



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change
Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations

Minutes of the working group of the Social Dialogue Committee for the Construction Sector on "Initial and continuing vocational training" Bruxelles, 25 November 2010

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mr Lair (FIEC), who will be the chairman, opens the meeting and welcomes the participants.

He reads out the agenda which is adopted.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 11/02/2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2010 are approved unanimously.

3. The new Life Long Learning (LLL) Programme – Perspectives for vocational training

The European Commission has launched an open consultation on the LLL program. The EFBWW will provide its affiliated members with the questionnaire; FIEC will answer to the questionnaire as an organization. The deadline will be 30 November. The results of the consultation will be discussed within the sectoral social dialogue committee.

Mr Gehring (EFBWW) presents the Commission Communication "An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs" and the CEDEFOP "Skills for Green Jobs".

His presentation can be downloaded here:

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/empl/sectoral_social_dialogue/library?l=/construction/2010/20111125_arbeitsprogramm/20101125_skills/_EN_1.0_&a=d

Mr Campogrande (FIEC) explains that these documents have not yet been examined in depth by FIEC; this will be a topic for the year to come. He suggests examining the different existing documents ("European sectoral skills councils", "An agenda for new skills and jobs", etc) and to exchange the different points of view. FIEC and EFBWW agree to put the "European sectoral skills councils" on the agenda for the next working group meeting in order to examine what already exists at the national level and what has been done in other sectors, to discuss possible joint actions on the basis of a joint common questionnaire.

Mr Perri (FIEC) insists upon the necessity for training measures for workers coming from third countries with the aim of reducing undeclared labour. Mr Kus (EFBWW) insists upon the need for a clear definition of "self-employment". Mr Campogrande (FIEC) makes reference to the study on self-employment and bogus self-employment and the need for some forms of flexibility because of the specificities of construction activity; he explains that it is very important, but very difficult, to reach clear definitions at the European level. He adds that the "Employment" working group is discussing possible joint actions in order to fight against bogus self-employment.

4. FP 7 Project: Green Jobs in 2030

- Presentation by Mr Philippe Morvannou (Syndex)

Mr Gehring (EFBWW) apologizes for the absence of Mr Morvannou who is in Romania and presents briefly the project "Green Jobs in 2030". The goal of this project is to create a tool which would make it possible to predict what future skills are expected in 2030 concerning three sectors (construction, forestry and metal) in different regions. He suggests inviting Mr Morvannou to the next SSDC working group meeting. FIEC agrees.

Mr Perri (FIEC) points out that the development of such a tool could be very useful in helping the construction industry to promote innovation.

5. Joint EFBWW-FIEC Bricklayer project

- Ms Linda Clarke, University of Westminster

Ms Linda Clarke (University of Westminster) gives a short overview about the project:

In the framework of this Leonardo-da-Vinci project eight national reports (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom) have been established and presented at the specific webpage – www.bricklayer-llp.eu. For some countries translated longer reports are available.

The synthesis report compares the different systems and presents the conclusions, what is comparable, what is not. The participants to the meeting are provided with the printed version of the publication "Bricklaying is more than Flemish bond", including the transnational synthesis report, short country portraits and some further contributions.

Mr Campogrande (FIEC) thanks Ms Clarke and the other authors, all the project partners and the EFBWW for their work and the excellent results. He explains that this study was originally seen as a complement to the SQF (Sectoral Qualifications Framework) and a way to combine the different tools. It was started with the "bricklayers", thinking it would be a "cosy" subject - which was not the case because of the sometimes significant differences between countries.

Ms Repellin (FIEC) points out that the graphs are very interesting, useful and important for the sector.

Mr Coillot (EFBWW) makes reference to the difficulties concerning the definitions and the very good results for the first studied profession. However, it would be very useful to extend the same exercise to other professions.

Mr Garstka (FIEC) wants to know whether special qualifications have been put in special levels, which is the idea of the SQF. Ms Clarke explains that this was not possible, but the

reference process in each country is ongoing. Mr Garstka (FIEC) insists upon the utility to have common levels, but admits that this goal is very difficult to reach. Ms Martino (FIEC) agrees and points out that this has been tried for a couple of years. Nevertheless, she is quite happy with the result. The methodology was correct, but the understanding of the terminology (skills, know-how, competences,...) in the various languages can be problematic. Now it is easier to proceed to the next steps and to put the bricklayers into the SQF.

Mr Gehring (EFBWW) explains that the results of the project will be widely distributed and any conclusions will be taken into account. The instrument ("conceptual framework") has to be simplified in order to make it easier to use by other professions. The still remaining question is how the results can now be used.

6. Possible joint project on "Attracting young people into the construction industry"

- Exchange of views

Mr Campogrande (FIEC) proposes to create a joint website with presentations from the Member States concerning national initiatives/campaigns (such as television campaigns, press articles, etc) aiming at improving the image of the sector. Every initiative could be presented with a few sentences in English in order to avoid difficulties regarding the languages. An attempt could be made to obtain a grant for this project by the European Commission.

Mr Correale and Mr Coillot (both EFBWW) insist upon the necessity to improve the working conditions in the sector in order to attract young people. Mr Kus (EFBWW) raises the question whether the topic of "migration" should also be touched. Ms Clarke (University of Westminster) explains that nothing is more attractive for young people than having a challenge.

Mr Gehring (EFBWW) suggests speaking about criteria to improve the image of the sector and drafting a description of the kinds of examples which should be collected. Mr Perri (FIEC) insists upon the necessity to find tools to support and help young people and to strengthen the fidelity of workers towards a company. He agrees with creating a list of things which should be done.

Mr Garstka (FIEC) explains that improving the image of the sector is a very difficult task; in any case, this can only be achieved through team work. Ms Georgieva (FIEC) makes reference to the Bulgarian project and the positive feedback which came from different organizations and regions. She could provide the committee with many examples.

The chair suggests that the secretariats of FIEC and EFBWW should work together on this subject.

7. Miscellaneous –

8. Next meetings- Schedule for 2011

EFBWW and FIEC agree to hold both meetings (the preparatory meeting and the SSDC meeting) on the same day.

The working group meetings on "Initial and continuing vocational training" in 2011 will be held on: 24 February
10 November.

The chair thanks all the participants and the interpreters and closes the meeting.

List of participants

Expert:

Ms Linda Clarke, UK

EFBWW:

Mr Rolf Gehring, EU

Mr Thomas Sandgren, SE

Mr Kevin Williamson, UK

Mr Jakub Kus, PL

Mr Horst Weitig, DE

Ms Manola Cavallini, IT

Mr Emilio Correale, IT

Mr Marcel Remacle, LU

Mr Bernard Coillot, FR

FIEC

Mr Domenico Campogrande, EU

Mr Jacques Lair, FR

Ms Odette Repellin, FR

Mr Alfonso Perri, IT

Ms Rossella Martino, IT

Ms Nina Georgieva, BG

Mr Bernd Garstka, DE

Mr Sebastian Richter, DE

Ms Denise Krause, DE

Mr Juha Mäntynen, FI

Mr Lars Tullstedt, SE

Mr Dorulet-Constantin Balinisteanu, RO

Mr Fernando Carvalho Mourato, PT

Mr Thomas Norland, NO

Mr Riccardo Viaggi, EBC