



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Governance
Social dialogue

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR WOODWORKING

14 May 2019
Plenary meeting
MINUTES

Chair : Mr Vitor POÇAS (AIMMP)

1. Opening of the meeting, adoption of the agenda, adoption of minutes

The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the meeting dd. 19 March 2019 were approved. .

2. Industry policy

The presentation by DG GROW was postponed until the "Furniture" SSDC meeting on the next day, 15 May 2019. See minutes of that meeting.

3. Work Programme 2020-2021.

Mr GEHRING informed the participants that a new work programme should be adopted in the autumn meeting. At present, there is no draft of a 2020-2021 work programme available. EFBWW compared the present "Furniture" SSDC work programme with its own congress programme, and came to the conclusion that the content of the social dialogue work programme is still valid. Only, more attention should be paid to issues related to digitisation and bio-economy. Mr GEHRING also proposed to consider the possibility of developing a 4-year work programme for the committee. For CEI-Bois, Mr ANTONICOLI asked to put the work plan items in the context of the European elections, which may make it necessary to set different priorities. A draft 2020-2021 work plan will be developed at secretariat level.

4. Wood Dust Conference

Mr GEHRING provided a debriefing of the preparations for the conference, which would take place on 16 May 2019. He also asked the meeting to reflect on possible social dialogue activities in the aftermath of the conference; it appears that there are funds available to finance research in this area. Mr POÇAS welcomed the organisation of the conference, but pointed at the difficulties for companies in warmer countries to meet the new limit value, taking into account the necessary air circulation. According to Mr HARTMANN, however, the implementation of the limit value is independent of the geographical location, but rather related to the worker's position near the machine. Finally, Ms MELEGARI pointed at the competition at international level : countries with lower standards can produce cheaper products.

5. PCWIE

By way of introduction Mr ANTONICOLI pointed at the commitment of the two other project partners (EFBWW and EPF) in developing the joint opinion on formaldehyde.

The attractiveness component of the project has added value in that it takes a 360° angle, not only focussing on youngsters, but also on profiles. The project could be used as the foundation to develop an EU-wide strategy. Mr GEHRING reacted by saying that wood receives increased attention following the project. The implementation of the components requires long-term planning and also activities at national level.

Mr POÇAS informed the meeting that the final conference would be held in Espinho near Porto. He enquired about the possibility to use the final conference to sign a joint declaration on the attractiveness component, since the project is important for the public opinion. Mr GEHRING replied, however, that a political declaration needs to be discussed internally within EFBWW first, which would create a timing issue.

6. EP Elections

The social partners are considering approaching newly-elected MEPs who may be without knowledge of the woodworking sector and the procedures related to EU social dialogue. They consider organising a dedicated event to inform MEPs after the European elections. CEI-Bois is working on a booklet “Tackling climate change” which could serve to inform MEPs on the sector’s initiatives. Mr GEHRING pointed at the importance to identify a subject that is of interest to newly elected MEPs. Also the timing of approaching them is important. He proposed to use the Commission’s bio-economy communication as a starting point for discussions with MEPs, since it has a holistic approach and it makes ample reference to the importance of wood. Mr ANTONICOLI suggested using also the results of the Forest-Based Expert Group as a starting point for discussions with MEPs, more in particular to stress the social dimension of its work.

7. Bolster Up II project

An update on this VET project was provided. Surveys have been carried out. The research report that is being prepared based on the replies to the surveys will dwell on the lack of distinction between professions in small companies. The project partners agreed to ask for an extension of the project duration, in order to be able to meet the updated timeline.

16. AOB

N/A

Annex: - list of participants.

List of participants

<p><u>Employers</u></p> <p>CEI-Bois Mr Vitor POÇAS (PT) Mr Patrizio ANTONICOLI (EU) Ms Margherita MICELI (EU) Ms Silvia MELEGARI (EU) Mr Anders CANEMYR (SE) Ms Eva GLÜCKMAN (SE)</p> <p>6 employers representatives (3 women, 3 men) (3 EU, 3 MS)</p>	<p><u>Workers</u></p> <p>EFBWW Mr Rolf GEHRING (EU) Ms Magdalena SIKOROWSKA (EU) Mr Juan Carlos BARRERO (ES) Mr John CAMPBELL (DE) Mr Fabio DEL CARRO (IT) Mr Ruprecht HAMMERSCHMIDT (DE) Mr Wilfried HARTMANN (DE) Mr Kenneth JOHANSSON (SE) Mr Tomasz NAGORKA (PL) Mr John VILLADSEN (DE)</p> <p>10 workers representatives (1 woman, 9 men) (2 EU, 8 MS)</p>
<p><u>Other participants</u></p>	
<p><u>European Commission</u> Mr Danny SCHEERLINCK (EMPL.A.2)</p>	