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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOUNDATION CONTRACTORS

Minutes of a Meeting of the EFFC Council Annual General Meeting on Friday 6th October 2017 at 09:00am in Hotel Miguel Angel, Renacimiento Room, 29-31 Calle Miguel Ángel, Madrid 28010 Spain

PRESENT:

In the Chair	Hans-Joachim Bliss José Candela	President (Germany) Incoming President (Spain)
Other Officers	Andreas Körbler Andrea Acerbi Martin Blower	Officer (Austria) Officer (Italy) Officer (UK)
WG Chairs	Luca Bruni Karsten Beckhaus Chris Harnan Martin Sonnberger Sabine Darson Bartho Admiraal David Hard	Carbon Calculator TG (Italy) Concrete WG (Germany) Contracts WG (UK) Health and Safety WG (Austria) Support Fluids WG (France) Technical WG (Netherlands) Technical WG Vice Chair (UK)
Members	Kurt Kogler Thomas Pirkner Maurice Bottiau Wim Claesen Jindrich Rიცია Lars Rande Stieg Weiss Cyril Plomteux Peter Ausserlechner Tamas Kaltenbacher Federico Trevisani Przemyslaw Nowak Wojciech Szwejkowski Carlos Vasquez Rafael Casado Geraldo Marote Ricardo Operandi Pedro Avellanosa Javier Vaca Pär Land Dejan Lukic Jaap Estié Peter Vroom	Austria Austria Belgium Belgium Czech Republic Denmark Denmark France Germany Hungary Italy Poland Poland Romania Spain Spain Spain Spain Spain Sweden Switzerland The Netherlands The Netherlands
In Attendance:	Peter Arz Peter De Kort Daniel Perpezat Ciaran Jennings Kerry-Anne Hutchison	Past President Past President France EFFC Secretary EFFC Administrator

1/17 WELCOME

A legal compliance statement was made: the purpose of the meeting is to discuss collaboration to address industry issues and not to in any way engage in fixing of markets or projects.

The President (Hans-Joachim Bliss) welcomed everyone to his last meeting as the President of the EFFC and thanked José Candela (Incoming President) for the hospitality received in Madrid.

2/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Olivier Peter (Treasurer, France) and Chris Primett (Past President, UK).

It was reported 15 out of 16 federations were present which was a 95% attendance record.

3/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Executive Meeting held on Friday 23rd June 2017 in Paris and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 14th October 2016 were circulated and approved.

4/17 REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hans Bliss recapped his years as President with photos from Milan and Amsterdam where they bid farewell to members Stephano Trevisani (Italy), Henk de Koning (The Netherlands) and now Chris Primett (Past President). He noted Martin Blower as the temporary Officer for the UK and revisited world events over his two years of service:

He commented that the construction output in Europe stood at 3-5%, which would mean the foundations sector has higher potential for growth.

Hans recapped the objectives that he set himself at the beginning of his term. He summarised that

FIEC – He attended the Council meetings where he had asked for their support in creating fair risk sharing models, support for our Working Group activities and support for developing young professionals within our industry. So far the EFFC has received no formal response and pressure would need to be applied to get any commitment from them.

EU support – he had written to Martin Schulz, EU President asking the EU Commission to support the work of the EFFC and give a greater degree of recognition.

ISO/CEN – He had contacted both organisations to highlight the conflict between the rig standard and the new Rock Drilling Standard being developed by ISO.

EFFC Website – He had overseen the rebuild of the new website with a view to increasing the EFFC's networking activity. He was satisfied the website helped visitors to see that geotechnical contractors are involved in all the iconic buildings being built in Europe. He asked that the National Federations support the From the National Federation section by sending in their articles. He also expressed that he was not satisfied with the Young Professionals section of the website where there are currently only two people registered. He wanted to see at least ten more profiles uploaded to encourage the group to start networking with each other. The Projects section was working well and he asked Members to ensure that their information was kept up-to-date on the site. He also asked that WG Members take ownership of the Safety corner of the site and prompt their safety people to provide content for this area.

EFFC Newsletter – Hans reported that four newsletters had been produced and he had pushed these personally. They had contributed a profit of €6,950.

New Member – Hans reminded the group that he had targeted adding one new Member to the EFFC. However he had not achieved this goal. He explained that he had spoken to Norway, who are undergoing an internal reorganisation and have shown no genuine interest. He had also approached Bulgarian contractors, but they do not currently wish to work together.

Participation in meetings – The President said he had attended a meeting of the Polish Federation where he was impressed with the effective leadership. He had also attended a meeting of the Romanian Federation which has different challenges as a smaller federation with a difficult market that can limit the enthusiasm of Members.

He thoroughly enjoyed working with everybody he met along the way. He reports seeing great potential in the industry and as a Federation; we have strengthened our position and need to collectively move forward to the future.

Overall he said that if he was being self-critical he was disappointed that he did not achieve all of his goals and did not manage to get more people to take on personal responsibility to drive issues to a conclusion. However, he reflected that in his time issues had been moved forward, no Members had left the EFFC owing to being overly rigid about subscription fees. Also he felt he had laid a foundation stone for the future with the work on allowing in associate members.

He later expressed his gratitude for the work of the Working Groups, especially to those who are willing to lead, and stressed the importance of what they do.

He thanked the group for their support.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

5/17 WORKING PLATFORM CERTIFICATE INITIATIVE

Dejan Lukic reported that after consulting with the Members he was finalising a paper on the issue that would be reviewed by the Health & Safety WG. He explained that he had received many inputs from Members that ranged from a full specification for all circumstances through to a simple document of requirements on main contractors. He commented that the FPS have good tools and a detailed expert specification and certificate document. However, it is too difficult for some to move to this right away and he believed a stepped development process was necessary.

He explained that the paper he was working on was not a standard but a paper to educate the stakeholders about the need for a safe working platform. It was divided into two parts – a political document that explained the background to the issue with statistics and a technical document of the geotechnical contractors' requirements. He said that the political papers would be useful to persuading organisations such as ISHCCO (the international organisation for safety co-ordinators) who he intended to meet with. Once the document has been developed it would be determined how to distribute it.

The finalised document is to be circulated after the AGM for all to look at. It can be found [here](#). Members were asked to review the document with the intent of approaching local authorities to commence discussions and also to circulate to specialists for their input. Comments on it should be sent to Dejan Lukic and cc'd into the Secretary.

All

José Candela asked that this be reviewed and discussed at the next Executive meeting and not only the HSE Working Group.

The President commented that he appreciated the structured approach.

6/17 MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF RIG OPERATOR QUALIFICATIONS

The President recapped by explaining his efforts to request funds from the EU in support of a project to resolve this issue. He noted he contacted the EU President Martin Schulz as well as the Vice President Alexander Graf von Lambsdorff but he had not been willing to help on the issue. The EU process for funding projects requires a tender application and typically this requires a consultant to create the application; this usually costs €20k and if the application is declined the fee is non-refundable.

Martin Sonnberger advised their Health & Safety WG have proposed a standard to the Austrian government which includes an initial practical and theory test where workers can be employed up to 6 months and after this period a training course must be completed in accordance to national regulations.

Jaap Estié reported he met with an EU Crane and Lifting Operations organisation whom are aiming to achieve the same purpose so he will be investigating into collaborating together.

The President noted he intends to remain actively involved in this issue and is in process of convening a small working group consisting of 5-6 specialists to approach the harmonisation of standards within

the EFFC and seek EU assistance. He noted the group's first objective is to create a roadmap and endeavour to initially make progress at a national level as opposed to EU which he hoped will come in time. All were asked to send in expressions of interest to participate in this working group to the EFFC Secretary.

EFFC Secretary
All

Once a standard has been agreed for the minimum acceptable requirements it shall be shared with Members for comment. The Past President Peter Arz suggested we initiate an EFFC Rig Driver License, to start setting a European level for competence.

7/17 RIG SAFETY STANDARD – EN16228

Daniel Perpezat delivered a presentation on the update to EN16228. He raised the issue of guarding the moving parts of a rig as being the most controversial topic for CEN/TC 151 WG3. In response to it four sub groups have been created to look at External rod loaders, tag based detection, anchor drilling rigs and suspended drilling rigs. In relation to rigs with mechanised rod handling systems that are integrated into the machine, it is acceptable to work without a guard.

Also being looked at are new approaches whereby excavators are adapted as external mechanised rod handlers. This has been found to prevent manual handling injuries and increase productivity. However, a CEN standard can't certify a group of machines as it is not possible to ensure that the machines are being used together. A solution to this is being worked on whereby the standard will require a clamp for the external rod handler to be supplied with the machine. \

Tag based systems are also considered to be acceptable when cage use is not possible and it is justified after a risk analysis as been carried out. However, tag systems are considered PPE and therefore are lower down on the hierarchy of protections. The Task Group is therefore looking at what performance level is required of the tag system and how to control the presence of the operator.

In relation to anchor drilling rigs, manufacturers are still resistant to changing their designs. Possible solutions that are being looked at include the design of better guards, carousels and external loaders and tag detection.

In relation to the conflict between ISO/TC 82 and CEN/TC 151 WG3 it was reported that this had now been resolved by the Technical Board of CEN. They had determined that Jumbos, Continuous Miners, Raise Borers and road loaders should be dealt with under the rock drilling standard. However it was also determined that there is scope for the rig standard EN16228 to be adopted at ISO level.

All

The President thanked Daniel for his presentation and thanked him for his efforts to resolve the conflict between standards. It was asked what the current situation is in relation to the rig standard. Daniel explained that the standard as published in 2014 is in operation. Any amendments to this standard shall not be live until they have been agreed and voted on by the national standards bodies.

Hans Bliss presented an EFFC position paper on the rig standard that highlights the issue raised by the conflict between the standards – namely that equipment that conforms to the rock drilling standard potentially presents a risk when used in geotechnical applications and that equipment that conforms to EN16228 should be used. In addition it supported the harmonisation of the standards and the continuing development of EN16228 to find safe solutions to enhancing productivity.

The position paper was approved by the Council and shall be published to the EFFC website.

8/17 EFFC/DFI CONFERENCE

Ciaran Jennings explained the background to the DFI and EFFC 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 conference 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. It was agreed in 2018 the EFFC would take 25% of the risk in the conference and overall profit. Please find the schedule of the two day conference [here](#).

Ciaran Jennings explained the EFFC and DFI both have a half-day session on the day before the conference where it was suggested to deliver a Working Platform Workshop with round table discussions. He suggested that Jim De Wale may be able to lead this session and ensure that contractual, technical and BIM subjects are covered.

The main change to the conference over previous ones is to invite clients to provide presentations on their geotechnical challenges. José Candela reported the Metro Roma project had been suggested as a relevant Italian project to feature. It was noted Olivier Peter is approaching the Grand Paris project via SOFFONs for France and other selected projects have been suggested that shall also be approached.

José Candela also said that there was some concern about the nominations for speakers and session chairs. It was being stressed with the DFI that contractors should choose who from their organisation should give a presentation.

Chris Harnan asked that the Secretary speak to the DFI to ensure that the launch of the second edition of the Tremie Guide is given a session in the conference. Ciaran agreed to raise this with Theresa Engeler.

**EFFC
Secretariat**

All members were reminded the conference relies on the success of the DFI, EFFC and its National Federations to raise the profile of the event through marketing and that Members were committed to doing so under the contract between both organisations - a list of supportive activities can be found below:

All

LinkedIn: Place regular updates on LinkedIn, if applicable. The EFFC can provide topic suggestions and copy, if necessary.

Twitter: Regular conference update on Twitter, or other social media channels. The EFFC can provide topic suggestions and copy, 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 a banner which could be placed on Federation or Secretariat email signatures.

Website: 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 the conference to relevant meeting agendas, to raise awareness within Member companies.

It was also requested that young professionals within Member companies be encouraged to attend the conference in order to help transfer knowledge to the new generation of engineers and managers.

All

ISSUES REQUIRING A DECISION

9/17 AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

The President advised the EFFC commenced 28 years ago where it formed a federation of federations with a clear mission to take care of its Members' interests. He reminded the group of the EFFC's mission and objectives:

- Improve standards of workmanship, technical competence, safety and innovation
- Create and maintain an effective network amongst the Members of the Federation and with its Stakeholders
- Express the point of view of its Members with the European Commission, authorities, professional institutions and other Federations and third parties

He explained that currently the EFFC does not fulfil its objective of increasing the networking between Members and their stakeholders. He reminded the group that he had shown them previously that other organisations such as FIEC, EIC and CICA and also Member Federations have associated membership with suppliers/partners to the industry. At the last AGM there had been a majority in favour of adding associate members to the Federation. However three Members were not happy, so the Officers revisited the proposals in order to refine the purpose and framework under which associates could join the Federation. He asked all to collectively review the Affiliate Membership proposal which can be found [here](#), ahead of a vote for acceptance of the proposed rule changes.

The document was reviewed and the proposed changes highlighted and presented. An explanation of the changes is given below:

- 2.2.1 Changes the requirement that a National Federation represents the majority of Affiliate Members of that country. This should mean that the EFFC will have some discretion should more than one Federation be formed in the same country.
- 2.2.3 This extends the Associated Member definition to include companies that work in association with or in cooperation with the specialist foundations industry. This non-voting category also includes companies that are piling contractors without a national federation and Federations that sit outside the qualifying European countries.
- 2.3.1 This gives the EFFC full jurisdiction over what information and criteria for acceptance shall be required of an application to become a Full Member. It removes the explicit requirement that an application is supported by two Members. This requirement can still be set by the EFFC if it so wishes, but it is no longer a necessity under the rules.
- 2.3.2 This amendment requires that Affiliate and Associate Members are supported in their application by two Full Members.
- 2.3.3 This provides for the Council (AGM) to accept the admittance of Associate Members.
- 2.4.4 Removes the automatic cancellation of Membership if the number of companies in a National Federation falls below three.
- 3.1.1 This allows any Full Member to send up to three delegates to a meeting, but requires that only one of them has voting powers on behalf of its Federation. Affiliates are allowed to send a delegate at the agreement of the Council and shall have NO voting rights.
- 3.2.1 Formalises the current situation whereby two additional Officers are elected by the Council.
- 3.3. This allows the Executive to invite Associated Members to attend Executive meetings
- 3.5 Introduces the review of Secretariat remuneration and duties at the Council meeting on an annual basis.
- 4.2 Gives the Council the power to set the subscription amounts for Associated Members.

In summary Associate Membership shall be opened to suppliers and industry partners of the foundations industry. They shall be permitted to attend an open part of Executive Meetings and AGMs but shall have no voting rights. Their fees shall be determined by the Council.

A formal vote was conducted to accept the changes which were unanimously agreed by all present. The amended rules were therefore adapted for the EFFC.

WORK OF THE FEDERATION

10/17 REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

A) HEALTH AND SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Martin Sonnberger advised the group are preparing common basic guidance on instructions for lifting loads in deep foundations. The group is also working on producing guidance and fact sheets on the topic of safety co-ordination. These shall focus on hazards and the coordination of activity on sites and responsibilities at the design phase of construction. He advised he had spoken with Reinhard Obermaier, (Vice President of ISHCCO, which train safety coordinators at a European level) regarding this project. Martin asked Members if Mr Obermaier can attend the next H&S meeting in Rome and reimburse his travel expenses. This was agreed in principle. It is anticipated five fact sheets shall be produced in different languages that shall help specialist contractors put pressure on clients to meet their legal duties.

Mutual recognition of rig operator training was raised, Martin presented his proposal for a six month temporary license following a theory and practical test. Formal training would be required in-country following this six month period as they would become a long-term resident in the country with different rules applying to their legal status.

He stated that the next steps for the Working Group would include:

- Finalising guidance on “lifting“
- Preparing second instruction document – on rigging, derigging
- Finalising working platform document
- Discussion with ISHCOO re safety co-ordination

- Discussion with Massimo Calzoni (FORMEDIL) - Chairman of FIEC SOC 1 – Training re Mutual Recognition
- Brüssel September 2018: meeting experts re the “machinery directive“ about the quality of handbooks, the cleaning of silica dust and other machinery related issues. This will potentially involve the machinery manufacturers, FIEC and EFBWW.

B) TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Bartho Admiraal started by explaining the group had met last in Haarlem in April 2017 where 18 participants attended from 15 countries to exchange technical information and discuss CEN Geotechnical standards within the CEN TC working groups. He noted the working groups have produced a survey on the application of Tremie concrete. He noted that CEN were not directly funding the development of standards, this had meant there was a lack of participation from some countries in TC288: Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy, Hungary and Poland. David Hard confirmed he is due to participate for the UK in place of Derek Egan.

Bartho advised that the group is to look at Dewatering at the request of TC288 with a view to forming a Task Group. Also Task Groups are being considered for Mixed In-Place walls and Ground Anchors. Thomas Pirkner commented that an Austrian standard is in development for Dewatering Wells – he agreed to send Bartho information on this project. Kurt Kogler also commented that the Austrian Federation had comments on EN121715 (Grouting Works) they can share with the Technical WG.

The President thanked Bartho for his presentation and requested that information on the practical issues with the standards is included to help the Group understand the problems contractors are experiencing with them. He also asked that those countries that were not sending representatives to CEN/TC 288 to report back on the situation. Jindrich Rიცია commented that there was no representative for the Czech standards body

C) TREMIE CONCRETE TASK GROUP

Karsten Beckhaus explained that the group joined the Support Fluids Task Group meeting in Rotterdam on 26th September 2017. He explained the second edition of the Tremie Guide was due to be launched in June 2018. The Task Group members for the second edition had more contractors involved than the first edition and is a very effective group.

The second edition should give:

1. More details on Structural Detailing for a “robust” design
2. More focus on Stability of fresh concrete (bleed, filtration, segregation)
3. More “discrete” acceptance criteria for workability of fresh concrete (rheology based)
4. New focus on Numerical Modelling (showing general feasibility)

He reported a simple lab test will be featured in the second edition of the concrete guide.

T Pirkner

Key milestones for :

- Final draft 2nd edition Mid-January for Review
- Comments back mid March for finalisation end of March
- Type setting April 2018
- Publication at Rome Conference

Separately, Karsten wishes to deliver a full session on the Concrete guide at the EFFC/DFI conference in Rome followed by a round the table discussion.

D) SUPPORT FLUIDS TASK GROUP

Sabine Darson delivered a presentation following their last meeting in Rotterdam where they were working closely with the Concrete group to produce the support fluids guide.

The major issues they are addressing within the guidance include

- Thick filter cakes reducing shaft friction
- Inclusions comprising of the debris from soil and/or support fluid
- Poor seals at rock head on rock socket piles using water support fluids

- Stability problems and the use of additives to speed the cleaning process that are causing debris in the pile.

The format and structure of the guide mirrors that of the Tremie Guide in order to have consistency between the two.

Sabine noted the group is largely made up of contractors which was desired and they have had 3 meetings to date in Paris, Miami and Rotterdam. The next scheduled meeting is for 9th January 2018 in Berlin and then East Coast of USA in April 2018.

Currently the guide is due for review on 1 December with the second draft available on 9th January and a final validation for publication.

E) CONTRACTS WORKING GROUP

Chris Harnan reported the contracts working group had a successful meeting the day before where FIEC was a specific topic regarding the lack of material being produced over the past 12 months. He advised FIEC have convened a BIM Construction 4.0 Task Group and CECE (Committee for European Construction Equipment) have approached them for discussions. The EFFC are able to potentially feed into this and wider BIM discussions owing to our relationship with Sue Arundale at FIEC.

Chris explained that the group's next project is to consolidate the Uncapped Liabilities, Level 3 Conditions and Risk Register documents and Federico Trevisani has completed the two page summary of collaborative working which will be uploaded to the website. All members were encouraged to review this document. He also said that the CWG will be looking at Early Contractor Involvement on projects such as HS2 in the UK as this approach is seen to offer a better means to deliver projects with fewer on site problems.

F) CARBON CALCULATOR TASK GROUP

Luca Bruni reported the group had their first meeting in Paris in September 2017, he thanked Olivier Peter and Ben Daubilly for their assistance. Fourteen participants from 10 countries attended with a mixture of previous national champions and new faces. The group agreed the objectives and agenda for the group and are scheduled to meet again in March 2018.

The group are looking at making improvements to the tool and the best ways to disseminate the use of the tool. The group has also committed to reviewing the EFFC Sustainability Charter with a view to putting together a set of recommendations.

The President thanked Luca and commented that he was very pleased at the new dynamics they had created in the group.

Organisation of Working Group Agendas

The President thanked the Working Group Chairs and said that the Officers had been reviewing the agendas of the Working Groups. This was prompted by their recognition that there are a few topics that are being dealt with across the groups that have not made much progress in recent years. He stressed this was not a criticism of the Working Groups but a reflection that these topics need some new energy and dynamism introduced into them to try and progress them. The Officers therefore proposed a small restructuring of their agendas:

Each WG agenda should include

1. Relationships with external bodies (e.g. FIEC, DFI etc)
2. Working Group specific subjects (e.g. Technical issues for the TWG, Contractual issues for the CWG etc)
3. Contributions to the Website – this is in order to ensure there is a consistent output from the WGs to support the website and give more exposure to their work.

In addition it was proposed that Task Groups are set up to deal with the specific issues of

- Mutual Recognition of rig operator standards
- Working Platform Certificate.

These Task Groups shall be reabsorbed into the appropriate WG when their specific work programme is concluded.

Further to this, it was proposed that the subject of Sustainability is taken back into the Officers group in order to develop a strategy. Olivier Peter will be asked to take this on board and form an approach that may also involve creation of a Task Group.

Chris Harnan expressed concern that the use of Task Groups in this way ran the risk of taking away the significant work of the WGs and make them less important. He asked who the Task Groups should report into. Hans Bliss replied that they should report into the Executive Committee as they do currently. He further commented that the Officers had discussed this danger and they do not want to diminish the Working Groups. Chris suggested that the Task Groups report into a relevant WG. Hans explained that the reason for reporting into the Executive was due to the Executive meeting more frequently than most of the Working Groups.

José Candela commented that he agreed with Chris that the current Working Groups needed to be empowered and that the Task Groups would need to ideally be formed from within the WGs. He invited discussion on how to resolve this issue. Peter Arz commented that it was the responsibility of the WG Chairs to ensure the effectiveness of the WGs. Karsten Beckhaus commented that having both Chris Harnan and Bartho Admiraal had been worked well in the Concrete TG. Jaap Estié said that the NVAF had experienced a similar challenge in that their working groups felt they had exhausted all topics and therefore looked to initiate new topics.

Maurice Bottiau said that the ABEF experience is that using Task Groups to augment the work of the WGs has not disenfranchised the WGs. He suggested the Task Groups would need to go back to the Working Group Chairs in order to keep them effective.

Oliver Peter

Chris Harnan also commented that Sustainability as a subject would need its own Working Group as Task Groups needed to have a short term specific aims. Dejan Lukic commented that those people who sit across the WGs should be involved in the TG subjects in order to better coordinate them.

The President determined that the subject should be held over for the next meeting so that all could give it more thought.

FUNDING

11/17 FINANCE

A) ADOPTION OF THE 2014 ACCOUNTS

Please find [here](#) the 2014 Accounts for Member's perusal.

I) RESOLUTION: THE 2016 ACCOUNTS SHOULD BE ADOPTED

Jindrich Rიცია proposed the adoption of the accounts and was seconded by Peter Ausserlechner. It was agreed by all present to adopt the 2016 accounts.

B) APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Jindrich Rიცია proposed the reappointment of Crane & Partners and was seconded by Peter Ausserlechner. It was agreed by all present that Crane & Partners are reappointed as Auditor of the EFCF Accounts.

C) FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND 2018 BUDGET AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members were advised that approximately €23k is still outstanding in Membership subscriptions; all were kindly reminded to ensure they have paid.

It was noted the newsletter sponsorship is more than anticipated and expenditure has been fairly light.

It was also commented that there is a provision of €15k income in the budget from the inclusion of Associate Members into the Membership.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

12/17 CONFIRMATION OF OFFICERS

The confirmation of officers were announced as follows:

President – José Candela (Spain)

Immediate Past President – Hans-Joachim Bliss (Germany)

Senior Vice President & Treasurer – Olivier Peters (France)

Officer – Andrea Acerbi (Italy)

Officer – Andreas Körbler (Austria)

Officer – Martin Blower (UK)

13/17 NEW PRESIDENT INTRODUCTION

José Candela gave the following address to the Council:

“Dear members and colleagues. Dear friends of the EFFC.

I started in the EFFC belonging to the TWG, as the representative of the Spanish Federation, in the early nineties. A few years later, I initiated my participation on the CWG, exchanging technical issues for commercial tasks. At that time, I had the good fortune, professionally and personally speaking, of knowing Manfred Stocker, David Sherwood and Gian Luigi Trevisani. My warm regards for them.

I like my profession, Civil Engineer, and Geotechnical Engineering in particular. The EFFC has contributed to complete my fondness for it.

Since 2007, I have been attending the EC and Council, and from 2011 as Officer of the Federation. I would like to thank the 2011 Executive Committee for trusting me as a member of the Officers Committee, my federation AETESS and my colleagues for their support.

At this moment, it is an honor for me to take on the responsibility of the Presidency of the EFFC. I believe in Europe and in EFFC. I will try to do my best at all times to ensure that the EFFC provides whatever is needed to the National Federations and, in the end, to the foundations companies to improve their activities.

I want to express my gratitude to Hans-Joachim Bliss for his dedication, initiative and energy, as president, during his period. Thank you so much Hans for your contribution and I am sure you are going continue, as past president, to do your best for the Federation.

I remember the AGM in Berlin in 2015 when Hans was appointed to president, he said “I have learned from Chris Primett that the President has to lead a Federation and not a company, which requires a different approach”. Regarding this point, I will also follow the advice of Stefano Trevisani.

The political and social stage in Europe shows instability in some of its governments, or conflicts, like we have now in Spain, or in other countries like the UK with the “Brexit” process. It is time to join, not to separate.

Now, more than ever, we must make an effort to cooperate between EU countries to be able to achieve a more stable situation regarding Social Welfare and the Economy. At this point, it is where the EFFC should be able to contribute a small grain of sand to improve the relations between the special foundations contractors, clients and stakeholders. Therefore, EFFC must go ahead maintaining its MISSION, which is as you know; “promote the common interest of its members” and their OBJECTIVES:

- Improve standards of workmanship, technical competence, safety and innovation. Create and maintain an effective networking amongst the Members of the Federation and with its Stakeholders.
- Express the point of view of its members with the European Commission, Authorities, Professional Institutions and other Federations and Third Parties.

Following that previous guidelines, I consider the next lines of actions:

- Maintain in the TWG our participation and influence, as much as possible, on the standards committees that may impact our business.
- Keep the promotion of Task Groups to share different experiences and develop useful guides. This will help us to guarantee the quality of our procedures. On this point the mission of the TWG and H&SWG is essential.

- Promote technical presentations on technological developments, safety and management of our activities. This would help to be able to make the contribution of the EFFC more attractive to its members, to maintain its interest, and the possibility to get associate members in the future. For instance, once for each CWG or EC meeting.
- Support our members to represent them in the Institutions that may influence in their activities and emphasise the importance of geotechnical work in the construction industry. Keep in contact and participate with FIEC, focusing on tasks of our interest.
- Promote the participation of the YOUNG PROFESSIONALS in the federation, for example, counting on them to help feed and update the content of our website.
- Strengthen the sustainability matters supporting our CO2 foot print group as a task that is impacting in our contracts. This should be an important topic for the CWG.

Finally, I would like to remember and appreciate all the people who have contributed to the evolution and progress of the EFFC, from the beginning, as all the past Presidents: P. Thornton, J. Benatar, P. Arz, G-L. Trevisani, G. Matras, D. Sherwood, M. Stocker, P. Runacher, P. de Kort, M. Bottieau, S. Trevisani, C. Primett and H-J. Bliss; as well as representatives from Federations like M. Ziller, H. de Koning or L. Rande; and specially to Dianne Jennings, who has participated as Secretary, from the beginning up to 2014.

In the same way, I would also like to thank all the volunteer colleagues, from National Federations and companies, who have participated in the past and are now attending to the WG and other meetings.

All of them, represent the spirit of our Federation.

I would like to count on all of our members to maintain that spirit, transmitting it to the new young participants, and joining all of our efforts to keep our activity at the top of the construction sector Finally he paid tribute to Peter Arz and Peter de Kort and thanked them for the attendance of the Council Meeting. He said that they are the spirit of our Federation.”

This was warmly received by the AGM participants.

14/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

José Candela reported that he does not wish to start his Presidency by losing a Member and wanted to recognise that the Romanian Federation is in a complicated situation. Carlos Vasquez advised that after the last AGM the Romanian Federation had lost a Member and two more are either unhappy with their fee level or are asking questions about it. They do not feel it is a fair fee in relation to the size of their market or Federation. He felt that he needed a decision on the fee that would help him to motivate his Federation to remain part of the EFFC. Carlos reported that previously they had paid €1500 and this had increased to €3000. He therefore asked that the fee be rest to €1500.

José reported the Officers had looked to find a solution to this issue. They proposed to maintain the fee at €1500 as the fee for the next two years (to 2019) and asked Carlos to relay this to the ARCF to determine whether this is acceptable.

This was agreed by all present.

Finally, Peter Arz Congratulated José on becoming EFFC President and wished him luck for the coming two years. He gave thanks to Hans Bliss and everyone present. He also relayed Peter Thornton’s hope that they had a good meeting and his promise to attend the next AGM.

Peter de Kort, said he thought the meeting had been very good, congratulated José and Hans.

Lars Rande introduced Stieg Weiss as his replacement as he was due to retire in the coming year.

15/17 DATES AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

- Friday 23rd February 2018 – London, UK
- Friday 22nd June 2018 – Denmark
- Friday 5th October 2018 – Belgium

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Issue/Project	Task	Responsibility
EFFC Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All to prompt their Safety Representatives to submit articles for use on the website. All to prompt young professionals in their organisations to register their profiles on the EFFC website 	All
Working Platform Certificate initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary to circulate document All to feedback comments 	EFFC Secretary All
Mutual Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers to participate in a workshop and task group to expressions of interest to the Secretary. 	All
EN16228 Position Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be published to the EFFC website 	EFFC Secretary
EFFC/DFI Conference – Rome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary to speak to Theresa Engler to ensure the Tremie Guide has a session Exec Committee to promote the Conference to their Members 	EFFC Secretary Executive Committee
Technical Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Austrian Dewatering standard and comments on Grouting standards to be sent to Bartho Admiraal 	T Pirkner
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olivier Peter to produce an approach to the topic for consideration. 	O Peter