

European Social Dialogue for Industrial Cleaning Sector Work Programme 2023 – 2024

UNI Europa and the EFCI (European Cleaning and Facility Services Industry) are the Social Partners in the European Sectoral Dialogue Committee for Industrial Cleaning (the “Industrial Cleaning SSDC”). Since the establishment of a SSDC in 1999, the Social Partners of the Industrial Cleaning sector have dedicated themselves to improving the recognition of the sector and its workforce.

UNI Europa and the EFCI believe that social dialogue and collective bargaining can ensure equitable and sustainable solutions for business and workers. Thus, EFCI and UNI Europa will deepen their cooperation and social dialogue with the view of enhancing social partners’ capacity at national and EU-level.

During the Covid-19 crisis across Europe, the EFCI and UNI Europa played an important role in developing this agenda and advancing employers and employees’ role in safeguarding public health.

The EFCI and UNI Europa continue to call on public and private buyers of cleaning services to apply the principles and methodologies set in the Best Value Guide, jointly developed in the framework of the European Social Dialogue and co-funded by the European Commission. Applying the principles set in the Guide will ensure high social standards as well as the service quality in the selection of cleaning services. This will be accompanied with further joint work on the issues of public procurement, TUPE and collective bargaining.

In 2022, EFCI and UNI Europa have signed a new joint statement on daytime cleaning. It calls on the European institutions to implement daytime cleaning and continuous shifts for their cleaners. The health consequences for cleaners working during the night or irregular hours are disastrous. Building on this statement, the social partners will develop follow-up activities on daytime cleaning.

The Year of Skills (2023) was officially proposed by the European Commission in October 2022. The Year will act as an impetus for lifelong learning, creating a new momentum to reach the EU 2030 social targets of at least 60% of adults in training every year, and at least 78% in employment. The Industrial Cleaning Social Partners’ participation will ensure that the cleaning profession is part of the EU-wide discussion.

I. Public Procurement & TUPE

Objectives:

- Promotion of quality-based and social criteria in public procurement
- Advancing the visibility of the Sectoral Social Dialogue at the EU and national level
- Promotion of good and promising TUPE examples

Deliverables:

- Joint Statement on Public Procurement & Collective Bargaining

- Presentation of national experiences & case law at SSDC meetings
- Finalisation of PROCUF AIR Research Project

II. Daytime Cleaning

Objectives:

- Promote the sector as a key service and cleaners as key workers
- Follow-up to the Joint Declaration on Daytime Cleaning
- Improved intelligence and knowledge of the impact on working patterns and conditions

Deliverables:

- Joint public communications on the benefits of daytime cleaning
- Joint Proposal for a EU fact-finding and research project on the impact of daytime cleaning
- Joint meeting on daytime cleaning

III. Training and Skills

Objectives:

- Promote quality in-person training with social partner input
- Gather best practices on digital skills needs and training
- Promote professionalism and career advancement through skills recognition and certification of qualifications in the sector

Deliverables:

- Implementation the SK-Clean II Project
- Develop guidelines by the SSDC, based on the SK-Clean and RETAIN project's recommendations
- Organise an exchange on training systems, skills needs and social partner involvement in training

About the EFCI & UNI Europa:

The EFCI is the voice of the European cleaning and facility services industry in Europe, bringing together associations representing the industry at national level. The cleaning and facility services sector is one of the major services industries in Europe, representing more than 283,000 companies employing 4.1 million people.

UNI Europa is the European Trade Union Federation for 7 million service workers. It speaks for the sectors that constitute the backbone of economic and social life in Europe. Headquartered in the heart of Brussels, UNI Europa represents 272 national trade unions in 50 countries, including: Commerce, Banking Insurance and Central Banks, Gaming, Graphical and Packaging, Hair and Beauty, Information and Communication Technology Services, Media, Entertainment and Arts, Postal Services and Logistics, Private Care and Social Insurance, Industrial Cleaning and Private Security, Professional Sport and Leisure, Professionals/Managers and Temporary Agency Workers.

Signed, Brussels 16 March 2023