

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEES FOR FURNITURE

Plenary meeting - 23 May 2023

Hybrid & European Commission, A. Borschette Centre, Room 3A,

36 rue Froissart, 1040 Brussels

DRAFT MINUTES

Simultaneous interpretation: English, French and Italian

Chair : EFIC

1.1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

1.2. Adoption of minutes of 6 February 2023

The minutes were adopted.

1.3. Skills

a) European year of skills

DG EMPL gave a presentation on the European Year of Skills. EFIC asked what particular actions social partners can take in this context. DG EMPL policy officer gave examples, please see slides.

b) Construction industry transition pathway

An official from DG Grow, Unit „Construction” presented the Construction Industry Pathway.

EFBWW asked how and who will monitor and follow up the implementation of the industry pathway. She made also a comment about the fact the a dedicated industry pathway for the forest-based industries would be needed. She criticized that it is unfortunate that the forest-based industries are incorporated in the pathway for construction.

Link to the [transition Pathway for Construction](#)

The chair thanked for the presentation and mentioned that the transition pathways are very broad and difficult to implement in practice.

1.4. Follow up of expert meeting 13 February 2023 on skills and VET

EFBWW reported from the SSDC Wood, which took place the day before on 22nd May, where CEI-Bois proposed a joint document with the social partners from the woodworking and furniture sector stating their commitment to continue working on the topic and possible follow up activities.

EFBWW suggested to develop activities on Erasmus+ and to develop a memorandum of understanding based on the result of the Bolster Up project. Further, he suggested another dedicated meeting on a specific topic since the event of the 13th February proved to a successful format of cooperation.

EFIC mentioned that the topic of skills and labour shortages could be tackled more broadly in a joint paper, ideally providing recommendations on how to tackle both sectors' skills and labour shortages needs.

1.5. Circularity in the furniture sector

The topic was not dealt with due to lack of time.

1.6. Representativeness study

The official from Eurofound reported on the state of play of the report. The first draft of the report is ready. He informed about the next consultation steps until summer. After summer the report will be officially published.

1.7. Social dialogue review

EU official from, DG Employment, Unit "Social Dialogue" presented the two initiatives:

- Commission communication on "Strengthening social dialogue in the European Union: harnessing its full potential for managing fair transitions"
- Draft Council recommendation on "Strengthening social dialogue in the European Union"

The draft council recommendation is expected to be adopted by Council during the Swedish Presidency, by end of June.

EFBWW expressed high discontent with the consultation process around the proposed changes on the management, financing and administration of sectoral social dialogue meetings. She understands that DG Employment and especially the unit "Social dialogue" have limited power to alter the decision taken on higher level in the Commission. Therefore, is it a problem that valuable time is lost which is needed to establish political pressure of the social partners.

1.8. Projects

A colleague from AMBIT gave a presentation on ongoing and future project proposals relevant for social partners.

1.9. AOB and closure

The EU policy officer presented himself. He will take over from previous committee EU policy officer from 1st June.