



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Governance
Social dialogue

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEES FOR “WOODWORKING” AND “FURNITURE”

16 November 2018
Steering group meeting
MINUTES

Chair : Commission.

Present : Rolf GEHRING (EFBWW), Jean-Marie BRANSTETT (FO Construction France), Patrizio ANTONICOLI (CEI-Bois), Silvia MELEGARI (EOS), Roberta DESSI (EFIC), Giorgia MURGIA (EFIC), Kees HOOGENDIJK (CBM), Martin PAVLIS (UEA), David PAVLIS (ACN), Danny SCHEERLINCK (EMPL.A.2)

1. Adoption of the agenda - Background

The agenda was adopted. The chair explained that the meeting was convened in order to discuss practical details on the organisation of a “Wood Dust Conference”. The EU social partners of the “Woodworking” and “Furniture” sectors asked for the organisation of this conference in their letter dd. 17 July 2018 addressed to Commissioner Thyssen, referring to the new limit values for hardwood dust in the revised Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (CMD).

2. Preliminary discussion on agenda points

- EFBWW sees links between the woodworking, furniture and carpentry (construction) sectors/professions. The new limit values for wood dust have an impact on these three domains, and the conference should take it into account. Hence, many stakeholders are involved in the implementation. Machinery and prevention should also be discussed. For EFBWW, the most efficient way to organise this is to set up two parallel sessions during the conference.
- For CEI-Bois, the measurement of wood dust is the most important issue. EOS emphasised that the voice of the industry should be heard; more in particular, the concerns of micro-enterprises and private family companies in coping with the costs of implementation should be on the agenda.
- EFIC asks to put the focus also on the level playing field in the implementation of the limit values, both at employers’ as at employees’ level.
- UEA shares the view of the other employers’ organisations, i.e. to organise one single session where all subjects will be discussed.
- To conclude, the social partners agreed to organise a single session with +/- 4 agenda blocks. Possible agenda items :
 - Measurement methodology

- Level playing field in implementation for employers and employees; challenges for SMEs.
- Health effects of wood dust – newest scientific knowledge (proposed by EFBWW)
- Good practices / technical state of the art: prevention, machinery, innovation, cleaning, risk of explosions.
- Networking, possibly with other sectors.

4. Possible dates.

The social partners recognised the need to use 2018 funds for the conference. However, with a view to guaranteeing high quality of agenda points, participants and speakers, they could not agree with the Commission' proposal to organise the conference in the first quarter of 2019.

The following dates were thus proposed :

- 16 May 2019, i.e. back-to-back with the “Furniture” SSDC plenary meeting.
- 4 or 6 June 2019 as second option.

5. Logistical arrangements

- Social partners foresee 100 participants who would need to travel to Brussels. In addition, 20 Brussels-based participants would be invited (Commission officials, MEPs, etc...). Hence, a meeting room for maximum 120 persons will be needed.
- Space is needed to organise some kind of networking and presentation of brochures, handheld machinery and videos on best practices in preventing wood dust. Either a separate break-out room or a spacious lobby, near to the room for the coffee breaks.
- The meeting should start early in the morning : registration as from 8.30, start of the meeting at 9.00. End of the conference should allow all participants to return the same day.

6. Distribution of tasks – next steps

- Unit EMPL.A.2 (Social Dialogue) will sign order form with travel agency and conference organiser.
- Social partners will organise meeting with EMPL.B.3 (Health and Safety) in order to discuss details on agenda, participants and speakers.
- Social partners will provide unit EMPL.A.2 with a complete list of participants and their contact details. Unit EMPL.A.2 will forward the list to travel agency and conference organiser, who will contact participants in order to arrange their flights and hotel bookings.