



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

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

Brussels, 17 July 2015

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE
CONSTRUCTION**

**Minutes of the Working Group Meeting
Vocational Education and Training
27 March 2015 (14:00-17:00)**

Chairman: Mr Jim SHERIDAN (EFBWW)

1. Welcome and introduction

The chairman, Mr Sheridan (EFBWW), welcomed the participants. The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 25/11/2014

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

3. European Alliance for Apprenticeship – aims and current activities. Information and discussion

Mr Schoebel (European Commission, DG EMPL) provided a presentation on the European Alliance for Apprenticeships, followed by a presentation by Mr Horvath (European Commission, DG GROW) on the apprenticeship pledges in the construction sector. The Commission welcomed the pledge by FIEC and EFBWW, and invited the social partners to the High-Level Event in Riga on 22 June 2015. The social partners discussed the follow-up and implementation of their pledge.

Mr Plummer (BUSINESSEUROPE) presented an ongoing project on the cost-effectiveness of apprenticeship schemes in specific occupations in the ICT, commerce and engineering sectors in 15 target countries. The outcomes of the project (including country reports, a comparative report and conference) are expected by June 2016.

Prof Bridgford (King's College London) informed the committee of a similar project on the initiative of the ETUC. The project aims to assess and measure the quality of Vocational Education and Training in the construction, education, electricity, food and hairdressing sectors in 20 European countries. The outcomes of this project are expected by September 2016.

4. Social Dialogue work programme - Discussion and exchange of views on the next work programme

The social partners discussed the multiannual work programme for 2016-2019, exchanging views on the topics to be covered (including formal and informal learning; youth employment and 'European' qualifications). The social partners agreed to liaise at secretariat level to produce a first draft by the summer of 2015, followed by discussions in the second semester of 2015, in view of finalisation by the end of the year.

5. Joint project “Initiatives for youth employment” - Assessment and follow-up, discussion and exchange of views

Mr Campogrande (FIEC) reported on the finalised project, which covered a larger set of countries and initiatives than initially foreseen in the work programme. In terms of follow-up, Mr Campogrande invited national social partners to disseminate the project at national level and to send information on any new initiatives to the steering group, so as to keep the website up to date.

6. Joint project: EU Sector Skills Council Construction - Discussion and exchange of views on a new version of the project

Mr Campogrande (FIEC) presented a draft project proposal on skills gaps in the construction sector, to be submitted for funding under the Commission's call for proposals 'Support for social dialogue' in 2015. The project follows on the feasibility study for sectoral skills councils (2013) and an earlier project application which was not accepted for funding (2014). Mr Campogrande invited the national members to help identify national stakeholders to be involved in the project. The social partners discussed modifications to the draft work programme, in view of submission for funding in June 2015.

7. Joint project: Developing Entrepreneurship in the Construction industry - Discussion and exchange of views on a possible new project

Mr Campogrande (FIEC) invited the trade unions to jointly develop a project on entrepreneurship, to be proposed for funding in 2016. EFBWW expressed an interest in discussing this topic from the angle of responsible entrepreneurship. The social partners agreed to continue their discussions on a possible joint project.

8. Any Other Business

(None)