeting
Health and Safety
3 April 2014 (14:00-17:00)**

Chairwoman: Ms Cristina GARCIA HERGUEDAS (FIEC)

1. Welcome and introduction

The chairwoman, Ms Cristina Garcia Herguedas (FIEC), welcomed the participants. The draft agenda of the meeting was adopted, with a change in the order of the agenda points.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 10.09.2013

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

3. Skin diseases in the construction industry - Presentation by a representative of "EU Cost Action". Discussion on possible joint activities

Dr Jelena MACAN (Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, Croatia) presented the EU-COST Action '*Development and Implementation of European Standards on Prevention of Occupational Skin Diseases (StanDerm)*'. Dr Macan provided quantitative data on the prevalence of occupational skin diseases, including specific data for the construction sector in a number of Member States. Major risk factors included exposure to chemical substances and allergens (chromate in cement; rubber gloves; epoxy resin systems); solar UV radiation and mechanical or thermal exposure. In addition, Dr Macan provided information on the EADV project, which links academics, EU-OSHA and social partners to raise awareness and exchange information.

During the discussion, the social partners considered perspectives for joint activities, taking into account limited resources. Mr Campogrande (FIEC) suggested the possibility of pursuing joint work on prevention (similar to prior project 'information modules on asbestos'). The social partners agreed to further explore cooperation on the issue and continue their discussions at their next meeting.

In view of possible joint projects, the Commission (Mr Tim Van Rie) announced a number of changes in the 2014 call for proposals supporting social dialogue. These include a clear distinction between social dialogue and industrial relations projects, the possibility for longer project duration and higher co-financing rates.

4. SCAFFOLD project (nano-technologies) - Presentation and discussion

Mr Benoît Hazebrouck (EU-VRI) and Mr Raul Pina Zapardiel (Acciona) presented the SCAFFOLD project '*Innovative strategies, methods and tools for occupational risks management of manufactured nanomaterials in the construction industry*'. The project managers noted that increasing use of nanomaterials in construction sector poses challenges for safety, due to the large number of stakeholders throughout product lifecycle. The aim of the SCAFFOLD project is to develop, validate and disseminate a new holistic, consistent and cost effective Risk Management Model (RMM) by mid-2015.

During their discussion, the social partners considered the role of risk assessment, and legislation, information flows from manufacturers throughout the value chain. The SCAFFOLD partners invited FIEC and EFBWW to participate in a review of key documents, and to be closely involved in dissemination. EFBWW and FIEC looked forward to their involvement in the project and to its results.

5. Well-being and psychosocial health in construction - Presentation of national best practices - Discussion on possible joint activities, including partnership in the OSHA campaign 2014- 2015

Mr Gerd Albracht (International Association of Labour Inspection) reported on campaigns and best practices on wellbeing and psychosocial health at national level (including Germany and a number of French companies). In addition, Mr Albrecht drew attention on the European campaign 'Healthy Workplaces, Manage Stress' 2014-5 by EU-OSHA.

EFBWW invited FIEC to develop a joint project on well-being and psychosocial health, to be submitted for funding under the Commission's social dialogue budget line. The employers indicated that there were different views on psychosocial risks. They proposed to exchange information at secretariat level and come back to this in Autumn 2014.

6. Joint projects Project on "Dissemination of the H&S Guide and the Asbestos Information Modules"

Mr Rolf Gehring (EFBWW) reported on the progress of the project, which aims to disseminate the social partners' jointly developed tools on Health and Safety Guide and Asbestos. The main activities include regional seminars in Central and Eastern Europe, translation and reprinting of the asbestos information modules.

7. Miscellaneous

- New EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020

Mr Van Rie (Commission) informed the committee that further information on the Strategic Framework would be announced by the end of April 2014. Mr Ulrik Spannow (EFBWW) invited FIEC to jointly analyse and evaluate the forthcoming initiative, in view of possible joint positions.

- Safety with earth-moving machinery (Working group)

Mr Gehring (EFBWW) reported that the working group was in the process of exchanging information and establishing its agenda.

- Any Other Business

Mr Spannow (EFBWW) proposed to add a point to the agenda of the next meeting: an up-date regarding the on-going joint project by EFBWW and FIEC on social identity cards, with a focus on health and safety aspects.

8. Next meetings

The Chairwoman informed the participants that the next meeting was scheduled for 13 and 14 November, subject to confirmation.