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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOUNDATION CONTRACTORS

Minutes of a Meeting of the EFFC Executive Committee, 20 May 2016, The Westin Warsaw, Al. Jana Pawla II 21, Warsaw, Poland

PRESENT:

In the Chair	Hans-Joachim Bliss	Senior Vice President (Germany)
Other Officers	José Candela	Senior Vice President (Spain)
	Olivier Peter	Junior Vice President (France)
	Chris Primett	Immediate Past President & Treasurer (UK)
WG Chairmen	Chris Harnan	Contracts WG (UK)
	Bartho Admiraal	Technical WG (The Netherlands)
	Luc van Hecke	Health & Safety (Belgium)
	Luca Bruni	Carbon Calculator Task Group (Italy)
Members	Andreas Körbler	Austria
	Peter Ausserlechner	Austria
	Maurice Bottiau	Belgium
	Wim Claesen	Belgium
	Philippe Liasau	France
	Marc Lacazedieu	France
	Balázs Gombos	Hungary
	Andrea Acerbi	Italy
	Przemysław Nowak	Poland
	Piotr Tytz	Poland
	Wojciech Szwejkowski	Poland
	Henk de Koning	The Netherlands
	Peter Vroom	The Netherlands
	Reto Stump	Switzerland
In Attendance:	Ciaran Jennings	Secretariat
	Daniel Perpezat	CEN TC 151/WG3 (France)

01/16 WELCOME

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the Polish Federation for the excellent dinner on the previous evening and for supporting the organisation of the meeting. He also personally welcomed Marc Lacazedieu, Andreas Körbler and Andrea Acerbi as new members of the Committee, Daniel Perpezat as a guest and Piotr Tytz from the Polish Federation.

02/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Stefano Trevisani (Italy), Jindrich Ricica (Czech Republic), Lenna Haabma Hintze (Sweden), Dejan Lukic (Switzerland), Par Land (Sweden), Carlos Vasquez (Romania).

03/16 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the 2015 Executive Meeting were agreed and the minutes of the 2015 AGM were circulated for comment.

Bartho Admiraal requested that the reference to Eurocode 2 on page 4

of the AGM Minutes was corrected to Eurocode 7.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

04/16 EFFC/DFI CONFERENCE

The President explained the DFI/EFFC conference happened every four years. It was usually organised by the DFI who take the financial risk in the event. The EFFC usually have to provide input into the content of the conference and promote it within the Membership. In return the EFFC receive a 5% share of the revenue from the delegate fees. The conference planned to attract 300 delegates and a number of exhibitors.

Has-Joachim explained that the Officers had agreed that a small group should coordinate the input of the EFFC at this stage. This group consists of José Candela, the Italian Officer and EFFC Secretary.

José reported that there had been a meeting of the parties involved in organising the conference in Rome on 19 April. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the format of the conference and the content of the technical programme to ensure that the right people were involved, including the EFFC and DFI representatives. The Italian Federation (AIF) were in attendance to understand what would be required from them. It was also reported that Professor Massimo Grissola of Sapienza University had volunteered to convene the conference and oversee the development of the technical programme.

Format of the conference – It had been previously discussed with the DFI that the conference should be two days rather than three days used previously. This smaller commitment of time is intended to boost attendance at the event. It also represented a smaller financial risk for the DFI. This may require parallel sessions to be run at the event in order to accommodate all of the content that has been proposed by both Massimo Grissola and the EFFC (see below). José Candela explained that the DFI were interested in attracting people from the Middle East to the event.

Content of the Technical Programme – Ciaran Jennings presented the EFFC outline for the Technical Programme. This had been developed on the agreed theme of Urban Infrastructure and set out the priorities of the EFFC and DFI. The main priority of the EFFC was given as the need for the conference to drive business for the EFFC Member companies. It was therefore proposed that clients should be invited to present their projects so that the industry could be involved early in the project to start to think about the geotechnical challenges involved.

It was explained that the proposed strands within the Programme were intended to appeal to a wide range of people within the geotechnical community. For example, a series of workshops had been proposed to provide a practical reason for managers and others to attend.

Ciaran reported that since the EFFC presented this proposed programme, Massimo Grissola had sent a revised proposal that largely ignored the content the EFFC proposed. The new proposal had also moved away from the agreed theme of Urban Infrastructure. It was now necessary for the EFFC to respond to this proposal. (See attached document.)

In discussion it was agreed that the Massimo Grissola's proposed Programme was too academic to appeal to the contracting community. Olivier Peter also commented that the programme was dangerous as it proposed changes to design rules without agreement from the foundation contractor community.

Maurice Bottiau commented that Massimo's proposal followed a traditional model for developing a conference programme. This would involve the setting of the theme and topics and a call for papers. Typically the authors of papers would attend the conference and increase the number of delegates attending. He explained that the technical subjects were easier to source papers on. If the EFFC wished to pursue safety and contractual issues it would require more input from the EFFC. This would require champions to recruit the clients and other speakers. This was a different approach to normal and would

present a bigger organisational and financial risk to the DFI. Chris Primett reminded the group that this approach had been used in the past when planning the London and Amsterdam conferences.

The President asked whether it would be possible to get two or three clients to attend. He acknowledged that there were issues within the UK federation to doing this owing to concerns about increasing the amount of competition. Olivier Peter commented that having project owners at the conference was important, however it was possible to accommodate some technical content with the programme as well.

Bartho Admiraal agreed to ask the Technical Working Group to form a small working group to feed into the Technical Programme Committee.

B Admiraal

Andrea Acerbi committed to support José Candela in co-ordinating the EFFC input into the conference. He also would clarify what level of support the AIF would be able to provide to the conference.

A Acerbi

It was agreed that the EFFC should seek to have the conference programme amended so that more of what the EFFC want is included. The President requested José Candela leads on shaping the conference for the EFFC in relation to the conference title, responsibilities, team members, next sequence of meetings plan of action. It was agreed that a conference call should be held with the DFI to determine whether this was possible and agree a way forward. Maurice Bottiau agreed to speak to Massimo Grissola and Frank Haehnig to determine whether they will amend the programme.

José Candela

M Bottiau

05/16 WORKING PLATFORM CERTIFICATE INITIATIVE

The Secretary explained that it had been agreed this initiative should be pursued at the AGM in 2015. The National Federations would need to decide whether they could implement this initiative and the strategy they should use to achieve it. To support this activity it had been suggested within the Contracts Working Group that a Task Group is formed with leadership from the UK owing to how long the scheme has been in operation there. This was agreed.

CWG

The Secretary reported that at previous meetings it had been suggested that a European Standard for working platforms is created. This was felt to be a strong idea that would help to ensure main contractors meet their responsibilities. The question was raised how the EFFC could go about this. Daniel Perpezat said it would require a new work item within CEN, but which CEN committee working platforms belonged to would need to be determined. It was reported that this issue was being looked into by Derek Egan on behalf of the EFFC. It was explained that Derek Egan is a geotechnical consultant who is an expert in this area. The Secretary agreed to report back once he had received his report.

EFFC Secretary

Luc van Hecke asked everyone to support the need to consider pedestrian safety on the working platform. He highlighted that 25% of the accidents reported to the EFFC were slips and trips, which indicated poor working platforms. It was agreed this should be given specific consideration in any work on the working platform. Marc Lacazedieu said that maintenance of the platform is a critical issue and that an inspection regime should also be included in the standard. This was agreed.

The Secretary highlighted that the initiation of a new Standard would require investment from the EFFC. As a project it would be similar to the rig standard in terms of the need to fund a standards body and the meetings of the working group itself. Chris Primett commented this will need tight financial control.

06/16 MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF RIG OPERATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Hans-Joachim Bliss introduced the issue and explained that it was being approached on a number of fronts.

He stated that his goal was to get some funds from Brussels to resolve this issue. He said

that Federations are not supported by the EU on general principle and that it would require the initiation of a specific project. This would require the commissioning of a consultant to produce the funding bid, which would cost €20k. It was therefore his belief that a different approach is required. Hans-Joachim reported that he had spoken to the German Minister of Trade and asked him to arrange an appointment with Martin Schulz, President of the EU Parliament. The intention would be to create a European body for training and certification of rig operator standards. This would take 2-3 years to achieve and would require €350k in funding.

Hans-Joachim explained that this initiative was running in parallel to the work that was ongoing with FIEC. Luc van Hecke said he had met with the EU Commission and FIEC to discuss the issue. This had identified that it would be possible to follow a Skills Sector Alliance initiative. However the speed at which the EU was operating was very slow and therefore the Dutch and Belgian Federations had decided to work on this issue together. They had found that there was close alignment between their countries and were now moving towards recognising each other's qualifications. This is a major move forward.

Hans-Joachim commented that Germany, Austria and Switzerland were also talking about this issue. It was agreed that establishing these sorts of agreements directly between countries made it easier for each subsequent country to recognise the other's qualifications.

It was reported that Wim Claesen had agreed to lead on this issue within the Contracts Working Group so that activity could be co-ordinated. It was agreed that this approach on three levels (Intergovernmental, FIEC and at national level) should be pursued.

ISSUES FOR DECISION

07/16 NEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The question of the frequency of EFFC Executive meetings was introduced. The President summarised that for the past seven years the meeting schedule had changed from time to time. It was felt by the Officers that there was too long a gap between meetings of the Executive, which could mean that decision-making was slower and momentum got lost on initiatives.

It was therefore proposed that a new schedule be adopted that saw two Executive meetings and the AGM over the course of a year. This would mean there was 3-4 months between meetings rather than six. On this scheme it was anticipated that the Contracts Working Group meetings and the Officers meetings would happen on the day before the Executive.

It was commented that it was not good to have both Officers and Contracts Working Group meetings on the day before as this would not leave enough time to discuss the issues in the Officers meetings. It was also felt that requiring the Working Group chairs to attend all of the Executive meetings in the year would be too big a time commitment.

Chris Harnan commented that it was important to have the participation of the Working Group Chairmen. He suggested that video conferencing was used so that they did not have to attend the whole meeting in person. It was also suggested that the Working Group Chairmen report only when they had activity to report on.

It was agreed in principle that three two Executive meetings and an AGM was a good approach. A firm proposal on how this will work shall be presented at the AGM.

08/16 NEW TASK GROUP

The President said that the Concrete Task Group had achieved an excellent result and proven that this model of working could be very effective. He therefore asked all to consider what issue the EFFC should seek to resolve next.

Officers

He reported that he had been asked to look at two or more issues that the EFFC could take a lead on. These are

- Suspension fluids and polymers and the need for an EFFC Excavation and Support fluid guide that updates the testing and control techniques.
- Sonic logging – a best practice guide on pile testing, drawn out of issues experienced with the interpretation of sonic logging results.
- Permeability of retaining walls (suggested by the Technical WG)

Hans-Joachim asked the group which issue should be pursued.

Chris Harnan commented that non-destructive testing methods would need to be the scope of a sonic logging project. He said that the Bentonite issue is being raised by Arup and he felt it needed addressing. Polymers were not well understood currently and that it was important to improve awareness of what can go wrong. Bartho commented that the UK Specification for Piling (known as Sperwall) is introducing stricter limits on polymers than are currently contained in the CEN standards. Oliver Peter supported carrying out a project on Bentonite as it is important to have an industry position rather than one that comes from Sperwall, which only reflects UK practices.

Maurice Bottiau asked how these issues related to the CEN standards. It was explained that the Concrete TG had concluded that they should produce a guidance document rather than pursue change through the CEN committees. This was because it would take 10-15 years to achieve the required changes via CEN.

It was discussed whether the permeability issue could be combined with the Bentonite issue. Hans-Joachim said that permeability was related to the Bentonite issue but would be too complex to resolve. Overall the need is to improve quality and help avoid contractual issues. Chris Harnan cautioned that a Task Group would need to be careful to ensure it is not dominated by the consultants who want to impose their perspective on the issue.

It was concluded that the Bentonite issue should be pursued. Bartho agreed to seek a chair for the Task Group from the Technical Working Group.

B Admiraal

09/16 AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

The President presented the proposal to include companies from the supply chain as affiliate members of the EFFC. He stressed that a definitive answer was not being sought today as the issue was too sensitive.

He said that for 26 years the EFFC had been a federation of federations promoting the industry's issues. However the industry relied upon partners to deliver its work and he thought it would be good to bring them closer to the EFFC. He believed they could contribute to the activities of the Working Groups and the funds of the Federation. However, their influence would need to be limited in order to ensure the EFFC remained a Federation representing the interests of contractors.

Olivier commented that he was in favour of the proposal, but also recognised that it was a big change for the Federation. This was a point that Stefano Trevisani had also made via email before the meeting to the Officers.

Maurice Bottiau suggested that other representative bodies could be brought into the EFFC rather than individual companies. This was recognised to be similar to the Austrian Federation's model. However it was anticipated that these organisations would not contribute financially as they would seek to contra off the membership fees.

Hans-Joachim asked what the risks were in including these organisations and companies. Olivier asked whether denying them voting rights would provide enough protection for the EFFC. Hans-Joachim highlighted that the existing rules already allowed contractor companies to be included in the EFFC as affiliate members, this proposal would extend this approach. He felt that increasing the income would give the EFFC more resource to achieve more.

The question was asked what Affiliates would gain from Membership. It was suggested that this would be access and preferential rates to sponsorship opportunities and delegate rates for the AGM. It was also suggested that the AGM could be developed to include an exhibition and presentations from affiliate members.

It was agreed in principle that allowing access to affiliates was permissible. Everyone was asked to provide their comments on the proposal to the Secretary to help shape the rules and income proposal.

ALL

10/16 EUROPEAN FOUNDATIONS MAGAZINE PROPOSAL

Discussed under item 12.

WORK OF THE FEDERATION

11/16 REPORT CEN/TC 151 WG3 (RIG STANDARD EN 16228)

Daniel Perpezat introduced himself as the Convenor of the CEN Working Group that oversees the new rig standard. He gave a presentation on the current status of the standard – see attached.

He summarised the main issues with the standard since it was published in 2014:

Rig stability – manufacturers have little understanding of the different stability criteria that are used in normal versus special conditions. These must be taken into account in the working platform design.

Guarding on rigs – this has been a controversial area for manufacturers who have been interpreting the standard differently and accusing each other of non-compliance. This has led to calls for the EU to conduct market surveillance. Daniel explained that, under the standard, machines need to protect workers and manufacturers have to anticipate where a worker is likely to stand. The Working Group is looking at clarifying the wording to address this issue.

Daniel further explained that although there was a requirement for guards, these could be virtual guards using radar, sonic, electro magnetic etc technologies, provided they were as safe as a physical device. The standard has made provision for new technologies to be included over time.

The issue of retrofitting guards was also proving difficult for some manufacturers. It was asked whether these have to be retrofitted. Daniel explained that under the standard protective devices are permitted and provision is made for special operations mode for situations where a guard prevents access to the drill site. In terms of the legal requirements, these are subject to local law – for example in France there is a duty to provide safe equipment to workers, this confers an obligation to comply with the standard.

It was requested that a list of compliant machinery be provided if possible. Daniel agreed to provide a current list, though commented that it would change monthly.

D Perpezat

ISO Standards and conflicts – the intention of the Working Group is to transfer the standard to ISO committee 195 so that the standard can become international in its scope and application.

In parallel with this, Daniel asked for the EFFC to take action on an issue that had come to light. The Swedish and Finnish equipment manufacturers were known to be opposed to the new standard and have initiated a new work item in ISO TC 82 Mining. Their intention is to take rigs out of the standard so that they can avoid compliance. This was felt to be an abuse of the standards system and needed the EFFC to complain about this issue with the EU authorities.

Daniel was asked to provide details of whom the EFFC should officially complain to about

D Perpezat/

this issue so that a formal letter can be sent to them.

EFFC Secretary

12/16 WEBSITE MATTERS

Hans-Joachim updated the Committee on the progress made on the website since launch. Member company project reports, National Federation articles and messages from the President were continuing to be provided to the site. Since launch the site had seen close to 4,000 unique users, this was up from approximately 2,700 in the same period last year. Also the number of sessions had doubled to 5,444 and visitors were staying on the website for 2.42 mins on average. These were felt to be very positive results. Continuing to produce reports from the National Federation in alphabetical order was highlighted as an important initiative to keep everyone informed of what is being planned in the National Federations.

Hans also explained that a new section would be added called Safety Corner that would include useful safety information such as Tool Box Talks and news. He stressed that the website belonged to Members and could be developed further.

The EFFC e-Newsletter was discussed. Hans-Joachim explained that he had created this initiative with a view to keeping Members informed, driving more traffic back to the website and providing some additional income to the EFFC. A consultant had been engaged in the UK to produce the newsletter and sell the sponsorship. The first issue had been issued in December and the costs for a further two in the coming year had been covered already. This initiative was supported on this basis by the Committee.

ALL

Due to the heavy workload of the president already, Hans asked for a volunteer to take care of the Newsletter in the future. Members were urged to continue to provide projects and articles and send through any news stories from their Federations that they wanted to share. It was suggested that the minutes of the EFFC meetings contained a good source of information for the website and could be used as news stories.

A prospective layout was presented for the Young Professionals section of the website. (See attached presentation.) Hans-Joachim explained the layout had been created in response to the Young Professionals survey that had been conducted earlier in the year. This had 61 participants providing information on the information that they would like to have provided by the EFFC. Hans reported that the biggest request was for a knowledge database of mistakes and how they had been remedied. However this was felt to be too difficult to achieve and so had not been included.

Hans explained the three sub-sections that he envisioned for this section:

1. Masters/Bachelor/Final Thesis – this section would help Graduates to find placements for supported Masters thesis being offered by companies in different countries. This would click through to a map of Europe with each country leading to a page of links to geotechnical contractors.
2. Profiles – this would allow young professionals to post a profile on-line that would allow them to organise themselves into a network.
3. Universities – this would allow a click through via country to find the universities at national level that offer geotechnical degrees.

ALL

Everyone was asked to provide images that could be used in this section and also to provide details of their company schemes and national courses where possible. Companies and Members were also asked to approach Universities in their countries to seek their participation on the website.

It was commented that 61 was a low number of respondents and more people should be encouraged to participate in the survey. This required the National Federations to actively promote this to their Members.

European Foundations Proposal - the secretary reported that the publishing company (EMAP) that published European Foundations magazine had indicated that the current issue would be the last. This was owing to the relative cost of producing the magazine against the revenue they achieve through advertising. To date, the magazine had been

produced without cost to the EFFC in return for providing content in the form of articles and project reports.

EMAP had submitted a proposal to continue publication of the magazine if the EFFC would fund its production. This cost would be £5,000 per issue. However there was also an option to pay a monthly fee to have content provided on the EMAP Ground Engineering website under the EFFC name.

The President reported that the view of the Officers was that the new website should be fulfilling the role of the magazine. The cost of providing the magazine was too great for the EFFC to support into the future. This was agreed.

It was suggested that the EFFC newsletter should be used to drive people interested in the EFFC and the work of its Members back to the website. It was suggested that a news alert be created whenever new content was added to the website to encourage people to visit the site. The secretary agreed to investigate this possibility.

Secretary

13/16 REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

a) Federation Secretaries' meeting

The EFFC Secretary reported that a meeting had been held of a number of the national federation secretaries (Austria, France, UK, Netherlands, Hungary, Czech Republic) with Hans-Joachim Bliss in attendance as well. This meeting had been convened after a number of Secretaries had discussed it informally in Berlin, where it was felt there would be benefit to all.

The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about each other's Federations and share information and insight on how each was approaching the issues of their industry. It was also to set out expectations of what needed to be shared with the EFFC and what the EFFC should be sharing with the National Federations in order to support their work.

The meeting was productive and it revealed there was a lot that could be learned from each of the Members as the EFFC has a mix of long established and active associations and those that are new. It was hoped that more Members would attend the next meeting, which is to be held in Paris so that we can further improve the EFFC's network.

b) Technical Working Group – see presentation attached

Bartho Admiraal presented on the latest meeting of the Technical Working group, which was currently reviewing four standards

- Jet grouting – a report is being prepared for submission to CEN for the end of the year
- Grouting – work is on-going within the CEN committee on the updating of this standard
- Sheetpiles – AFNOR are chairing a working group on this standard
- Reinforced Soil – this is up for renewal in 2017, national standards bodies need to be informed now if it is felt a revision is required to the standard.

The group are also in discussion about the revision to the Eurocode 7 general design rules, where a big improvement to the quality of geotechnical investigation is a priority. It was also reported that a small task group will be reviewing the TUM research on concrete to check the research will answer all of the questions that have arisen from the project.

David Hard (Bachy Soletanche UK) gave a presentation on the Bentonite issues that are being addressed in the UK Sperwall specification for piling. There are concerns this will impact on the wider industry (see discussion on item 8).

The group are also prioritising looking at BIM requirements for design and testing of foundations. This is anticipated to be a topic for next year. Hans Bliss requested that any discussions on BIM are co-ordinated between the Working Groups to help everyone's understanding.

**Working Group
Chairs**

It was also announced that the group had reappointed Bartho as the Chairman for a four year term. However a vice chair of the group is to be selected to support Bartho and become the Chairman in time. Hans requested that he keep the Officers informed of who would be fulfilling this role.

B Admiraal

Maurice Bottiau added that there had been an ISSMGE meeting on European practices in relation to pile design. Keynote speakers included both Karsten Beckhaus and Andrew Bond. The proceedings are available on the ECT3 website. Hans requested the Maurice provide an article for the EFFC website on this subject.

M Bottiau

c) Health & Safety Working Group – see presentation attached

Luc Van Hecke reported that the Group had met in Denmark where they had carried out a workshop on accident investigation. This formed part of the Group's focus on being an expert platform for guidance and information on health and safety issues.

Accident investigation is often poorly conducted, with inadequate understanding of its value and how to do it properly. The intention is to create a course that can be delivered for HSE Managers and senior management alike. It will focus on how to carry out a route cause analysis so that companies are able to make good decisions about the action they should take to avoid future incidents. Lorenzo Alessi of Soletanche Bachy is leading on this issue and has produced a very thorough course presentation.

Luc asked for the Committee's support for this initiative. This was agreed, though it was suggested that the course should be offered as a webinar in the first instance in order to make it as widely accessible to smaller companies as possible.

Luc affirmed that the group was producing material for the planned Safety Corner of the website. The intention is to make it possible for safety alerts to be uploaded by users of the website. In addition to this, an EFFC safety alert template is being produced to make it possible to share accident reports while maintaining anonymity. It is expected that toolbox talks will also be made available on the site. The Group are currently reviewing the existing documents on the website as these need to be updated.

Luc reported on the issue of mutual recognition (see item 6 above) and working platforms (see item 5).

Ongoing topics for the Group include the need for proper safety co-ordination on site. The Austrian Federation had run a seminar on this topic, this had been very successful as it educated main contractors on their legal responsibilities – which many were unaware of. Members were encouraged to hold similar events in order to promote the importance of this issue.

The rig standard had also been discussed, specifically ANIMA's letter to CEN TC151 which had raised the issues Danial Perpezat had presented on (see item 11).

It was also understood that FIEC were initiating a project on safety in relation to working with plant. They are also initiating a project on psycho-social risks in construction. Finally, they are also concerned about respirable silica, which is being classified as a carcinogen by the EU. This is likely to bring very stringent controls to construction sites that will be very difficult and expensive to accommodate. FIEC are therefore lobbying the Commission to move this to a different Directive.

Finally, Luc indicated that Martin Sonnberger would be taking over from him as the Chair of the H&S WG from Spring 2017. Martin would attend the AGM to meet everyone.

d) Contracts WG

The Secretary reported on behalf of Chris Hanan that a delegation had presented on the subject of Collaborative Working and BIM to FIEC's ECOPLIN commission. The intention was to establish with the main contractor community that collaborative working was the best way of working on projects. This was especially true of BIM projects where

the sharing of information is inherent in the project methodology. The presentation had been very well received. Hans Bliss reported that Ulrich Paetzold had given a personal assurance that collaborative working would be taken up by FIEC as a subject and that they would work with the EFFC on it.

The FIEC TEC work programme was reviewed and the issue of the Circular Economy. Currently there was no direct action needed by the group, but there is potential for work items to come from these FIEC initiatives.

In addition to the issues of Mutual Recognition and the Working Platform Certificate (see items 5 and 6 above), the group is taking up the issue of uncapped contractual liabilities. The UK had requested this be looked at as an issue owing to the number of main contractors seeking uncapped liabilities in the UK. A position paper from the UK is to be reviewed with the intention of it becoming an EFFC document.

The Group are continuing to review BIM as an issue. They are looking at the UK's guidance notes on this subject with a view to adopting them as EFFC documents.

The Group also received a presentation from Luca Bruni on the Carbon Calculator (see below).

e) Carbon Calculator

Luca Bruni reported on the last meeting of the group in March. To date:

- 600 people had downloaded the tool, a significant number of these downloads were from universities and other organisations.
- The tool had been presented in a congress in Brazil and also by the DFI in at sustainability conference in Texas in the US.

The group is reviewing the dissemination strategy for the software as the main contractor community was not asking for carbon calculations as part of their tender process. As a result take-up by foundation contractors is currently quite limited.

The intention is to now shift the emphasis of the promotion of the project away from the tool itself and to what the tool enables both contractor and client to understand about their project. The DFI are keen to build a business case for the tool's use to support its promotion within the US.

The Group had also reviewed a proposal from DNV to provide external validation of the tool. The intention would be to provide up to three levels of validation

1. Validation of the tool itself
2. Validation of individual carbon calculations – e.g. during a tender process
3. Validation of reduction of carbon.

In discussion with the Contracts WG it had been decided the focus should be on promoting the tool at this stage and validation could be a future step.

It had been decided to re-brand the Carbon Calculator “eCO2 Foundations” and a logo is being worked on. The intention is to give a stronger identity to the project that will help the Group to promote it.

The President welcomed the change in approach as the project needs more users. He stressed the importance of promoting the project to authorities to raise their awareness. It was recognised that the task was difficult as the project is pioneering and many companies may resist changing what they do already.

It was requested that a presentation be prepared in time for the AGM that explains why clients and authorities should require foundation contractors to use the tool.

It was agreed that Theresa Engler should be contacted to inform her of the change in approach. Hans-Joachim committed to speak to Frank Haehnig about the DFI's involvement and support for the Carbon Calculator.

f) Concrete Task Group

Bartho Admiraal updated the group on the progress of the project. The first edition of the Tremie Guide had been issued and TUM's field research programme was underway. Two projects in the Netherlands had been used with further projects in the UK and Germany being planned. In the US their first site had been tested.

It was also understood that some separate research had been undertaken in France. It was possible that the results from this research could also be used within the project. TUM were conducting their lab tests currently, but no results had been released as yet. Video conferences were set for July and October when the data should become available.

14/16 FUNDING

Financial Statement

Chris Primett presented the financial statement to April 2016. He explained that the statement was broken down into the income and expenditure against membership subscriptions and the income and expenditure against special projects. This year's budget matched last year's actual spend and the special projects are projected to achieve a breakeven position. The subscription levels are agreed at the AGM and these are in line with what was agreed in September in Berlin.

The sponsorship income for the newsletter was highlighted as a new revenue stream. It was recognised that this needs a personal approach to the sponsors to be successful as it relied upon the relationships individuals within the EFFC have with suppliers.

The Tremie Concrete Guide sponsorship and expenditure were detailed. It was reported that the income was very healthy at €112,500 and demonstrated what it was possible to achieve when there was an issue that the industry wished to address. It was recognised that although approximately €69,000 had been spent, there were still payments to come from the Technical University of Munich for their field research programme.

Chris stressed that the income and expenditure were tightly run to achieve either breakeven or small surpluses. If the EFFC wishes to achieve more it will need to find the funding to do so.

15/16 NEW OFFICER

It was announced that Eddie Falk had stepped down as the Officer for Austria. This was owing to changes within Keller that had meant it was no longer possible for Eddie to continue to attend the EFFC meetings.

The Austrian Federation, VÖBU, had appointed Andreas Körbler as their representative. It was proposed that Andreas take the place of Eddie as an Officer of the EFFC. The standing Officers are happy with this proposal as Austria were a strong supporter of the work of the EFFC. According to the EFFC rules this was for the Council to determine at the AGM and would be put forward for approval at the next AGM.

It was also announced that Stefano Trevisani would be stepping down as the Italian Officer. Andrea Acerbi was AIF's nominated representative and would take Stefano's place.

16/16 AOB

The President stated that he was keen to visit other National Federations to hear about their issues and speak about the EFFC, and would be happy to receive invitations accordingly. He also affirmed that he was seeking two new members and had been speaking to organisations in both Bulgaria and Norway.

17/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

AGM agenda

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Issue/Project	Task	Responsibility
DFI/EFFC Conference	Technical Working Group to form a small working group to feed into the Technical Programme.	Bartho Admiraal
DFI/EFFC Conference	To clarify what level of support the AIF would be able to provide to the conference.	Andrea Acerbi
DFI/EFFC Conference	To lead on the EFFC input into the Conference and shape format, title, Committee participation.	Jose Candela
EFFC Conference programme	To speak to Massimo Grissola and Frank Haehnig to determine whether they will amend the programme.	Maurice Bottiau
Working Platform certificate initiative	To form a Task Group with leadership from the UK.	CWG (Contracts Working Group)
Working Platform Standard	To report back once he had received Derek Egan's report on which CEN committee this resides with.	EFFC Secretary
New Meeting schedule	To present a firm proposal on how two Executive meetings and an AGM meeting will work at the coming AGM.	Officers
Bentonite issue	To seek a chair for the Task Group from the Technical Working Group.	Bartho Admiraal
Affiliate Membership Proposal	To provide comments on the proposal to the Secretary to help shape the rules and income proposal.	ALL
Rig Standard En 16228	To provide a current list of compliant machinery. This list will change monthly.	Daniel Perpezat
Rig Standard En 16228	To provide details of whom the EFFC should officially complain to about the abuse of the standards system so that a formal letter can be sent to them.	Daniel Perpezat/ EFFC Secretary
EFFC Website	Request for a volunteer to take care of the Newsletter in future.	ALL
Young Professionals section of the EFFC Website	Everyone was asked to provide images that could be used in this section and also to provide details of their company schemes and national courses where possible. Companies to approach Universities in their countries to seek for participation on the website.	ALL
EFFC website	Investigate possibility of adding a news alert.	Secretary
BIM requirements for design and testing of foundations	To co-ordinate discussions on BIM between the Working Groups.	Working Group Chairs
Technical Working Group Chairman and Vice Chair	To keep the Officers informed of who would be fulfilling the role of Vice Chair.	Bartho Admiraal

ISSMGE meeting on European pile design	To provide an article for the EFFC website on this subject.	Maurice Bottiau
Carbon Calculator	New Presentation on promoting the benefits of the carbon calculator to be produced. DFI to be informed of change of approach.	Luca Bruni/ EFFC Secretary
The new Officer for Austria	Confirmation of Austria representative as new Officer in place of Eddie Falk.	AGM agenda

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