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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOUNDATION CONTRACTORS

Minutes of a Meeting of the EFFC Executive Committee, Friday 23 June 2017, Salle du Conseil at Fédération Nationale des Travaux Publics (FNTP), 90 Avenue des Champs Elysées, Paris, France

PRESENT:

In the Chair	Hans-Joachim Bliss	President (Germany)
Other Officers	José Candela	Senior Vice President (Spain)
	Olivier Peter	Treasurer (France)
	Andreas Körbler	Officer (Austria)
	Andrea Acerbi	Officer (Italy)
WG Chairmen	Chris Harnan	Contracts WG (UK)
	Bartho Admiraal	Technical WG (The Netherlands)
	Luca Bruni	Carbon Calculator Task Group (Italy)
Members	Maurice Bottiau	Belgium
	Wim Claesen	Belgium
	Daniel Perpezat	France
	Tamas Kaltenbacher	Hungary
	Federico Trevisani	Italy
	Luca Bruni	Italy
	Przemyslaw Nowak	Poland
	Carlos Vasquez	Romania
	Dejan Lukic	Switzerland
	Jaap Estié	The Netherlands
	Andrew West	UK
	David Hard	UK
Martin Blower	UK	
In Attendance:	Ciaran Jennings	EFFC Secretary
	Kerry-Anne Hutchison	EFFC Administrator

14/17 WELCOME

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Benjamin Daubilly for the hospitality the previous evening.

Hans-Joachim formally welcomed David Hard from Bachy Soletanche UK who is the new Vice Chairman of the EFFC Technical Working Group and advised Martin Blower is the new FPS representative as Chris Primett's successor and shall formally take over as the UK Officer at the AGM in October.

He remarked 12 out of 16 federations are present which is 75% attendance.

The President gave a short report and said that he had attended FIEC's annual meeting which was also attended by EIC and CICA and had given a formal report on the activity of the EFFC. He had explained that the EFFC are interested in making progress on the issues of

- Fair risk sharing
- Collaborative working
- Attracting young professionals
- Working Platform certification and quality

- BIM, streamlining and aligning approaches within the industry

He was awaiting a formal response from the FIEC President in the expectation that they shall work with us to move these issues forward.

Compliance

A statement of legal compliance was made declaring that the meeting was for the purpose of discussing the mutual interests of the EFFC Member Federations and not for the fixing of market prices.

15/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Martin Sonnberger (Austria), Jindrich Ricica (Czech Republic), Lars Rande (Denmark), Peter Vroom (The Netherlands), Par Land (Sweden) and Chris Primett (UK).

16/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the 17 February 2017 Executive Meeting in Amsterdam were agreed.

Review of actions from the last meeting

Mutual recognition of rig operator qualifications - It was agreed at the last meeting that the first step forward is for National Federations to share information on situations in their respective countries relating to existing legislation, local authorities and available training. However Hans advised he has not had much progress but expects to revert back with an update at the AGM in Madrid.

EFFC accident investigation training Ciaran Jennings advised Lorenzo Alessi is leading the training and if members wish to participate; to please contact the EFFC Administrator. Olivier Peter advised they had the training with 20 participants however commented that all federations take advantage of it and feedback received was very good. Ciaran reported that the training was particularly useful for smaller contractors who do not have a dedicated HSE manager. However every organisation would benefit from taking the training.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

17/17 WORKING PLATFORM CERTIFICATE INITIATIVE

a) European Standard for Working Platforms

Dejan Lukic delivered a presentation following the EFFC Health and Safety Committee meeting on 17 March 2017 in London, UK. He advised he received numerous documents from members and other federations and the content is currently being reviewed. He identified three groups that needed to be educated about the need for good quality working platforms and the needs of contractors:

- Clients
- Designers
- Insurers

Dejan commented it would be beneficial to create a set of documents and requirements for each of the groups to address their different levels of knowledge and interests. He noted that there are different needs in different countries on the issue of Working Platforms. In Italy and Austria there is a need for a tool to help design working platforms. The Swiss have norm positioning catalogues and installation documents that determine the methods to be used. These require different documents and approaches.

Dejan advised the Health & Safety Working Group are currently progressing with a "Framework Special Conditions" document which will be produced in mid July 2017. This should summarise the minimum requirements of foundations contractors so that they can be incorporated into the general contractual conditions. This will need the support of EFFC Members to ensure they are integrated into the national frameworks that are used within their countries. He commented if the working platform is designed correctly the benefit is increased productivity.

Dejan further commented it is too soon to commit to a European standard due to the differences between countries; this also includes matters such as rig drivers licences and BIM. He advised he

intends to commit to a minimum standard that can be achieved across the EFFC membership.

Olivier Peter commented that there is an issue of manufacturers providing rig pressure data to aid in the design of the working platform. Andreas Korbler added that in Austria there is a need for a minimum standard for the tender stage of a project. Martin Blower commented that in the UK the manufacturers are always asked to provide bearing pressure data, though it is important to be aware of the different operating modes and tools being used.

Dejan also commented that the pedestrian access to the platform needed to be improved. Maurice Bottiau commented that slips and trips were the biggest source of accidents in his company. He believed the main issue for adopting a working platform certificate or standard would be to make it compulsory within National Federations. He agreed the national general execution conditions need to be addressed.

Ciaran Jennings informed the group that the FPS have created a tool that calculates the rig bearing pressures on the working platform to aid with design. It had recently been updated to take account of eccentric loading. Training was available in its use from the expert in the UK who formulated the sheet. Anyone interested in finding out more about the tool should contact the EFFC Secretary.

All

Ciaran also advised that there is a group in the UK called the Temporary Works Forum (TWF), that has produced a comprehensive guidance document on Working Platforms that might form the basis of a standard. Bartho Admiraal advised the Technical Working Group are awaiting an EFFC position on working platforms as CEN TC288 are waiting to see what the EFFC position on these is before they explore the possibility of initiating a work item to create a European standard.

The President asked that the Technical Working Group co-ordinate with the Health & Safety group and look at the TWF document to see if it can be adapted for use by the EFFC.

TWG/HS/
Secretary

Chris Harnan commented that a CEN standard may take 10 years to achieve and is likely to be watered down. The FPS approach requires the use of Working Platform Certificate as it pushes the responsibility on to the main contractor to ensure the piling contractor's needs are met. José Candela commented that the best approach is to have the working platform requirement adopted as a collective protection for health and safety.

Przemyslaw Nowak commented that it is necessary that the main contractor can make money on the platform. Having unit prices for working platforms would help this.

18/17 RIG SAFETY STANDARD – EN16228, CONFLICT WITH ISO TC82

Daniel Perpezat delivered a presentation following his update in Amsterdam on drilling equipment standards. *Please find Daniel's presentation attached to these minutes.*

He advised that CEN TC/151 WG3 are working through the fine tuning of the standard and have covered 90% of the text. In this process they have deemed it necessary to form two sub groups to look at external rod loaders and detection issues. The revision process should run through to October after which it can become a formal work item and enquiry where the amendments shall be voted on by CEN.

Daniel also said that the rig guarding issue was of particular concern. He explained that in France there had been a fatality in front of client inspectors and also a severe hand injury. This meant that the authorities were now insisting all machines are guarded whether they are older machines or not. Their position is that the contractor is responsible for safety and that conformity to the old standards is not a defence.

He explained that within the standard there was allowance for a special protective mode. However there were a number of points of debate that WG3 are debating. These include issues such as what constitutes a situation where guards cannot be used and technical restraints that should be used in this mode and the risk assessments that should be carried out.

Conflict of standards

Daniel reported that ISO/TC 180, which deals with mining equipment wanted take over all drilling machines. Their intention is to go to the Vienna Agreement (which deals with conflicts in standards) to make the ISO standard for these machines a CEN standard and change the scope of CEN/TC 151 WG3. However this approach has been rejected by the ISO Technical

Management Board who are arbitrating on this conflict.

So far there have been three conference calls for this task group where TC82 have been very rigid in their position. Daniel has not been permitted to attend these calls. However AFFNOR and UNM have taken a strong position in relation to Rock Drilling Rigs not being substantively different to geotechnical rigs. This position has been accepted and a joint working group has been called for.

The President commented that he sees huge challenges to work through the issues. He believed that the EFFC requirement for guards in EN16228, is the right position as it is driven from the need for better safety standards. However although he did not see that "rock drilling rigs" were different to geotechnical equipment, separating them out from the standard may be a solution to the conflict. The EFFC Officers shall produce a position paper on this topic, this work has begun already.

EFFC Officers

Olivier Peter commented that the issue of automated rod handling was very interesting as it provided a safer and more productive method of working.

Martin Blower commented that there is a large amount of experience within the UK on guarding, including on anchors from companies such as BAM Ritchies, Keller and Bachy Soletanche. He committed to ask the Managing Directors to feed their experience back to the working group.

M Blower

19/17 EFFC/DFI CONFERENCE

Ciaran Jennings advised the DFI and EFFC are partnering to host the International Conference on Deep Foundations and Ground Improvement, which is taking place on 6th – 8th June 2018, at Sapienza University in Rome. The theme of the conference is Urbanization and Infrastructure Development: Future Challenges.

He explained the background to the DFI/EFFC conference which occurs every 4 years and the EFFC had previously received 5% profit from ticket sales in return for inputting into the content of the conference and promoting attendance to EFFC Members. This year there are three significant differences to the conference at the request of the EFFC:

1. Clients are invited to present on their projects in order to help EFFC companies to promote their businesses and expertise.
2. The Conference is shorter so that it does not require a three day commitment of time.
3. The EFFC will take a 25% risk and profit share in the conference.

The EFFC will have a stand at the event which will promote the work and achievements of the Federation to date.

The success of the conference relies on the DFI, EFFC and its National Federations to raise awareness through a variety of marketing ideas. The EFFC has put together a series of marketing activities which each member Federation should carry out to help support the event, with an overall aim of increasing ticket sales. Supportive Activities that members can assist with include:

- LinkedIn: Place regular updates on LinkedIn, if applicable. The EFFC can provide topic suggestions and articles, if necessary.
- Twitter: Regular conference update on Twitter, or other social media channels. The EFFC can provide topic suggestions and articles, if necessary.
- Email Campaigns: The EFFC requests that Federations email details of the conference to potential clients, trade press, members and university contacts. Designed literature will be provided.
- Email Signature: The EFFC will produce an banner which could be placed on Federation or Secretariat email signatures Website:
- Website articles: The EFFC will draft a series of news stories regarding the conference which can be uploaded to Federation websites Newsletter:

The EFFC requests that details of the conference are included in Federation newsletters, if applicable Meetings. Federations should add the conference to relevant meeting agendas, to raise awareness within Member companies. Please find attached an activity timeline which members are asked to review and follow as part of the EFFC's commitment to promoting the event.

ALL

The President asked Members to inform their federations. The President commented that not all

members have access social media however for those who do please utilise such accounts as the Secretary will be posting on LinkedIn closer to the time.

a) DFI Proposed Budget

The President advised that the Officers had obtained legal advice regarding the responsibility, negligence, insurance and commitments of contracts that the EFFC entered into. He stated that Members should be aware that legally they are all liable for losses that may occur from any contracts that are entered into with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Officers also have personal responsibility and liability for signing agreements. The legal advice suggested that the EFFC should become an incorporated company in order to provide itself with better legal protection or alternatively have a more defined schedule of responsibilities for the officers. Maurice Bottiau commented that it would not be fair to hold an individual Officer responsible in this way. Hans explained that this would be an extreme situation, but wanted all to understand the importance of the legal consequences of all the EFFC Executive decisions. He further noted the reserve funds would insure against any possible deficit. However, all Members should support promotion of the conference as it should contribute to EFFC funds.

A proposed budget has been created for the DFI Conference in Rome 2018 and will be circulated with these minutes. It was noted a €5k deposit has been set aside in the EFFC budget to express our commitment.

b) Client Projects to be approached

Jose Candela reported that 100 abstracts for the conference had been received so far. This was a little on the low side and an extension to 17th July had been given. It was anticipated that the inclusion of client projects should also increase the volume of material submitted for the conference.

The President advised the Officers have created a formal letter to invite clients to present their projects at the conference. All should speak to the big clients in their countries to encourage them to attend and present. Maurice Bottiau commented Members should be aware that there is a selection process for including clients in the programme. A long list of possible clients is to be reviewed by the DFI, all are asked to submit possibilities to the Secretary so that they can be included for consideration.

Maurice also raised the issue of encouraging young engineers to attend (those under 35) as it is important that a younger audience are brought to the conference to learn and meet people. It was suggested that a competition could be run to that would see two people present winning papers to the conference. Andrea Acerbi suggested that companies should be encouraged to bring along a younger member of staff when attending the conference.

20/17 EFFC MEMBERSHIP

The President introduced this topic by saying it was important to ensure that we as an Executive are still satisfying the needs of our Members.

He raised the vote at the AGM in Milan on the proposal for including Affiliate Members within the EFFC. At that time there was not 100% support for the proposal. He related the experience of the FIEC meeting earlier in the year where votes are used to push through a majority view. He preferred that the EFFC had a consensus on this issue. He believed that it was important to enlarge the EFFC membership to give bigger opportunities for the work of the Federation.

In relation to the work of the Federation he spoke about the need to keep new energy coming into the Working Groups. The Officers recognised that there was not a formal process for appointing new Working Group Chairs when they stepped down and that they were looking at this to ensure that the Working Groups would have the full support of the wider EFFC.

The President gave a presentation – see attached – on the EFFC and its Membership criteria. He made the points that in the EFFC objectives there is the need for “effective networking with our stakeholders”, this is not something the EFFC does currently. Also under the Membership principles, stakeholders do not appear. He gave the example of the EIC, FIEC and CICA, all of which have industry stakeholders included in their Memberships through affiliated membership

All

categories.

He proposed that the EFFC should open up to stakeholders with some strict principles being applied.

- The primary objective should be to support the objectives of the Federation
- They should contribute to our work
- They should have no voting rights within the EFFC but should be permitted to participate in the Working Groups.

Hans Bliss defined the scope of stakeholders as being any company or industry involved in the execution of specialist foundation works and any specialist that supports the improvement of geotechnical standards of workmanship. He proposed the existing principle of Associated Membership within the rules should be extended to cover stakeholders. He also proposed that they pay a flat fee for Membership, rather than linking this to CEN votes as had previously been proposed.

In discussion it was recommended that the AGM should be opened up in part to Associate Members, possibly with a Technical session in the afternoon that would be of interest to all. They should also participate in the Gala dinner. It was also queried whether companies should be permitted to join from outside the EU. It was agreed this possibility should be left open, but that acceptance of Associate Members should be left at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

It was agreed that revised EFFC statutes would be drafted for voting on in Madrid.

The President also asked the group whether it should consider the creation of a new Working Group on the subject of Workmanship. The intention would be for this group to take on some of the subjects of the Technical Working Group and seek to progress them as the TWG currently meets only once a year. Alternatively the TWG could meet more often to achieve this aim. The intention of the Workmanship group would be as a place to get the involvement of Stakeholders on specific subjects. Hans Bliss reported that the Officers want the Working Group Chairs to provide their topics so that the Officers can co-ordinate activity between the Working Groups on overlapping subjects. This exercise shall identify the topics that could be put into a new working group.

**President/
Secretary**

21/17 WEBSITE MATTERS

The President requested all members visit the new website and update their federation's contact information by informing the EFFC Administrator. He also expressed some disappointment that Members were not more engaged with providing content to the website.

A media corner has been created which it is intended shall host the EFFC's corporate video once this has been completed. The media pack for the EFFC newsletter is available in this section. The President reported he was planning the second newsletter of the year to go out after the AGM. Two sponsors had been secured so far at €3000 income to the EFFC.

A Sustainability tab has now been added with a link to the eCO2 Foundations page featuring the Carbon Calculator tool. The intention is to incorporate the content that exists on the Carbon Calculator microsite into this section as the DFI are no longer providing support on this project. This will enable the Secretariat to update this section of the site more quickly and at no additional cost.

a) Safety Corner

The President requested the HSE WG produce new articles, toolbox talks and documents of on-going projects for the Safety corner of the website. He requested that the toolbox talks are updated every two to three months with new documents from Members.

b) Views: Women in Special Foundations

The President reported the EFFC Newsletter is due to be published in approximately three weeks and features an introduction with Hans and an article on Women in Special Foundation. This has involved interviewing three women to get their experience of working in the industry. All members are encouraged to read this newsletter which is attached to these minutes.

c) Young Professionals

The President again encouraged the Executive Members to bring Young Professionals from their countries to participate on the website and enter data to “Profiles” with the aim of creating a networking of Young Professionals within the EFFC.

22/17 REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

a) Contracts Working Group

Chris Harman presented to the group on the meeting of the previous day:

FIEC – it was reported that there were some issues within FIEC relating to funding and organisation. The CWG reviewed the TEC priority list which currently did not have much that was directly relevant to Members. However work was ongoing on the BIM task group, where the EFFC had placed Mark Sheridan to promote the need for collaborative working within BIM projects. This has been included in their work programme.

FIEC have produced a position paper on execution standards. This asserts that new standards should be driven by the needs of the contractors. Currently they are seen as either too restrictive and preventative of contractors using alternative methods and techniques, or they are so broad that they are meaningless.

Mutual recognition – The H&S group are to put together a 1 page minimum requirements document. The intention from there is to convene a group of 4-5 northern European Health and Safety organisations to look at progressing it further.

The President commented that he may attend the H&S meeting in September to support this topic.

Concrete Task Group – Chris reported in place of Karsten Beckhaus. Two meetings are planned with the second edition of the guide expected for the end of the year. The intention is to launch the 2nd Edition at the Rome conference in June.

Support Fluids Group – see item f) below.

Sustainability – There is low interest in the industry on this topic currently, which has slipped back to an information and education stage on the cost to benefit and moral issues. Chris summarised five reasons why sustainability is imperative:

- Retain top talent and improve employee satisfaction
- Proactively manage business risks
- Product/Service differentiation
- Reduction of production costs
- Enhance image, reputation and brand recognition

He proposed that a Sustainability Temporary Work Group is created with new, possibly younger, people on it who may become Officers in the future. They should be tasked with collecting and reviewing presentations from the companies that are best examples of sustainability within the construction industry.

This idea was welcomed and it was considered a possible issue that could be put in the Workmanship working group proposed earlier. It was suggested that young professionals could be found to work in the group and that they should use online collaboration tools as they will be travelling for large amount of time. This idea will be looked at once the Officers have reviewed the Working Group topics.

Ground risks – Chris reported that this subject was being looked at by the group following on from the work to adapt the UK’s position paper on Uncapped Liabilities. There was some debate as to whether it was necessary to define ground risk for EFFC contractors and provide documents that set out what is and is not acceptable. However it was determined that this would not have value to the Members as there are different approaches at national level and often pre-existing legal definitions of ground risk. The item shall be removed from the CWG agenda.

Collaborative Working – The position paper has been completed thanks to the work of Federico Trevisani. A summary version has also been completed.

Officers

All

b) Technical Working Group

Bartho Admiraal introduced David Hard as the new Vice Chairman of the working group. His background includes being a representative of the FPS Technical Committee and he works for Bachy Soletanche as their Technical Director. Bartho commented David will bring a breadth of knowledge to the group and he hopes he shall take over the Chairing of the group in time and he is due to join the TC288 group.

Bartho reported on the current status of the CEN technical standards – please see attached presentation. He advised that ground freezing and dewatering were both being considered for the creation of new standards.

The group is considering producing EFFC guidelines on these subjects and mixed in place walls, self-drilling anchors and leakage control of retaining walls.

He also reported that there was an issue of national standards bodies not funding development, which is leading to less participation in the CEN/TCs.

The President said that if the TWG could provide a list of the countries missing from the various working groups it would be possible to encourage greater participation via the National Federations. Maurice Bottiau commented that the TWG used to be led by the Chair of TC/288 however this was then split out.

Hans Bliss asked that more insight be given into the issues that are being covered in the review of standards so that non-technical Members can better understand the potential issues on site that changing the standards will address. He also asked that the permeability issue be dropped for the time being as this had previously been discussed and discounted in the AGM.

c) Health & Safety Working Group

No discussion.

d) Carbon Calculator

Luca Bruni reported that he, with support from Andrea Acerbi, had developed a new presentation for the Eco2 Foundations project to promote it to contractors and clients. See attached presentation. This focuses more on the business case for the use of the tool and the wider argument for sustainability, rather than promotion of the tool and its methodology.

Andrea Acerbi said that there is a possibility that the DFI will come back into the project in the future and that Luca and Andrea will clarify Gianfranco Diccico's view and objections.

Luca said that he intended to run a national champions meeting in order to refresh the training and re-energise the effort to promote sustainability and use of the tool in the industry. However to do this it is necessary for the National Federations to nominate a champion. The Secretary committed to asking the EFFC Members to nominate people to attend and organise a meeting in Paris in September. Olivier Peter said it was important that each National Federation push this internally in order to promote the issue of sustainability and the use of the tool.

e) Tremie Concrete Guide – see CWG report above

f) Support Fluids Guide

Chris Harnan reported the Support Fluid Task Group met in Miami, Florida in April 2017 joining up with the Concrete TG.

The agenda and group criteria has been agreed and adopted. He advised the Chair Sabine and her team are currently producing a Support Fluid guide which will cover bentonite, polymer and blended support fluids but not water. Topics that will not feature in the guide are water wells, permeable trenches, water (as support fluid), drilling (tunnelling, oriented drilling, coring). Topics that will be covered include treatment, carbonate, bicarbonate, polyphosphate, dispersant CMC, coagulant agent, flocculent agent, cleaning agent, and plug (polymer, fibres and sand).

EFFC Secretary

A draft guideline of the document has been established and assigned to appropriate members and a first edition it is likely to be published late 2017. The second edition is aimed to be produced before the DFI Conference in Rome, 2018. Statistical makeup of the group consists of Contractors 55%, Consultants 16%, Suppliers 16% and Academics 13%. The representation of countries within the group are USA 26%, United Kingdom 26%, Germany 16%, France 10%, Belgium 7%, The Netherlands 3%, Greece 3%, Switzerland 3%, Italy 3% and Spain 3%. The group are scheduled to meet next on 26th September 2017 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

23/17 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Olivier Peter presented the draft audited accounts and explained there is €200k currently in reserves. Currently expenses were in line with expectations and there is expected to be a €30k outturn from the DFI/EFFC Conference in 2018.

24/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

25/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 5th October – Friday 6th October 2017 (AGM) Madrid, Spain

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Issue/Project	Task	Responsibility
Actions from Milan	Please complete all outstanding actions from Milan before the next meeting	All
Working Platform initiative	Secretary to investigate whether the Temporary Works Forum document can be shared with the Technical Committee	Secretary
Working Platform initiative	TWG and H&S to co-ordinate activity on Working Platform requirements document	B Admiraal/ M Sonnberger
Rig Standard EN16228	EFFC Officers to draft a position paper for D Perpezat and ISO/CEN Chairmen	Officers
Rig Standard EN16228	Martin Blower to ask FPS MDs to provide insight and experience on rig guarding practices	M Blower/ FPS Secretary
DFI/EFFC Conference	All Members to promote the conference according to provided marketing schedule	ALL
EFFC Membership	Membership rule statutes to be amended for review and vote at AGM	H Bliss/ Secretary
Working Group Activities	All WG Chairs to provide a list of priority topics	C Harnan M Sonnberger B Admiraal
Working Group Activities	Officers to review WG topics and co-ordinate activity, review which topics could be placed in Workmanship WG	Officers
Carbon Calculator Project	Confirm names of National Champions of EFFC Members	C Jennings,
Carbon Calculator Project	All Members to support National Champions to promote the Carbon Calculator internally.	All