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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOUNDATION CONTRACTORS

Minutes of a Meeting of the Effic Council and AGM held at Hotel Pullman 10 Montreal square, District 1, Bucharest 011469, Romania on Friday 10 October 2014 at 09:00

PRESENT:

In the Chair	Chris Primett	President (UK)
Other Officers	Hans-Joachim Bliss José Candela Eduard Falk	Senior Vice President (Germany) Junior Vice President (Spain) Treasurer (Austria),
WG Chairmen	Chris Harnan Bartho Admiraal Reto Stump Karsten Beckhaus	Contracts WG (UK) Technical WG (The Netherlands) Health and Safety WG (Switzerland) Concrete WG (Germany)
Members	Thomas Pirkner Wim Claesen Jindrich Ricica Tamas Kaltenbacher Marco Ziller Stefano Margozzi Federico Trevisani Przemyslaw Nowak Michal Nowakowski Henk de Koning Peter Vroom Jacobus Van't Hek Carlos Vazquez Marilena Nicolae Lenna Haabma Hintze Benedikt Koch Jim de Waele	Austria Belgium Czech Republic Hungary Italy Italy Italy Poland Poland The Netherlands The Netherlands The Netherlands Romania Romania Sweden Switzerland UK
In Attendance:	Dianne Jennings Ciaran Jennings Caroline Kratz Ulrich Paetzold	Secretariat Secretariat Secretariat FIEC
Past Presidents	Maurice Bottiau Peter Arz	Belgium Germany

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the Romanian Federation for hosting the Council meeting and AGM. He thanked Ulrich Paetzold for attending on behalf of FIEC.

01/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Christian Gilbert (France), Christina Eriksson (Sweden), David Sherwood (Past President), Didier Verrouil (France), Frank Haehnig (Germany), Frank Jacob (Germany), Ivo Rosa (Portugal), Jean Philippe Renard (France), Lars Rande (Denmark), Matsas Makis (Greece), Michael Jones (Germany), Miguel A. Para (Spain), Pär Land (Sweden), Peter Thornton (UK), Philippe

Liausou (France), Robert Speakman (UK), Stefano Trevisani (Italy), Teresa Pérez (Spain), Trevor Snell (UK), Walter Ensinger (Germany), Wolf Linder (Germany),

02/14 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the 2013 AGM have been circulated and were agreed.

03/14 REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Chris Primett reported that he was currently one year into his presidency, since taking over from Immediate Past President, Stefano Trevisani. He said that the EFFC was at the start of a period of change that would look at how we can interact with the National Federations more effectively.

He also thanked the WG Chairmen for their hard work, dedication and for making the EFFC so successful.

The President commented that the Federation is very active with numerous initiatives being driven by the Working Groups. These include: introducing the Working Platform Certificate, BIM, promotion of collaborative working, the Carbon Calculator, promoting the need for ground risk investigation, the completion of the new rig standard, new tests for assessing the quality of concrete and cross border recognition of rig driver qualifications. He urged Members to ensure that the new rig standard (EN 16228) is fully adopted within their National Federations and to not allow it to become weakened.

The EFFC/DFI Conference had been held in Stockholm in May. This was felt to be largely successful although the numbers of attendees had been lower than hoped. (See discussion below.)

Chris Primett commented that all these initiatives required funding. The Officers are looking at how a new EFFC website might support the organisation financially. They are also investigating introducing a new Affiliate Membership category for suppliers to the foundations industry in order to bring in more income.

He raised the ongoing need for the EFFC to influence standards and legislation within the EU. To understand this better the Director General of FIEC, Ulrich Paetzold had been invited to give a presentation to the group. Chris Primett described FIEC as the 'big brother' to the EFFC, in representing the construction industry at European level.

The President concluded his report by commenting on the change of the secretary and expressed his appreciation to Forum Court Associates for their ongoing administrative support for the EFFC.

04/14 FIEC: INFLUENCING EUROPE

Hans-Joachim Bliss introduced Ulrich Paetzold, Director General of FIEC. He commented that Ulrich Paetzold knows the construction industry and represents a large group of organisations similar to the EFFC. It was explained that FIEC's role is to represent the construction industry's interests at European level. They understand how the EU is organised and how to work with the institutions of the EU in order to influence legislation.

Ulrich Paetzold gave a presentation (see attached) which showed that FIEC have 33 Federations from 29 different countries and three Associate Members. There are currently no Members from the UK. It was reported that FIEC represent a range of contractors; from the one man builders to large enterprises.

He explained that FIEC operates from Brussels and has a close working relationship with several Federations that are located there. FIEC is regarded as the informal platform of the European Federations and therefore has a strong voice with European networks; EEN, CEN and ECCREDI. These networks are driven by the European Commission Expert Group and High Level Forums.

The FIEC legislative procedure was reported as follows;

- **European Commission:** proposes legislation

- **European Parliament:** decides as co-legislator
- **Council of Ministers:** decides as co-legislator

Ulrich showed a legislative procedure diagram, which demonstrated the workings of the European commission. It was noted that an informal triologue has grown up around this process involving different lobbying and interest groups. These groups are responsible for stopping 75% of legislation that is proposed.

Mr Paetzold commented that many politicians across Europe blame “Brussels” for EU laws that create problems in their countries. This he felt was a dishonest representation of the EU and that these problems were usually a result of national politicians being incompetent in how they work in Europe.

The presentation concluded with an overview of FIEC’s structure, which includes a nine-strong team from five nationalities.

It was reported that the current focus for FIEC is on the need for investment and public procurement and ‘third country contractors’. Specifically the Chinese have been undercutting local tenders by a large amount. Other FIEC issues include posting workers across borders where there is a challenge to balance the free movement of workers with a strong desire to protect domestic markets. Jim de Waele asked how FIEC could resist the advance of Chinese contractors. Mr Paetzold responded that this was difficult as Chinese investment was often being sought to fund projects. FIEC have a limited ability to affect these situations. However FIEC actively highlights abnormally low tenders and is seeking to engage with these Chinese contractors and encourage them to compete fairly.

Chris Primett asked what FIEC would like from the EFFC. Ulrich Paetzold noted that Chris Harnan plays an active part in supporting the FIEC working groups and this form of participation was encouraged. He asked Members with any specific issues affecting foundation contractors to let FIEC know.

Chris Harnan asked why FIEC’s Sustainability Vision had been put on hold. Ulrich commented that this was due to budget constraints and that the WG were not in complete agreement on the content of the Vision. He stressed that the issue had not been forgotten.

The President thanked Ulrich for attending the AGM and presenting to the group.

05/13 REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

a) Technical WG (See attached presentation)

Bartho Admiraal reported on the work of the Technical Working Group.

Bartho gave a brief overview of the Technical WG, which started in 1992 and is represented by up to 15 countries. The group has one meeting each year and focuses on the European standards of geotechnical works.

It was noted that last year’s meeting in Bucharest was poorly attended due to airline strikes. The 2015 meeting is scheduled to take place in Zurich, Switzerland.

CEN TC288 – chaired by Christian Gilbert

This group is the decision-making platform for execution standards, therefore it is important that the EFFC supports and is represented on this committee as it is increasingly difficult to have influence over CEN.

The meeting provided an overview on the execution codes discussed in the programme; Concrete was a key topic. Diaphragm walls and anchors will be subjects for discussion in 2015 as they will be due for their systematic review in 2018.

Bartho reported that an improvement of the grouting standard was necessary and that soil nailing will also be a topic for 2015. He also expressed a desire to revise the deep mixing standard.

Bartho concluded his overview with a summary of the standards being discussed in the Group (see attached presentation).

CEN TC 288, WG 16 (displacement and micro piles)

It was noted that this Group was established in 2010 and consists of 17 experts from 12 countries. The publication of the standard is due out in 2015.

It was noted that there are some important changes with the Working Group, primarily the inclusion that displacement piles can now be of any diameter.

CEN/TC 341 /WG4 – Testing of Geotechnical Structures

It was reported that TC288 offered to form a joint WG, however the offer was declined. An update on the status of the Group will be provided when available.

TC 250 EN 1997-1 – Eurocode 7 Geotechnical Design

It was noted that the group had received a request to increase user friendliness and the simplicity of the process of choosing parameters, additions in rock mechanics, seismic design and finite element modelling.

EN 1992 and 1993 (unfavourable effects for geotechnical structures)

The work of the Concrete Task Group was discussed. Bartho commented on an R&D proposal that TG Chairman, Karsten Beckhaus would be presenting at a later point during the meeting and stressed the importance of the work that the WG is conducting.

Ulrich Paetzold commented that FIEC is a partner of CEN and they can send delegates to support and influence the group where necessary. This might be a useful means for the EFFC to gain access to relevant CEN working groups. It was noted that FIEC do not have voting rights.

Maurice Bottiau commented that the EFFC need to look at execution codes in the long term, as it is an issue that influences every Federation.

b) Health and Safety WG

Reto Stump reported on the work of the Health & Safety Working Group;

Guidance On Hazards Relating On Single Use Slings

The WG is concerned there is a safety risk in the common practice of reusing slings on site. A position paper has been prepared and sent to FIEC to raise awareness of the issue.

Preparation Of Guidance on the Breaking down of Piles

A guidance paper has been prepared and is due to be published on the EFFC website.

Health & Safety LinkedIn Group

This is a new initiative which is unique to the WG, which allows for members to discuss topics and guidance in between meetings.

Safety coordination on job sites

A guidance document has been passed through to FIEC to encourage the industry to co-ordinate their planning and activity on site more closely.

Mutual recognition of rig driver qualifications across Europe

The WG is seeking to encourage the use of a 'European drivers licence' for rig operators. The intention is to make it easier for competent people to work across borders. This issue is being pursued through FIEC and a body called the Alpine Kolloquium. The Kolloquium may be able to establish a scheme that other countries can copy. It is also hoped that the EFFC can work with rig manufacturers on this issue.

Rig Stability

The WG is looking at adopting a scheme along the lines of the UK's Working Platform Certificate across member countries. The Deep Foundations Institute (DFI) is also putting together a standard which is similar to the UK's FPS Working Platform Certificate for use

in the US.

Machinery Standard EN 16228

This is now published and live.

Reto Stump commented that it is important for all Members to support Daniel Perpezat, who is being put forward to be the new conveyor of CEN TC/151 WG 3. This is in order to ensure the new standard is upheld and not weakened by future revisions. Chris Primett reported that the Officers have written a letter of support to CEN.

Accident Analysis

It was noted that the Health and Safety WG are improving cooperation with FIEC on health and safety and training – FIEC's SOC2/SOC1 committees. Their activities are being followed so that the EFFC can input into their initiatives.

It was reported that the WG are not satisfied with the level of accident reporting. This is an area that the Group are addressing and all National Federations were asked to encourage their member companies to use the EFFC accident website to report their accidents.

Reto Stump concluded his presentation by summarising that the next Chairman of the Health and Safety WG would be Luc Van Hecke (2016-2017), followed by Tony-Bo Jensen (2018-2019).

The President expressed an interest in the LinkedIn group and suggested that it should be adopted by other WGs.

c) Contracts WG (presentation attached)

Chris Harnan reported on the work of the Contracts Working Group;

Site Investigation

The Group is keen to encourage insurers to put the need for a good quality ground investigation into the terms of their project insurance policies. Wim Claesen wrote an article which appeared in the autumn issue of European Foundations magazine on this issue.

It was reported that the Group have been liaising with the Federation of Piling Specialist (FPS) and Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists (AGS) in the UK. They intend to approach the Association of British Insurers (ABI) to raise awareness of the risks involved in not carrying out proper ground investigations. If successful, the approach can be applied to other European countries.

The Group also intends to work with the DFI on this issue.

FIEC

Chris Harnan commented on a number of recently issued communications that were of interest to the EFFC;

•**COMM 520** (climate and energy)

There is an energy reduction target of 20% set for 2020 which should be met. The reduction target for 2030 is 30% which will be difficult to achieve as there are limited initiatives driving it.

•**COMM 445** (resource efficiency opportunities in the building sector)

5-10% of all energy in the EU is used on the production of construction products. To reduce waste and recycle products, the EC plans to produce a framework of core indicators in water used, reusability, recycling etc.

•**COMM 397** (Waste)

There has been a revision of 6 directives for waste including land fill of waste, which is of primary interest to the CWG. Two back-filling categories have been proposed within the revised proposal.

It was also noted that FIEC are able to put a representative onto any CEN TC committee.

Mutual recognition of Rig Driver qualifications

The Chairman stressed the importance of Member Federations participating in the European Commission's stakeholder exercise to determine what issues are preventing cross-border trade. This represents an opportunity for the EFFC to raise the issue of the need for qualified rig operators to operate across Europe, without the need for additional training. The Group were asked to complete the below online survey before 15 November, which also allows for Members to upload supporting evidence.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/internal-market-services-businesses>

All Members have been requested to fill out the survey and circulate it within their Federations.

Collaborative Working

The Group are looking at developing tools to help educate Member companies and clients on methods of collaborative working..

Marco Ziller has agreed to produce the first draft of the collaborative working position paper, which will be added to by other Members in due course.

Sustainability

Chris Harnan reported that the CWG is looking at what environmental factors are measureable as part of developing an industry approach to sustainability.

Level 3 Conditions

The conditions have been updated and will be posted onto the EFFC website for Member usage.

BIM

It was noted that Members who use BIM reported positively on the system. The Group will liaise with Member companies to show a positive example of BIM to the Group.

Leena Haabma Hintze commented that by 2015 all Swedish projects are intended to be compliant with BIM.

Ulrich Paetzold commented that BIM is discussed during FIEC Technical Committee meetings, but felt it is a British exercise.

Working Platform Certificate

This UK initiative was developed to prevent the overturn of rigs and focuses on both the testing and maintenance of the working platform. The CWG will provide support to the Health and Safety WG on this scheme.

d) Carbon Calculator Task Group

Chris Primett commented that, Marine Lasne has stepped down as the Chairwoman of the Carbon Calculator WG. The Officers confirmed the appointment of Luca Bruni to chair the TG. Luca will work with Chris Harnan and the Sustainability group to see how the Carbon Calculator can be moved forward.

e) Concrete Task Group (see attached presentation)

Karsten Beckhaus, Chairman of the Concrete Task Group, presented an R&D proposal on the rheology and workability testing of deep foundation concrete. The aim is to secure a better understanding of the material and resolve the failures in concrete that have been seen in the past few years. The intention is to develop a number of tests that can be carried out on the concrete mix both off-site and on-site to ensure it is fit for purpose.

**Everyone
Secretary**

He commented that the EFFC as contractors have a responsibility to inform the wider industry on what we need the concrete to do and how it should behave when used in deep foundations.

It was noted that the best practice guidelines of the Concrete TG are to make recommendations on rheological acceptance criteria and set requirements for the mix design.

The presentation went through the Group's current findings: Concrete has changed from a three component material to comprising five components. The principle of requiring good workability and sufficient stability are still valid, however these are often not being applied. The rheology of fresh concrete drives workability and stability however a number of different factors can influence this.

The Group were shown an L Box performance test, which models how concrete will flow around a reinforcement cage. It was noted that poor workability is often due to not enough water being present, whereas poor stability is due to too much water being present. Modern concrete mixes are far more sensitive to moisture content than in the past.

Karsten concluded his presentation by summarising that the Concrete Task Group has had five meetings to date and consist of 14 members. The Group is currently working on the issue of materials and mix proportions and recommended acceptance criteria.

Subject to funding, the CTG aim to publish a first edition of their findings on rheology and practical workability and stability testing in May 2015.

There are five parts to the research process including on site testing, lab testing and development. The approximate cost to carry out the R&D project will be €81,900.

The CTG are now in the process of sourcing sponsors in concrete and cement industry to raise funds. They plan to approach the DFI as the USA are suffering from similar concrete problems.

06/13 DFI-EFFC CONFERENCE EVALUATION

The President reported that he had received a report from Theresa Rappaport, Executive Director of the DFI, following the DFI conference in Stockholm. It was noted that feedback was positive, with the EFFC receiving a strong financial outcome. A delegate rate of 5% was negotiated, which equated to €7,000.

Maurice Bottiau commented that it was a well-run event however attendance levels were not what he had hoped for, especially from locals. It was noted that the conference sought to attract young engineers and students, who had received a discounted entry rate. Around 200 delegates in total had attended. It was commented that it was disappointing more people had not attended from the US. It was highlighted that the past conferences had not seen a great deal of US participation either.

Eddie Falk said it was important that the conference had a strong focus so that delegates knew who was going to attend. This is because no-one attends conferences as a leisure activity anymore – it has to be important to their business. The event in May had a programme that was felt to be very technical in nature, which may have meant that it was less appealing to client organisations and main contractors.

Leena Haabma Hintze commented that Sweden had to take over the coordination of the conference due to a conflict between the US approach and the Scandinavian way of doing business. She said that this meant that the event lost some of its local spirit and therefore did not attract much Swedish support. It was suggested that in the future a Member Federation who would like to support the conference should be selected first. This would allow the local Federation to guide the organiser in their choice of venue and approach.

Chris Primett said the EFFC needed to decide what it wanted from the Conference. He said it was up to the group to decide whether we wished to support the current arrangement with the DFI or

explore other options.

Chris Harnan commented that the current DFI conference lasts for three days and costs approximately €800 which is an expensive investment. It was suggested that the conference should be condensed into a single day to increase attendance levels. It was agreed that this should be a topic for discussion during the next Executive meeting.

Henk de Konig suggested the event needed to have a stronger and more co-ordinated PR effort to drive interest in the event.

It was agreed that Maurice Bottiau, Henk de Koning and Chris Primett would discuss the topic in further depth and put together some ideas. There is a need to move quickly as there should be a clear message to present to the DFI. There will be a need for all Members to provide input, therefore a questionnaire could be created and sent out for comment.

Exec Agenda
Maurice Bottiau
Henk de Koning
Chris Primett
Secretary

07/14 FUTURE STRATEGY OF THE EFFC 2025

a) Membership surveys

Hans-Joachim Bliss outlined the 2025 strategy of the EFFC to the Group.

He summarised the findings from the EFFC questionnaire to Members. The majority of Member Federations had responded on their expectations of the EFFC and willingness to interact more.

There were a series of common points which were felt by all Member Federations regarding the benefits of the EFFC. These included lobbying at a European level, collaborative working on issues, networking of Federation Members, health and safety and Technical competence.

The Federations shared a common interest for a new focus of the EFFC. The comments included improvement of the website, mutual recognition of training, gathering and sharing European statistics, using social media, the corporate image of the EFFC and building wider recognition of its activity.

It was noted that seven Federations were prepared to provide a national coordinator, whereas two were not able to provide this. Two Federations are undecided. It was suggested that a national co-ordinator for each member would provide a better flow of information.

Hans-Joachim Bliss reported that four Federations would not consider an increase in subscription fees, whereas six would consider it provided there was a clear justification for increasing it.

The Senior Vice President gave a presentation on the 2025 agenda of the EFFC. It summarised that the organisation currently consists of 16 countries and has an objective to improve standards of worship, technical competences and safety innovation, have effective networking with stakeholders and members and to express a collective point of view within the European Commission. It was commented that there was scope to increase the Member Federation and include countries such as Bulgaria.

It was reported that subscription fees are currently based on CEN votes. However due to special arrangements made to some countries' subscriptions due to the recession, the Federation had a reduced income of €56,150. It was noted that the 2015 special project levy amount had also been affected by these arrangements. It was agreed that the EFFC need a solution to funding.

The Group agreed that the following WG activities need to be promoted within each Members countries; -

Health and Safety WG

Add the recognition of driver qualifications, international training and European statistics.

Contracts WG

Secure procurement and delivery of special foundation works, and collaborative working.

Sustainability WG:

Value the responsibility of the work and reporting on sustainability regularly from national federations.

Subscriptions

Przemyslaw Nowak suggested that the subscription fee format should be restructured according to the size of each Member Federation's market, and that a fee could be calculated based on these statistics. This would be a fairer basis than using CEN votes that rely on country population. Jindrich Ricica supported this view.

It was agreed this may be a means to calculate subscriptions that is more sensitive to the economic situation in each Member country. It was suggested that FIEC's statistics for construction turnover be used as a basis for calculating subscriptions fees. It was agreed the Officers would investigate this idea ahead of the Executive meeting.

Officers

In conclusion it was agreed that the Vision 2025 presentation would be developed further by the Officers with a view to agreeing the future strategy at the AGM in 2015. It was also agreed that a form would be circulated to the Member Federations to confirm and update the contact information for their national representatives and their Presidents/Chairmen. This will help facilitate better communication across the EFFC.

Officers

Secretary/
Everyone

08/14 WEBSITE

It was reported that the EFFC website hasn't been updated for 12 years and needs rebranding and modernising to successfully exchange information. It was noted that this could be a form of income for the EFFC.

Hans gave a small presentation of the new website and commented on the possibility of having a partners and friends tab, where organisations such as FIEC and Associate Members could be listed without it feeling like a sponsored page. A career tab could also allow for job advertising and allow for young engineers to present their work. He also mentioned the possibility of having space for a presidential message and social media channels to enhance networking opportunities.

It was noted that future EFFC Member overviews will be monitored and updated by the Secretariat.

A website proposal will be created for 2015.

09/14 FINANCE

a) 2013 Accounts

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Maurice Bottiau, seconded by Jim de Waele and unanimously agreed.

b) Financial Statement and Budget for 2014

A forecast for the year and a proposed budget for 2015 were considered.

Subscriptions from 2014 saw an increase on the previous year. This includes an increase in subscriptions from €750 - €1,500 for Romania, Czech Republic and Hungary.

Changes had been noted in Special Projects; website expenses had seen a temporary reduction. The Carbon Calculator project is now complete; therefore less expense is required. It was also noted that subscriptions are stable.

The Federation agreed that support numerous upcoming projects; €5,000 will be dedicated to the Rig Standard, €15,000 to the EFFC website and €15,000 to the Concrete TG R&D project. The budget and sums were proposed by Jim de Waele, second by Eduard Falk and unanimously agreed.

10/14 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

a) Affiliate Membership for suppliers

Jim de Waele commented that this initiative has recently been adopted by the FPS with members of the Plant community. Affiliate Members are invited to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis, allowing them influence over matters of interest and concern. The FPS are planning on targeting testing houses next, who will then be invited to Technical meetings.

The Group agreed that this is a strong initiative that will be opened up to the EFFC next year to raise additional funds.

11/13 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**a) Jean Philippe Renard – France**

Chris Primett reported that Didier Verrouil had recently been promoted to CEO of Soletanche Bachy and therefore is unable to continue his role within the EFFC as Senior Vice President. The French Federation had proposed that Jean Philippe Renard will be their representative going forward.

The group discussed whether it was appropriate that someone with no experience of the EFFC should immediately become Senior Vice President. It was agreed that Jean Philippe Renard would start his role within the EFFC as an Officer in order to understand the organisation before progressing to become the President according to the order of succession.

It was agreed that the sequence will be as follows;

- **President:** Chris Primett
- **Senior Vice President:** Hans-Joachim Bliss
- **Junior Vice President:** José Candela
- **Officer and Treasurer:** Eddie Falk
- **Officer:** Jean Phillippe Renard

12/13 AOB**a) Dianne Jennings**

To thank Dianne Jennings for her 25 years' service as Secretariat of the EFFC, Chris Primett and Peter Arz made a small presentation, expressing their gratitude for her years of service and dedication towards the Federation. Peter Arz related the story of how he first met Dianne at the meeting where the idea for creating the EFFC was first discussed 26 years ago.

Hans Joachim Bliss presented a personalised model piling rig to Dianne on behalf of Bauer. He commented that Dianne had been the glue that held the organisation together and that she had provided great leadership to the organisation over many years. Marco Ziller also presented a piling rig model on behalf of Soilmec and Trevispa together with a photograph from Gianluigi Trevisani showing an early meeting of the EFFC.

13/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday 11th February 2015 (Officers) Frankfurt, Germany
Friday 10th April 2015 (Executive) Zurich, Switzerland TBC.
Friday 25th September (AGM and Council Meeting) Berlin, Germany