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## EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOUNDATION CONTRACTORS

### Minutes of a meeting of the EFFC Council held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October from 9.00am at Studio 4, Brussels Marriott Hotel Grand Place, 7/Grand Place, Rue Auguste Orts 3, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

#### PRESENT:

In the Chair	José Candela	President (Spain)
Other Officers	Andreas Körbler Hans Bliss Leoni Fabrizio	Officer (Austria) Officer/ Past President (Germany) Officer (Italy)
WG Chairs	Chris Harnan Federico Trevisani Wim Claesen Martin Sonnberger Jim de Waele	Sustainability WG (UK) Contracts WG (Italy) Contracts WG (Belgium) Health and Safety WG (Austria) Working Platform Certificate
Members	Peter Ausserlechner Thomas Pirkner Maurice Bottiau Jindrich Rიცия Lars Rande Frank Haenig Boris Von Lübtow Tamas Kaltenbacher Jaap Éstie Peter Vroom Przemyslaw Nowak Wojciech Szwejkowski Carlos Vazquez	Austria Austria Belgium Czech Republic Denmark Germany Germany Hungary Netherlands Netherlands Poland Poland Romania
In Attendance	Sue Arundale Ciaran Jennings Aimee McDermott	FIEC EFFC Secretary EFFC Administration

No.	Topic	
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Legal Compliance statement</b>  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 to engage in fixing of markets or prices or discuss projects.  José Candela welcome the group and advised that there were 13 countries represented. He thanked the Belgian federation for their hospitality in Brussels.	



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2.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Peter de Kort (Past President), Fredrik Asklund, Martin Blower (Officer- UK), Stig Weis (Denmark), Dejan Lukic (Switzerland), David Hard (Technical WG Chair- UK), Par Land (Sweden), Peter Arz (Past-Chairman), Peter Thornton (Past President- UK) and Bartho Admiraal (Netherlands).</p>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting</b></p> <p><b>a. Executive Meeting (June 22nd 2018 Copenhagen) – Attached for information</b></p> <p><b>b. AGM Minutes (October 6th 2017 Madrid) – Attached for approval</b></p> <p>Peter Ausserlechner advised that he is representing Austria, not Germany.</p> <p>The minutes of the Executive meeting held on Friday 22nd June 2018 in Copenhagen and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 6th October 2017 were circulated and approved.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Report of the President</b></p> <p>José Candela recapped his past year as President. He noted that a year ago one of the issues being faced within the EFFC was that of membership and whether the Romanian federation would remain members due to the situation within their federation and the market within their country. José explained how he had hoped not to start his period of presidency by losing a member and was happy that the Romanian federation had remained in the EFFC. José thanked Carlos Vasquez and the Members for their support to resolve the issues during this time.</p> <p>José noted that another challenge faced by the EFFC this year has been admitting Associate Members. He explained that he felt the issues and activities of the Federation needed to be shared with other professionals and partners such as suppliers and consultants. José advised that the Federation is aiming to admit 3 or 4 Associate Members by the end of the year. He also commented that there needs to be incentives for Associate Members to join the EFFC and that providing access to the EFFC meetings is a good way to do this. He anticipated that it would be necessary to open up the EFFC working groups to them and create time in the EFFC programme to discuss their issues.</p> <p>He also reported that the Officers proposed cutting the EFFC newsletter and focusing on the EFFC website as the main means to disseminate information. He explained that attracting sponsors for the newsletter and attracting Associate Members at the same time would be hard to achieve. He added that focusing on making the website up to date with different issues will cut the costs involved with the newsletter. Jim de Waele enquired about the social media presence of the EFFC. Ciaran Jennings advised that the EFFC has a small LinkedIn presence but not twitter as there is not enough content for this. Jim suggested that a more effective social media presence could replace the newsletter. Hans Bliss noted that the newsletter had been created to increase income but that it was the right decision to now prioritise attracting Associate Members rather than newsletter sponsorship.</p>	



	<p>José concluded his report by noting that comments had been made on how the issues of the Members were usually discussed at the end of the meeting when really this should be at the beginning of the meeting as often relevant issues are brought up. José advised that he would like the discussion to be moved to the beginning of the meeting in future.</p>	
<b>Issues for Discussion</b>		
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Working Platform Certificate initiative</b></p> <p>Jim de Waele presented on the Working Platform Certificate initiative. He advised that much work has been conducted by member federations and that this initiative will help to bring everything together. Jim explained that a core group of himself, Jaap Estie and Lorenzo Alessi had formed and will be going to each federation to see what is currently being done.</p> <p>Jim advised that there are several areas they will want feedback on. One issue is how to go about calculating rig loading. Jim noted that this is being worked on with the DFI and ADSC in the USA as it is also a problem for them. Platform design is another issue, however Jim noted that there are tools within the federations that can help with this. Jim also explained that installation and testing regimes, inspection regimes, and maintenance are also issues being looked at.</p> <p>One of the most important aspects Jim explained is that of allocation of responsibility in the contract. Jim noted that no-one will want to increase their responsibility however there will be statutory rules in place that can support with this with obligations on the principal contractor. He advised that there is some EU legislation dating back to 1998 for temporary works which could be used here.</p> <p>Other issues included enforcement, and training and awareness.</p> <p>Jim explained that the plan for the initiative is for the initial group to collect data from national federations to gain information and help with the above issues. Jim advised that eventually the group are aiming for an EFFC approach however it is too early in the processes to consider this currently. Jim noted that the group have acknowledged the approach to implementation will need to be adopted country by country rather than one scheme for the whole of Europe. He stressed that the Member countries are in different stages of maturity with their approach to working platform safety.</p> <p>There was discussion about the work of the group and what it is trying to achieve. Jim explained that the first task is to uncover what is being done and that sharing this information in itself will be helpful. He noted that each federation will have to take their own stance on the working platform issue but that bringing all the experience of EFFC members in one place will give people the option to implement further initiatives to improve working platforms. It was agreed this was the correct approach to tackling the issue of unsafe working platforms.</p>	



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	<p>Martin Sonnberger commented that it would be necessary to know who the stakeholders in each country are and that the health and safety plans for any project have the working platform as part of it. He suggested that FIEC could write to their Members on the issue also they would be able to raise this within their Social Partner meetings on how to improve the Construction Directive.</p> <p>José asked how the group was interacting with the Health &amp; Safety Working Group. Jim said that the Task Group had an obligation to report to the Health &amp; Safety Group.</p>	
6.	<p><b>EFFC Rig Operator License</b></p> <p>Hans Bliss presented on the EFFC Rig Operator License. He advised that there is currently an effective Task Group being led by Martin Sonnberger to deal with this issue. Hans advised that the group's first action is to investigate the current status in Europe and look at the different systems available for testing and how it is carried out. Hans noted that there is a lot of differentiation between what is being tested and that the group have had to narrow this down. Martin Sonnberger advised that test questions had been sent in from Poland and France the previous week, so the group now had many questions for each topic from several different countries.</p> <p>Hans explained that the group need to summarise their aims so they can approach stakeholders and explain why this is being done. The EFFC would like one common standard that allows for a safe construction process throughout the industry, where testing is unified and licenses are valid across borders. Hans explained that the next stage of the process is a little more difficult as it entails approaching associated bodies to lobby the scheme and get it accepted. The Task Group is currently working on a road map to achieving this.</p> <p>Hans advised that the next step after this is to define the practical test against the theory test. Once this is done, requirements can be defined for testing agencies who will be approached to see if they can accept this scheme.</p> <p>Maurice Bottiau enquired if the scheme is intended to replace local existing ones. Martin Sonnberger explained that this will be an additional scheme on top of those already available. There was discussion about the scheme and how it will align with existing ones. There were some concerns that countries will already be paying for their own schemes and will be reluctant to pay for further training when they feel their drivers are already competent. Hans explained that the system is about testing rather than training as the drivers will need to have been trained in-country to the same level of competence to pass the EFFC test. Hans emphasised that the intention is not to replace existing schemes but to exist alongside them.</p> <p>There was also some discussion regarding national bodies and unions and the role they will have.</p> <p>Chris Harnan noted that the UK has a lot of rules regarding this but that none are evident on the presentation. Hans agreed that someone from the UK should be</p>	



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	<p>bought on-board and that a volunteer is needed to get the UK experience. Jim De Waele commented that in the UK if this was included with the test to gain the CPCS card the scheme would work.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Rig Safety Standard – EN16228</b></p> <p>Ciaran Jennings advised that Daniel Perpezat was not present to update the group on the Rig Safety Standard EN16228 but had provided a short report of its current status. He noted that most of the changes to the standard have been finalised by the working group and will be sent to the national standards boards for confirmation. Next year, work will be needed to finalise the standard based on the comments received back. Once this has been done, the standard will go through a process to be updated and then will be up for a formal review in a few years' time.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>EFFC/DFI Conference</b></p> <p>José Candela reported on the EFFC/DFI Conference that took place in Rome in June 2018. He noted that at the previous meeting in Copenhagen the conference had been confirmed a success and that it was a good opportunity for the EFFC to make contact with some potential Associate Members. José advised that the final profit for the EFFC had been released.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported that the EFFC had gained a return of €26,685.68 from delegate fees and sponsorship income. Ciaran advised that at the previous conference in Stockholm in 2014 the EFFC profit had been around €7,000. He noted that this increase in profit had been made due to the EFFC taking a higher risk in the conference as a 25% partner which led to a €5,000 management fee for the efforts made to promote the conference etc. It was noted that the DFI are very pleased with the results of the conference.</p> <p>The next conference in 2022 was discussed. It was noted that one key factor is that location is very important. Ciaran also advised that the difference between the Swedish conference and the Italian one was that AIF, the Italian federation, had been engaged from very early in the process and gave a lot of support. Maurice Bottiau added that having the university behind the conference and its location in Rome was another important factor that should be acknowledged. He also stressed that a strong organisational team is essential. It was emphasised that wherever the conference is held next, there needs to be a similar level of local support and commitment.</p> <p>There was also some discussion about the content of the conference. Some felt that the EFFC had pushed to involve clients in Rome but had not been consistent with sourcing them to participate. The Secretary commented that in the case of the UK there had been some reluctance to get future projects involved that might encourage more competition in a difficult market. However, ultimately the UK federation had supported the participation of Thames Tideway when Grand Paris were unable to participate and had sent around 20 people. He also commented that realistically client projects could not be treated in the same way as the other technical papers owing to the politics and relationships involved to gain their participation.</p>	



	<p>There was also comment on the type of projects desired at the conference and if they should be complete or in the planning stage. There was an overall consensus that the conference was a success and that the EFFC will contribute further towards the next one.</p>	
<b>Issues Requiring a Decision</b>		
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Associate Membership</b></p> <p><b>a. Agree new rules for Associate Member applications</b></p> <p>José Candela advised that the Officers had amended the rules for Associate Member applications at their meeting the previous day.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings advised that the rules had been discussed in Copenhagen and that it had been decided they needed further amendment to ensure there are safeguards in place to remove Associate Members. He noted that the changes ensure that it is possible for the Executive committee to approve Associate Members so that there is not just one opportunity a year to do so. The Officers also devised a rule allowing for the Executive Committee to remove an Associate Member who is in breach of the objects of the federation, the code of conduct or failure to pay their subscription.</p> <p>Rule 2.3.3. was amended to ensure the vote to admit an Associate Member is unanimous.</p> <p>Rule 2.3.4. was amended to ‘agreement’ rather than ‘consensus’.</p> <p>Ciaran advised that there were previously no rules regarding removing members. Therefore, rule 2.4 had been created, stating that membership shall cease if a company is in breach of the code of conduct of the Federation or any compliance issues e.g. payment of fees.</p> <p>Hans Bliss proposed the resolution that the changes are made to the EFFC rules. Federico Trevisani seconded this. The changes were agreed unanimously.</p> <p><b>b. Consider existing Associate Member applications</b></p> <p>José Candela reported on existing Associate Member applications. He advised that the Officers had made a list of potential companies to approach.</p> <p>Jim de Waele asked about the number of Associate Members (AMs) that the EFFC intends to admit. He advised that the FPS had generally found AMs to have strengthened the Federation. He noted that Working Groups are currently well attended which can sometimes causes issues with progressing topics and managing what is being done. Hans Bliss advised that the EFFC had always intended to admit Associate Members and allow them to attend the AGM but Working Group attendance was up to the discretion of the Chairman. There was discussion about how this process would work as some felt this could cause questions amongst Associate Members. Maurice Bottiau commented that some organisations will not want to attend Working Groups and will join the EFFC for the access it provides to</p>	



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	<p>major industry players. He advised that it should be emphasised that Working Group participation is at the discretion of the Chairman to avoid any issues. This was agreed.</p> <p>The list of potential members was discussed and who would contact them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chris Harnan volunteered to talk to Optimise and Arup.</li> <li>- Hans Bliss and Frank Haehnig agreed to contact Bauer Maschinen Germany and Prof Katzenbach.</li> <li>- Fabrizio Leoni agreed to contact Underground Consulting and Soilmec.</li> <li>- Andreas Korbler agreed to contact Kasktas.</li> </ul> <p>The Associate Member fee was set at €1800 for the year. It was suggested that if a company is admitted as an Associate Member before the end of 2018 they would be invoiced for 2019 and receive 15 months of membership for the price of 12. The EFFC aims to admit three Associate Members before the end of the year.</p>	<p><b>C Harnan</b>  <b>H Bliss/</b>  <b>F Haehnig</b>  <b>A Korbler</b></p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>FIEC- Presentation- Major Themes and Direction for the Organisation</b></p> <p>Sue Arundale presented on FIEC. She advised that she is the director of Technical and Environmental (TEC) affairs at FIEC. Sue explained that FIEC operates in 26 countries and has been representing European contractors of all sizes since 1905. Sue talked the group through FIEC's major themes and what it was doing in relation to them.</p> <p>She explained that the biggest current theme for FIEC is digital transformation. She noted that developments are happening rapidly and that these will have a lot of implications for contractors. Sue advised that FIEC feel digitalisation will change jobs, not kill them, and that there are real benefits to this including attracting people to the industry and automating more dangerous jobs. They are looking at the legal aspects of BIM and are bidding to create an EU BIM data platform. FIEC are also working with McKinsey and are looking at a project to test digital technologies, approaches and training in the real world.</p> <p>Sue also noted another theme for FIEC is sustainability. She explained that this is being dealt with in numerous ways including energy and resource efficiency, the circular economy, emissions and climate change, and building renovation.</p> <p>Another theme for FIEC that Sue reported on was that of investment. She explained that this includes upgrading and maintaining infrastructure. Sue explained that many contractors were struggling to compete with Chinese, state subsidised contractors that was creating an imbalance in the market as European contractors are not able to bid for Chinese projects. The EU Commission is therefore seeking Chinese investment to mitigate this situation.</p> <p>Sue further detailed FIEC's work on digitalisation. She explained that BIM in particular is a focus as FIEC had created a joint industry manifesto published earlier on in 2018 that says what is wanted and needs to be done for digitalisation in the construction industry. FIEC established a working group called Construction 4.0 that deals with digitalisation and currently has a full program of activities. The group is</p>	



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aimed at explaining to manufacturers what FIEC and its members think is needed in the construction industry regarding digitalisation. It is also looking at the legal aspects of BIM, particularly the question of data ownership and how data is protected. The group is also involved in a consortium to develop a BIM platform for the European Union. The group are currently writing a proposal for the European Commission and, if FIEC wins, will need feedback from members, including the EFFC, regarding needs and wants from BIM.

Sue emphasised that FIEC believes digital construction will join up all major European policies. She noted that in the future, digitalisation will allow for buildings and infrastructure to be recycled in an effective way. She also advised that digital transformation is strongly linked to standardisation and that a lot more work will be taking place surrounding the topic.

Sue also further detailed the work of FIEC on sustainability. She advised that work on emissions is likely to occur in the future and may include an emissions trading scheme, a way to deal with emissions in a targeted way. Sue also noted that there is a clean vehicles directive which currently has a dormant group within FIEC.

Sue noted that at the Contracts Working Group meeting it has been agreed for someone from EFFC to attend the Construction 4.0 Working Group. She advised this invitation is still open and if anyone has any questions to let her know.

Jim de Waele enquired about BIM and how FIEC is encouraging a wider uptake. Sue advised that they are working to ensure there are the right BIM conditions for companies. She noted that the right IT and infrastructure is needed to progress BIM further. Sue also suggested that larger companies who are further ahead can also contribute by helping smaller companies to move on rather than get lost in the change. Jim commented that in his experience Tier 2s seems ready for digitalisation, but that Tier 1s are quite reluctant as it potentially limits the number of specialist contractors they can use. He noted that BIM needs to be implemented throughout the supply chain. Sue agreed that there are some companies who do not want to share their data but that this is a mind-set that needs to be changed to progress in the future.

Ciaran Jennings commented that something discussed in the Contracts Working Group was collaborative working. He noted that BIM appears to be a more collaborative system but that perhaps this is what is causing reluctance to implement it. Sue advised that FIEC is working on this and wants to encourage those in the industry to see BIM as an opportunity rather than a threat.

Sue concluded her presentation by encouraging the EFFC to send a representative to FIEC meetings and emphasising that the industry needs to work together to ensure the digital transformation is effective.

The President commented that he was happy to hear that Tier 2s can be represented and involved in the work of FIEC and thanked Sue for her presentation.



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Work of the Federation	
11.	<p><b>Reports of the Working Groups</b></p> <p><b>a. Health &amp; Safety Working Group</b></p> <p>Martin Sonnberger commented on the Health and Safety Working Group. He advised that the main topics are EN16228, the EFFC Rig Operator Driving License and the Working Platform Certificate Initiative which have already been discussed.</p> <p>Martin also informed that the Chairman of the Health and Safety Working Group will change to Lorenzo Alessi at the next meeting on 28th and 29th of March in Budapest. It was requested that the website is amended to reflect this change.</p> <p>Martin reported that a letter had been received from FIEC on 3rd October regarding diesel exhaust. The notification was in relation to a proposal to add diesel emissions to the Carcinogen Directive. This would potentially reduce the exposure limits that are being worked to in the industry. Martin explained that until 2023 the exposure rate for diesel exhaust has been reduced from 30ppm to 3ppm, and that this figure may be reduced to 0.5ppm. He noted that for piling this will be a problem, especially when working in confined spaces and emphasised that new machines would be required to meet new exposure limits as this would be impossible with those currently in use. Martin asked the group to review the notification and contact their EU representative to ensure that the interests of the geotechnical industry are appropriately addressed.</p> <p>Martin also reported that FIEC SOC2 have done some work on mental health at work and have a workshop in March about the situation in Europe. Martin also explained that the group are trying to start a project for safe machines in construction sectors the EFFC can potentially influence new regulations through participation in this group.</p> <p>There was discussion about FIEC and how the EFFC is informed about their actions. Martin encouraged the group to talk to Domenico Campogrande (Director of the SOC Commission) as he is a voice in Europe and FIEC. There were some comments about the distribution of FIECs emails and how important things can be flagged up. It was determined that the best way to engage with FIEC and be aware of their issues is to send representatives to their meetings. Chris Harnan emphasised that the EFFC is a member of FIEC and therefore a representative should be sent to each of their working group meetings. A decision was made to choose one or two representatives from each Working Group to attend FIEC meetings and report back or circulate the minutes.</p> <p><b>b. Technical Working Group</b></p> <p>David Hard was not in attendance to present on the Technical Working Group. Ciaran Jennings reported on his behalf.</p> <p>Ciaran explained that the group now has a live link between the EFFC and CEN committees as David Hard is now the formal liaison between TC250 and TC288. He</p>

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noted that a discussion had been had with Andrew Bond, the Chairman of TC250, who was very receptive on having an EFFC position on the revision of Eurocodes. A lot of academics are present in the CEN Eurocodes groups whose views are not necessarily supported by contractors. The EFFC can therefore provide a contractors' viewpoint to counteract the theoretical bias of the academics. Ciaran advised that the piling section of the Eurocode is due to be released for review at the end of October.

Ciaran also explained that the Technical Working Group has been working on a guidance note on Water-tightness of Retaining Walls. This work is being produced similarly to the Support Fluids guide, however does not require funding. The guide will detail a scope of cover walls other than just diaphragm walls. Ciaran advised that the group have made a lot of progress without physically meeting and that the first draft of the diaphragm wall chapter is expected by the end of November.

The Technical Working Group had also discussed the numerical modelling aspect of the Tremie guide and whether continuing to support the academic research would be beneficial to the EFFC. There was a view that understanding behaviour of concrete in deep foundations is an important task but there were some reservations that this could be used against contractors. Ciaran noted that the group wanted a view from the EFFC Executive Committee on this. Hans Bliss advised that feedback from federations on the Tremie guide is required first and that this needs a year to settle. José agreed and noted that Chris Harnan will be discussing this in item 11d.

Ciaran advised that the Technical Working Group has sent out a letter requesting suggestions for future topics. The group was reminded that it is important for the EFFC and members to get value from the Technical Working Group and members are reminded to respond to the call for topics.

### **c. Tremie Concrete Task Group**

Chris Harnan reported on the Tremie Guide. He suggested that all members read the guide, particularly section five as this holds the most relevance. Chris advised that doing your own concrete testing is always important, regardless of whether the concrete has been supplied by you or someone else.

Chris also explained the numerical modelling work that was done alongside the guide. He noted that the guide does not conclude on numerical modelling and that more work is needed on this. Chris commented that a decision needs to be made on whether to continue supporting the numerical modelling research to be done or whether to leave this on hold for now and come back to it in the future. This support is currently in the form of opening up job sites for testing and does not require a financial contribution.

There was some discussion about the need for this. Jim de Waele commented that the research might provide a conclusion which will defer from the work already done on the Tremie guide. He noted that there is no use in supporting the research for a while and then stopping which is a danger with the numerical modelling as it is not known when this will be complete. Chris Harnan advised that it may be best to leave this decision for another 8 months or so and discuss in a couple of meetings time.

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**d. Support Fluids Task Group- see ppt.**

Chris Harnan presented on the Support Fluids Task Group. He advised that the group had met the previous month in London. He explained that Sabine Darson has moved roles within the Vinci group and can no longer participate in the group so he will be chairing the next few meetings until edition 1 is put forward. After that Christophe Justino will be put forward to Chair.

Chris explained that the group is very well attended which can sometimes cause issues with getting an agreement, however, he advised that progress is being made.

Chris explained that at a meeting in Berlin the group had tried to set acceptance levels for polymer and bentonite but that these had ranged hugely so it had been decided that edition 1 would not set acceptance criteria. As a result, it was decided to do a review of all the acceptance criteria in existence and then have a two year period of data collection on sites. Since this decision, a small sub group has been set up on R&D to set up a plan of what will be done before sponsors pay their money.

Chris advised that a large list of sponsors has been collated and that the fund currently has €95,000 without the DFI and EFFC contribution. Chris noted that the budget has been set a €120,000 for twenty site visits and the idea is to pick up data on support fluids as well as concrete at the same time. Chris advised that there will be no cost to publish edition 1 of the guide other than design costs.

**e. Contracts Working Group**

Federico Trevisani advised that himself and Wim Claesen had taken over from Chris Harnan as the new Chairmen of the Contracts Working Group at the previous meeting. He advised that the previous meeting had had nine member countries present and had included two presentations; one from FIEC and one from a company called Optimise.

Federico advised that the topics under discussion included back to back principle in sub-contracting and how to address this, retention and the problems associated with it, transport of concrete suppliers and the cross-border mobility of people. He noted that the last item had come out after the participation of FIEC as this is an issue they are focusing on in one of their groups, including how to certify for minimum wage etc. when people are moved from one country to another.

Federico explained that FIEC had presented on some of the key issues they are working on including digitalisation. He also noted that the EFFC needs to improve its participation in FIEC. Federico also explained that a company called Optimise had presented. Optimise have created a digital platform which helps to improve communication and sharing of documents whilst on a job.

Federico advised that the Contracts Working Group had also discussed the Level 3 conditions, the risk register and guidelines and the general conditions/ guidelines on major contractual items. He noted that the group have decided to develop task forces to have more focus and distribute the workload of the group.



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	<p><b>f. Sustainability Working Group</b></p> <p>Chris Harnan reported that the EFFC Sustainability group had had its first meeting in Paris the previous month. He advised that there had been 14 attendees and presentations from Arup, Thames Tideway and Jaap Estie. Chris noted that Jaap's presentation had highlighted the importance of the group having relations with the other EFFC Working Groups including Contracts, Health and Safety and Technical. He also advised that the group had discussed sustainability in all forms and not just environmental.</p> <p>Chris explained that three conclusions had come from the group. Firstly, an internal presentation is needed to ensure directors and MDs are on board as the approach will need to be top down. Secondly an external presentation is needed where the EFFC can showcase its sustainability efforts. Thirdly, the group needs to collaborate with external groups.</p> <p>Chris advised that the UN Sustainable Development Goals had been raised by Heleni Pantelidou from Arup during her presentation. He noted that there are 17 goals that the UN have devised to ensure the world is sustainable for future generations and to prevent future problems. Chris noted that the group had to decide whether these goals would be of interest to the EFFC as a guide to achieving sustainability.</p> <p>Chris advised that sustainability will soon become a big part of contracts and that clients will demand sustainable projects. He used Thames Tideway as an example, explaining that they are under a contractual commitment to be more sustainable. Chris emphasised how this has to be a top down approach and that members need to push this within their businesses. There was some discussion about whether this was already being attempted. Some felt that efforts were being made in some companies however it was agreed that sustainability as a concept is not enshrined in the mentality of the industry.</p> <p>The discussion returned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It was agreed that these were a good framework and that picking ones relevant to the EFFC would be a good place to start. It was also acknowledged that changing mind-sets is a big part of the step towards sustainability and implementing processes for the future. It was agreed that new innovative ways are also needed to progress sustainability.</p>	
<b>Funding</b>		
12.	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>a. Adoption of the 2017 - Accounts (Attached)</b></p> <p><b>i. Resolution: That the 2017 Accounts should be adopted.</b></p> <p>Hans Bliss proposed the adoption of the 2017 accounts and was seconded by Federico Trevisani. It was agreed by all present to adopt the 2017 accounts.</p> <p><b>b. Appointment of Auditor</b></p>	



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	<p><b>i. Resolution: That Crane &amp; Partners be reappointed as auditors of the EFFC accounts.</b></p> <p>Hans Bliss proposed the reappointment of Crane &amp; Partners and was seconded by Peter Ausserlechner. It was agreed by all present that Crane &amp; Partners are reappointed as Auditor of the EFFC Accounts.</p> <p><b>c. Financial Statement and 2019 Budget and Subscriptions</b></p> <p>Andreas Körbler reported on the financial statement and 2019 budget and subscriptions. He advised the group that Olivier Peter had resigned from his role as EFFC Treasurer in June 2018.</p> <p>Andreas explained that income in the General Fund that covers working expenses is predicted to be around €65,000 by the end of the year which is lower than anticipated due to the lack of associate members.</p> <p>Andreas commented on the expenses of the EFFC. He noted that the cost for the secretariat is in line with the budget and is a little less as the Executive meeting in February was held in London so travel costs were reduced. Andreas advised that meeting costs are the highest figures for the Federation and suggested this is considered next year. He asked that Working Group meetings be held in member facilities where available to avoid the cost of meeting rooms.</p> <p>Andreas advised that the EFFC has a €9,000 deficit this year which is a lot less compared to previous years. This was attributed to special projects including the EFFC-DFI Conference.</p> <p>Andreas advised that the 2019 budget goal is to recruit members which will help increase income, as well as aiming to reduce meeting costs.</p>	
<b>Membership Matters</b>		
13.	<p><b>Confirmation of Officers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President - José Candela (Spain)</li> <li>• Senior Vice President &amp; Treasurer – Andreas Körbler (Austria)</li> <li>• Junior Vice President – Stéphane Abry (France)</li> <li>• Officer – Fabrizio Leoni (Italy)</li> <li>• Officer – Martin Blower (UK)</li> <li>• Immediate Past President – Hans Joachim Bliss (Germany)</li> </ul> <p>Ciaran Jennings advised that Martin Blower will step down as the UK officer in February and is to be replaced by Bob Thompson.</p> <p>It was requested that the website is updated to reflect these changes.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Frank Haehnig advised that the DFI have set up a BIM committee in Europe. He noted that their intention is to work together with the EFFC and that the Chair of this</p>	



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	group is Jason Boddy from Arup. José Candela requested that information regarding this be sent then someone from the EFFC can be selected to join the group. Ciaran Jennings advised that he is already in contact with Jason regarding this.	
15.	<b>Date and Place of Next Meetings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Friday 7th and 8th February 2019 - Germany, Munich</li><li>• Friday 13th and 14th June 2019 - Budapest, Hungary</li><li>• Friday 17th and 18th October 2019 - Vienna, Austria</li></ul>	