



Minutes from the EFFC Sustainability Working Group meeting held on Monday 30th March – 10am-13.00pm UK – 11am – 14.00 CET via WebEx Conference Call

In Attendance:

Ruben Van den Broeck	ABEF	Belgium
Luca Bruni	Servizi Costruzioni	Italy
Jeroen Ritzer van Dinther	Mobilis	Netherlands
Jaap Estie	NVAF	Netherlands
Laurent Frasconi (Standing-in for Yannick Marchard)	ATLAS foundations	France
Luke Deamer	Keller	UK
Chris Harnan (Chair)	Ceecom	UK
Alberto Majer	IVECOS spa	Italy
Heleni Pantelidou	Arup	UK
Rick Riggelink	Voorbij Funderingstechniek	Netherlands
Alexander Rostert	Zueblin	Germany
Alexander Zohrer	Keller	Austria

Present:

Ciaran Jennings	EFFC Secretary	UK
Isabel Jennings	EFFC Secretariat	UK

	Topic	Actions
1	Apologies Martin Stanley, Michael Lampe, Yannick Marchard.	
2	Notes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2019 Ciaran overviewed previous meeting with PowerPoint from the AGM (HERE) - as no formal minutes available. Chris noted that he recently attended a FIEC TEC 3 meeting where it was disclosed that FIEC has a new sustainability group. Members agreed it would be good to get access to this group. Ciaran agreed to follow it up with Sue Arundale. It was suggested that Jeroen, Ruben and Rick could be good members to join this FIEC group.	Ciaran



3 FIEC, Sustainability at European level

i. Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)

Chris noted that a list of EFFC priorities relating to the CEAP needed to be formed by end of the week (See Section 3 iii).

Chris acknowledged that CEAP's have been long established (Luca noted that they were first introduced in 2015) but have been on the backburner for the last five years. Ciaran then stated that since November 2019 the latest CEAP has crept up the sustainability agenda.

Chris then proceeded to highlight key aspects of the New Circular Action Plan Guide ([HERE](#)).

Chris noted that this document is not simply "building orientated" but also includes product and packaging (pg.10-12). Luke noted that *Cementation Skanska* have introduced zero-waste sites with recyclable/reusable packaging – meaning that these CEAP goals are attainable. Chris agreed but was clear that larger companies, with advanced views on sustainability, are more likely to voluntarily opt-in to these standards than smaller businesses. In his view there is a need for some degree of top-down standard and/or regulation in order to make this common practise across the construction industry.

Chris asked if members objected to the principles of the CEAP. Luke noted that, whilst he agrees with the model, he is concerned about it being liable to burden-shifting. Ciaran seconded this concern and stated that the EFFC would have to push FIEC to ensure that the carbon emissions trading scheme is honest and not being abused by manufacturers establishing plants outside of the EU in order to claim zero emissions are being generated within Europe. He noted he knew of one cement manufacturer that was looking to do this.

Members agreed introducing the CEAP would make a huge change to construction sustainability.

Conversation then turned to Sue Arundale's CEAP PowerPoint ([HERE](#)).

Jeroen noted that the document puts too much focus on "Buildings" and not the whole construction sector. Chris noted that this could be because of Renovate Europe lobby. Jeroen stressed that both documents should focus on construction as "35% of EU's total waste generation" (quoted from pg. 14 of the CEAP document) is from construction not just buildings. Chris agreed to pass this on to Sue.

Jeroen suggested an index rating to compare circular economy credentials for construction products. Luke noted that the EFFC Carbon Calculator would be a good springboard for Life-Cycle Assessments. Ciaran agreed that pushing the carbon calculator would be beneficial as it is gaining greater interest within the geotechnical industry.

There was also discussion on replacing "CO₂ neutral" heading (pg.2). RBD suggested emissions neutral, Luke suggested CO_{2E} to cover all Green House

Chris



<p>Gases (GHGs), whilst HP noted that CO_{2E} doesn't include air quality calculations which are equally as important for Health and Safety plans.</p>	
<p>ii. Sustainability Strategy – suggested priorities</p>	
<p>Discussion started with low-carbon concrete. Ciaran and Chris both stated that CEN standards are lagging behind current manufacturing capabilities. So, whilst there are low-carbon concretes being manufactured, they cannot be widely used due to their being outside of existing CEN standards. Heleni noted that current standards for testing traditional concrete are not suitable to assess the strength and durability of low-carbon concrete.</p>	
<p>There was some discussion about the low-carbon concrete document produced by the Heathrow Expansion Project. Ciaran, Luke and Heleni all noted that they had not been able to get access to this document. Considering this Heleni put forward that she may be able to circulate documents from the British Standard Institution (BSI) who are currently working alongside the Green Construction Board in the UK (a green infrastructure working group). This would provide more wide-ranging information. Ciaran noted that he could also get a conversation going between FPS Technical Committee and the BSI and potentially get representatives on to the BSI working group.</p>	<p>Heleni Ciaran</p>
<p>Chris suggested, and members agreed, that a smaller group should spearhead efforts on low-carbon concrete – with the aim of campaigning CEN/FIEC for new standards. Ruben put his hand forward to champion this, whilst Heleni offered to be deputy. Chris and Ciaran agreed to email across all relevant contact details to help with research – including Lars Meyer.</p>	<p>Ruben/ Heleni/ Ciaran/ Chris</p>
<p>iii. EFFC Priorities for FIEC – Position Paper?</p>	
<p>Ciaran highlighted that two separate tasks to be performed:</p>	
<p><u>List of EFFC Priorities:</u></p>	
<p>Member's agreed to compile a list of 6 key issues for the EFFC surrounding the Circular Economy. JRD suggested that these <i>could</i> be pulled from Sustainability Materiality Excel list (HERE). LD emphasised the importance of relating everything back to CAEP. JE also stressed importance of keeping lists very EFFC specific.</p>	
<p>It was agreed lists would be sent to CH & CJ by noon 01/04/20 and that CH would collate and disburse by the end of the day.</p>	<p>Everyone</p>
<p><u>Infographic/Roadmap exercise for contractors:</u></p>	
<p>Jeroen agreed to compile a mind-map from the final list to bring back to the next SWG meeting. This can then be used to prioritise issues and create an EFFC specific roadmap/infographic.</p>	<p>Jeroen</p>
<p>Chris noted that Jasmine Andren would be good to help with this. Ciaran agreed to reach out to her</p>	<p>Ciaran</p>



4	<p>“The Sustainability Challenge for Foundation Contractors”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-page document setting out typical areas of impact and for action <p>It was agreed that this will be able to be produced out of the road map exercise.</p>	
5	<p>Road map to becoming sustainable for foundation contractors</p> <p>Heleni went through an in-depth explanation of the roadmap example that had been produced by Arup in relation to UK construction emissions (HERE). She explained that including a timeline is important for a successful roadmap as it allows for better conceptualisation and prioritisation. Heleni noted that it can be difficult to map social sustainability on a timeline and this would require careful consideration.</p> <p>Ciaran noted that the EFFC road map should broadly cover the issue of sustainability and not only focus on environmental sustainability. Members agreed that priorities will be drawn from Jeroen’s mind map in the next meeting.</p> <p>Chris suggested to stick to: Economic, Social, Environmental and Technical as a rough guideline for road map.</p>	
6	<p>Any Other Business (All)</p> <p>Luke asked for the EFFC Sustainability Document to be circulated and posted on the EFFC website.</p>	<p>Ciaran/ Isabel</p>
7	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 30th April 14:00 (BST) via WebEx Conference Call</p>	