



**Minutes of a Meeting of the EFFC Executive Committee
held on Friday 8th February 2019 at 09:00am in
Gelber Saal, Bayerischer Bauindustrieverband, Oberandger 32, Munich, Germany**

Present:	Andreas Körbler	Austria
	Wim Claesen	Belgium
	Serge Borel	France
	Hans Bliss	Germany
	Frank Haenig	Germany
	Boris von Luebtow	Germany
	Jaap Estie	Netherlands
	Peter Vroom	Netherlands
	Carlos Vazquez	Romania
	Jose Candela	Spain
	Frederik Asklund	Sweden
	Par Land	Sweden
	Martin Blower	UK
	David Hard	UK
	Chris Harnan	UK
	Bob Thompson	UK

In attendance:	Ciaran Jennings	EFFC Secretariat
	Aimee McDermott	EFFC Secretariat

Minutes	
1.	<p>Welcome & Legal Compliance statement</p> <p>José Candela welcomed the group and thanked the German Federation for their support with the logistics of the meeting. He noted that there had been no cost to the EFFC for the meeting rooms and highlighted that using national federation rooms for meetings as often as possible is helpful to the EFFC budget.</p> <p>José also thanked Keller for the previous evening's meal.</p> <p>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 project pricing.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Jim de Waele (UK), Jindrich Ricica (Czech Republic), Tamas Kaltenbacher (Hungary), Dejan Lukic (Switzerland).</p>
3.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Executive Meeting (June 22nd 2018 Copenhagen) – Attached for approval</p> <p>The Executive meeting minutes from June 22nd 2018 were approved.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. AGM Minutes (October 5th 2018 Brussels) – Attached for information</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c.</p>
Issues for Discussion	
4.	<p>Presentation and discussion of issues from the National Federations</p> <p>José Candela noted that the group had been asked to bring presentations noting issues from their own National Federations.</p>



Martin Blower reported on the UK. He advised that the UK currently has several key priorities. He noted that harm reduction is a major one, including reducing harm to people and improving health and safety at work. This topic includes automating manual handling, working on exclusion zones around rigs and improving the safe supply of reinforcement cages. Martin also noted that the health of the workforce is being looked at in terms of drugs and alcohol testing, maximum working hours and general time management on site. The FPS are also conducting a research project on working hours, productivity, fatigue and how to encourage more diversity on site. The FPS are also looking at learning and development and how people are trained. This includes a focus on digital construction and how prepared the industry is for the digital environment.

Wim Claesen noted that the reinforcement topic is of interest as it is an issue also faced in Belgium. Ciaran Jennings detailed the issue, explaining that the FPS are setting out a supplier standard with the intention that FPS members will individually audit supplier companies and then share this with other members.

Andreas Körbler reported on Austria. He advised that they have an annual training programme for rig operators. He noted that a lot of the candidates on the course have become foremen and supervisors. He also explained that the course does not result in a legal certificate but that most main clients now require the course and have been educated on its use. Andreas also noted that there had been a geotechnical conference in Austria which was a good example of how researchers and engineers can engage. He explained that the conference had combined presentations with exhibitions from companies and that consultants and clients had been there to present their projects. He also advised that this is a successful way of improving relationships with universities. Andreas also reported that Austria had started talking about health and safety the previous year and invited members to co-operate regarding working platforms and health and safety issues with the aim to improve the health and safety standard in Austria.

Par Land reported on Sweden. He explained that Sweden have been working for several years on training for rig operators and that they now have a similar system to that of Austria which is very popular and produces a high standard of operators. Par also advised that they are working on health and safety by educating supervisors and operators as well as working on working platforms which they are hoping for progress on this year. He also explained that there has been a large volume of overseas workers entering the market and that the difference in standards of operators is stark, particularly regarding health and safety. Fredrik Asklund added that the Swedish federation have made a survey detailing all the departments responsible for rules, regulations, and standards. These have been approached and discussed contributing to forming standards. They now have two people sitting on an engineering committee helping to write standards which ensures they are written in a way that does not make piling engineers' jobs harder. The Swedish Federation is also working with Jim de Waele on a Working Platform Certificate Scheme.

Wim Claesen reported that there are three current topics of interest for Belgium. He noted one of these is the mutual recognition conditions between Belgian and Dutch rig drivers which are nearly complete. The other is admitting new members to the federation – there are around 25 piling companies in Belgium however only 14 are members. Wim noted that they are having discussions regarding the quality standards for admittance. He advised that the final topic is discussing the difficulty in getting transport permits for all three zones of Belgium which is currently quite difficult.

Frank Haehnig reported on Germany. He noted that they are having a similar issue to Belgium in regards to the zones, as sometimes drivers are required to travel around states in Germany as they do not have permission to go through them. This is an issue and very wasteful in terms of fuel consumption and time. Andreas



Korbler advised that Austria had once had this issue, however five years ago an organisation of truck drivers pushed local ministers and got each company permission for all counties. Frank noted that Germany are also doing a lot of work on BIM and that they have a few different working groups – one each for foundation, tunnelling, and normal construction – which they are trying to connect. They have also separated BIM from digitalisation. Frank explained that Germany are also working on a guideline for working platforms and using the experience of all countries in Europe to produce this. Frank advised that they are having problems finding enough young people to join the industry and that they are looking at how to make it more attractive. They are also doing health and safety work on silica dust. Frank advised that Germany has proposed Berlin for the next EFFC/DFI conference location in 2022.

Jaap Estié reported on the Netherlands. He advised that their federation has grown in the last two years with a total of 89 members. Jaap explained that a big problem for the Netherlands currently is the underpinning of all buildings as there are many buildings that have problems with their foundations. He noted that there is an organisation responsible for dealing with this and that the government has a fund to help with the problem. Most buildings are owned by regular people who can not afford the cost of the works. Jaap advised that this is a huge opportunity for the industry to gain a lot of work and that companies must have certain conditions to take on the jobs. Jaap also explained that the Netherlands Contracts WG are currently working on developing special conditions for private clients. They have also managed to create a standard text on working platforms and now have a certificate with workshops planned to educate foundation companies. Their Health and Safety group created guidelines about working on boats, barges and at height and the group is now working on guidelines for working with contaminated soil. The Netherlands are also have issues with transport in regards to the loading and unloading of pre-cast piles as the drivers do not want to do this activity. They also have a new working group on technical development which will be chaired by Bartho Admiraal. In regard to training, Jaap explained that the Netherlands have developed a new introduction course for new workers in the industry.

Carlos Vazquez reported on Romania. The Federation has undergone a reorganisation after the last meeting. There is an ongoing challenge of getting the commitment of the members as competition in the country is very strong. One of their Members, Octagon, are participating in the EFFC rig operators working group and Carlos is attending the Contracts Working Group. Carlos is pushing to get Members engaged to determine the activity for the Federation.

José Candela reported on Spain. He advised that there is low activity in Spain at the moment and not a lot of money is being spent on construction. He noted there are some private investors but that the government is not currently investing. José explained that at the moment the issues of most interest within the EFFC for Spain are the Tremie Guide and the Health and Safety working group. There are currently six members of AETESS, and there has been some discussion about expanding membership to include others smaller contractors who often do micropiles or piles. However there is a concern that these contractors will dilute the quality standards of the Federation. He noted that this year AETESS have established collaboration with the School of Civil Engineering in Madrid and that they are going to arrange technical sessions with young people in engineering.

Serge Borel reported on France. Serge advised that they are currently translating the Tremie Guide into French. He noted that the issue now is how to get this used within the industry. Serge explained that there is a standardisation committee which was historically supported by the government but is no longer. Serge also explained that in France the rig operators' license does not exist and that the authorisation to drive a rig is given by the company. He noted that there are several national certificates that exist and that an additional one will be available in 2020 which has been prepared within a government initiative. He also advised that there is little



	<p>movement from overseas workers into France which limits the interest in a formal qualification. Serge also advised that France are having a lot of discussions with rig authorities to improve rig safety. He noted that a working platform condition/guidance was prepared 10 years ago by SOFFONS but that it has not really been pushed into practice within the industry. They are currently looking at how to enforce this.</p> <p>José Candela thanked the group for their contributions and noted that it is useful to be up to date on the actual situations for each Member country.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Support Fluids Project R&D Programme</p> <p>Chris Harnan reported on the progress of the Support Fluids Task Group. He advised that edition 1 will hopefully be published in early March. He noted that this edition will be more a statement of fact so only one month will be given for comments.</p> <p>Chris explained that sponsorship of €200,000 is the aim for Edition 2 of the guide. This will hopefully be published in 2020. He noted that the aim is to identify which testing methods are meaningful and how contractors should use the results to ensure quality.</p> <p>Chris also advised that the Task Group are looking for volunteers to offer sites which can be tested for the R&D stage of the process. He advised that those who offer a site are likely to lose maximum a day of production in order for testing to be carried out. Chris noted that the group have a number of new pieces of equipment to trial whilst on site visits.</p> <p>Chris explained that the guide now has 13 confirmed European sponsors, all providing €5,000.00. The group then went on to discuss the EFFC contribution.</p> <p>José Candela noted that the Officers had discussed how much to give and decided on around €12,000 and €13,000 in 2019 and 2020 respectively in order to amount to €25,000 in total. Chris advised that he would be happy if the EFFC could commit to this and advised that there will be a management group set up to approve the expenditure of the guide.</p> <p>José asked for the opinions of the group in order to approve the EFFC contribution. There were some concerns about where the money would be going. Chris explained the management committee would be made up of three individuals from EFFC and three from DFI who will need agreement to approve any expenditure.</p> <p>There were some concerns about academics using the data gained during the research and development stage for their personal projects. Chris reassured the group that there is a statement in the minutes regarding this and that everything will be kept strictly confidential by all involved.</p> <p>There were also some concerns that the DFI may produce the guide without the EFFC and that the guide may produce results that make work on site harder. Chris noted that there has to be agreement from both the EFFC and DFI in order for the guide to be published that will prevent one publishing without the consent of the other.</p> <p>Chris noted that the Executive need to agree with who sits on the budget management committee for the EFFC. He proposed himself, Ciaran Jennings and Andreas Körbler. The group agreed this decision. Chris advised that anyone who wants to be involved with the technical management should speak to Christophe Justino who is likely to be the next Chair of the group now that Sabine Darson is</p>	



	<p>leaving. [Post meeting note, in agreement with the DFI the Budget Oversight Committee shall include Andreas Körbler, Christophe Justino and Ciaran Jennings.]</p> <p>There was some discussion that the EFFC need to ensure they review the final guidelines and ensure they put across comments when asked to review. It was agreed that the EFFC would contribute €25,000 and that more information would be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>Chris also noted that he and Karsten Beckhaus were going to prepare a short technical note explaining why slump flow testing is the best way to ensure the quality of tremie concrete on site, which he would then send to all member Federations to circulate.</p>	<p>C Harnan</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Associate Membership EFFC- Opportunities for Interaction</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings advised that the EFFC has now opened to Associate Membership. He noted that there are effectively now four associate members and that he is keen to discuss with the group what AMs are being offered. He explained that networking is one of the most valuable aspects for AMs and that there needs to be a strong proposition for them to join the EFFC.</p> <p>Ciaran identified several areas for the EFFC to collaborate with AMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for access to industry leaders - Opportunity to raise any issues - Opportunities for business development - Opportunity to participate in solutions to industry problems <p>Ciaran noted that there are currently existing opportunities in the EFFC including Working Group participation and the AGM programme. He advised that further initiatives could include product forums, golf/skiing/activity days, increasing the social side of the EFFC and technical focus days. José Candela added that this had been discussed at the Officers meeting the previous day. He noted that changing the format of the AGM had been discussed and that this is something that could include more networking.</p> <p>Hans Bliss noted that there needs to be communication with AM in between meetings and that someone should be assigned to keep them up to date with the EFFC. Chris Harnan noted that at the Contracts WG meeting there was a discussion about the lack of communication to the general membership. He added that this is an issue throughout the EFFC that needs to be addressed. There was some discussion about how the EFFC can interrelate with Associate Members.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings advised that the Officers had discussed opening the AGM to Associate Members on the Thursday by holding a mini-conference. They would then be invited to an open part of the AGM on the Friday afternoon. He also noted that an EFFC Awards had been considered however this was still under review as it would likely need to be a top-down approach. There was some discussion that the awards should be for individuals working on EFFC activities rather than at the National Federation level.</p> <p>Hans Bliss suggested a concept for the AGM and AMs should be developed by two or three people. Andreas Körbler, Boris von Leubtow and Ciaran Jennings volunteered to put together some ideas.</p>	<p>A Körbler, B von Leubtow, EFFC Secretariat</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>EFFC Rig Operator License</p> <p>Jaap Estié reported that the EFFC Rig Operator License group had had a few more meetings since the last EFFC Executive in Brussels. He advised that the group had split up to make specific rules and found that differences in training are not as big</p>	



	<p>as expected. Jaap noted that the group have devised a question paper with a mixture of multiple choice questions. The license will have boxes to check which drill rig capabilities have been achieved. The theoretical test will be the same set of questions for all rigs, however the practical test will depend on the rig.</p> <p>Jaap advised that the group will have a few more meetings and will then be presenting in Brussels to FIEC on the 8th and 9th of April.</p>	
8.	<p>Rig Safety Standard – EN16228 update</p> <p>Serge Borel reported on the rig safety standard EN16228. He noted that CEN was very late in the registration of amendments. He advised that enquiry is due to start on 18th April with meetings for analysing comments possibly taking place mid-December. The publication date is currently set for January 2021.</p> <p>There was some discussion regarding cages on machines. Bob Thompson noted that in the UK you cannot work without a cage on a machine and that older machines must be retro-fitted to work with guards. He noted that in situations where the site was constrained the issues could be resolved through using a different cage design or changing the scheme design. Frederik Asklund asked what the impact of retrofitting cages is on CE marking and commented that this issues has limited their own development. Bob commented that he believed the manufacturers could verify the design but this was difficult to achieve.</p>	
Issues requiring a decision		
9.	<p>Associate Membership - new applications</p> <p>José Candela asked that if any members can approach potential Associate Members they should let the EFFC Secretariat know. It was asked that members be sent the Associate Member flyer and information to pass on.</p> <p>The AM prospect list was reviewed with the following actions agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Members to be sent the application form and promotional materials • Peter Vroom agreed to approach IHC • Bauer Machinen to be chased for their form as they have committed to join • Par Land agreed to approach Atlas and Sandvik • Chris Harnan agreed to encourage Support Fluid sponsor to join • All to be reminded in April to follow up on this action <p>There was some discussion about Kasktas, a Turkish piling company who are looking to set up a federation within Turkey. They will be joining the EFFC as Affiliate Members for the time being and will pay the same fee to that paid by Denmark but shall have no voting rights.</p>	<p>Secretary P Vroom EFFC Secretariat P Land C Harnan Secretary</p>
Work of the Federation		
10.	<p>Reports of the Working Groups</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Health & Safety Working Group</p> <p>No discussion.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Technical Working Group- See David Hard PPT</p> <p>David Hard reported on the Technical Working Group. He advised that there have been updates to the execution standards and on Eurocodes. EC7 is to be completely rewritten and will be released in April for comment. David noted that there had been a lot of academics at the CEN meetings but few contractors. Andrew Bond, the Chairman of EC7, is keen to get EFFC views on the changes to concrete in the code. He explained that there had been a divide in opinions in the group so it</p>	



<p>may not be able to reach a consensus. He noted that there is a new TC288 working group in place to produce an execution standard for ground freezing.</p> <p>David advised that a topic more relevant to the EFFC was the guidance note on water-tightness of retaining walls. This was underway and now has a group working on the core document. There is the intention to discuss within the wider TWG then extend to include secant walls and sheet pile walls.</p> <p>David explained that he had had a letter sent out after the June meeting in 2018 requesting topics for the TWG. He asked that the group highlight any issues they would like focussed on. To date there had been very little response. All were asked to press their Technical committees for an answer. There was some discussion about BIM, where there were different levels of understanding. Ciaran Jennings explained that this is not a topic being pushed for by clients yet and therefore foundation contractors have generally not started to take it seriously.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c. Tremie Concrete Task Group</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">d. Support Fluids Task Group</p> <p>See section 5.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">e. Contracts Working Group</p> <p>Wim Claesen updated the group on the discussion from the Contracts WG meeting. He advised that the group have been looking at Level 3 conditions, which are almost finished and uploaded on the website, the Risk Register and Guidelines, which have been updated, and the general conditions.</p> <p>Wim noted that a suggestion had been made by the Swedish federation that the group provide their own countries' general conditions so that contractors working abroad can review this prior to starting works. Wim advised that the Swedish federation will be presenting their conditions at the next meeting.</p> <p>Wim reported that the group had acknowledged that their work was not always made clear to members and in order to rectify this the topics and documents discussed will be listed into a presentation that will then be shared with members. This will allow for the spread of information and further feedback.</p> <p>Wim noted that the group had discussed FIEC representation and decided to attend the European Contract Law, Public Procurement, and Construction 4.0 working group meetings. He noted the group had felt that SOC1 and SOC2 should be evaluated by the Executive.</p> <p>Chris Harnan advised that the group should fill in a table with representatives to each FIEC group. Please see table here.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">f. Sustainability Working Group</p> <p>José Candela advised the group that there needs to be active participation in the Sustainability WG as it is an issue the EFFC are interested in.</p> <p>Chris Harnan explained that the group had met once in Paris in September 2018 but had not made a lot of progress in regards to goals for the EFFC. He advised that Marine Lasne will be attending the next meeting on Monday 25th February to advise on potential sustainability efforts. Chris asked the group what they want from sustainability and which direction they would like to go.</p>	All
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	<p>Bob Thompson asked whether focusing on the ageing workforce within the industry was something that could be addressed. He suggested the EFFC could work with careers fairs or some other organisation to encourage young people into the industry. He also noted that looking at reducing carbon etc. would be another direction for the EFFC to look at.</p> <p>Chris Harnan noted that the issue with carbon reduction is that 95% of carbon in piling comes from concrete and steel so reducing consumption in offices etc. would be unlikely to have an impact. There was some discussion about the Carbon Calculator and its uses.</p> <p>There was an agreement that Sustainability needs to be top down driven. It was also agreed that the EFFC efforts need to be defined and manageable for all members.</p> <p>Chris asked that members send anyone interested in sustainability to the next meeting.</p>	
Funding		
11.	<p>Finance</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Financial Statement for YE 2018</p> <p>Andreas Korbler noted that the largest cost for the EFFC was its meetings. It had been agreed that the federation would try to use local meeting rooms wherever possible to reduce cost.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. 2019 Budget and Subscriptions</p> <p>It was noted that the final amounts for the DFI/EFFC Rome conference still need to be chased up. It was also noted that the EFFC had agreed on a target of €15,000 for Associate Member subscriptions.</p> <p>Frank Haehnig noted that Berlin is willing to hold the 2022 DFI/EFFC Conference.</p>	
12.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting location will be changed to Prague as there is a large conference occurring in Budapest that has booked out all hotels in the area. The Secretariat to contact Jindrich Ricicia regarding the next meeting.</p>	
13.	<p>Date and Place of Next Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 14th June- Prague, Czech Republic • Friday 18th October- Vienna, Austria 	

Actions List

Subject	Action	Responsible	Status
Tremie Guide	Prepare a short technical note on why slump flow testing is best way to ensure the quality of tremie concrete on site.	C Harnan	
AGM and AMs	Develop a concept for the AGM and incorporating Associate Members.	A Körbler,/ B von Luebtow / EFFC Secretariat	
AMs	All Members to be sent the application form and promotional materials.	EFFC Secretariat	
AMs	Approach IHC.	P Vroom	
AMs	Chase Bauer Maschinen for AM form.	EFFC Secretariat	
AMs	Approach Atlas and Sandvik.	P Land	



AMs	Encourage Support Fluid sponsors to join as Associate Members.	C Harnan	
AMs	Reminder in April re. this action.	EFFC Secretariat	
Technical WG	Highlight any issues for the Technical WG to focus on.	All	