



**Minutes of a Meeting of the EFFC Council
held on Thursday 17th October 2019 at Tango Room,
Hilton Vienna Plaza, Vienna, Austria**

Present:	Andreas Körbler	Austria
	Eva Maria Braun	Austria
	Peter Ausserlechner	Austria
	Maurice Bottiau	Belgium
	Jindřich Ricica	Czech Republic
	Michel Coudry	France
	Hans Bliss	Germany
	Boris von Luebtow	Germany
	Tamas Kaltenbacher	Hungary
	Fabrizio Leoni	Italy
	Jaap Estié	Netherlands
	Peter Vroom	Netherlands
	Przemysław Nowak	Poland
	Wojciech Szwejkowski	Poland
	Carlos Vazquez	Romania
	José Candela	Spain
	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 advised that there were 12 member companies present at the meeting.</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>Dejan Lukic (Switzerland), Frank Haehnig (Germany), Peter de Kort, Peter Arz, Serge Borel (France), Stig Weis (Denmark) and Wim Claesen (Belgium).</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>a) Executive Meeting (Jun 14th 2019 Prague) – Attached for information</p> <p>b) AGM Minutes (October 5th 2018 Brussels) – Attached for approval</p> <p>The minutes of the last AGM were approved.</p>	
Issues for Discussion		
4.	<p>Improving Working Platforms</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings noted that Jim de Waele had presented his Working Platforms Guidance document at the previous meeting. The document sets out a 7-stage process that any national federation/ body would need to implement a safe working platform scheme. The steps range from technical specification through to how to engage with main contractors and clients. Ciaran advised that Jim had been asked to make some changes to the document at the previous meeting which have now been incorporated. It was agreed that the document is ready for circulation.</p>	



	<p>Ciaran also reported that the EFFC have been approached by Peter Faust from the DFI in the US. Peter had asked if the EFFC would be willing to collaborate to publish the working platforms guidance as an EFFC/DFI guide. Peter was clear that there would be no R&D programme for this but that it would be useful to include some case studies and also look at some of the issues with geogrids.</p> <p>There was some discussion about this. Some felt that the document should be pushed out without delay. However, it was noted that in terms of collaboration it would be better to publish the first edition with DFI approval and branding as well as EFFC. This could then lead to a second edition with further information and case studies. It was agreed that the DFI would be approached and given two weeks to review the document before being published as a joint EFFC/DFI document. This was agreed and it was requested that the DFI are given two weeks to comment before the document is published on the EFFC website.</p> <p>There was also some discussion about how the document will be published to federations. It was noted that it would be worth getting FIEC on-board to push the document out and highlight it to main contractors who would also find the document useful.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note:</i> On the following day it was reported that Chris Harnan had spoken to Jim de Waele and Peter Faust and that they had agreed to making the Working Platforms document a joint paper between the DFI and EFFC. Chris Harnan noted that the DFI would like to suggest some additions and he has given them two weeks to produce these. Chris also noted that they would like the guide to be graphically designed which would cost approx. €1,000, of which the EFFC would pay half. It was agreed that this should be done. Chris advised that Jim and Peter will set up a small group to come up with an agreed document for publication</p>	
5.	<p>Associate Membership EFFC opportunities for interaction</p> <p>José Candela advised that there are now six approved associate members of the EFFC. José added that the officers have created a list of possible new candidates. he also advised that at the AGM the next day Associate Members will get the opportunity to present to the group and share topics of interest with members. José noted that it is important to show associate members that the EFFC is of relevance to them and that they can contribute to working groups.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings advised that the Officers have divided up the list of potential sponsors to approach. He noted that a good strategy when approaching them is to have a topic of interest ready to engage them with. Ciaran noted that the EFFC want to create a good dialogue with associate members. It was requested that Ciaran circulate the list to members.</p> <p>Chris Harnan noted that he had approached Arup, who felt that as they were an associate member of FPS, they were therefore an associate member of EFFC. There was some discussion about potentially offering a discount/incentive for potential members who are already contributing to the EFFC. It was noted, however, that this could become an issue and would have to be carefully policed. It was decided to keep the rate the same for the present.</p> <p>Hans Bliss noted that there should be someone designated to the Associate Members who can keep up communication between them and the EFFC. There was some discussion about who could take on this role. Some felt it should be whoever has the relationship with the member, others felt it should be an Officer for each country.</p>	
6.	<p>EFFC Rig Operator License</p>	



	<p>Hans Bliss noted that the main presentation on this item will be taking place tomorrow by Martin Sonnberger. Hans advised that all the theory and testing side has been devised. He explained that the next and biggest step is getting the regulating and training bodies in each country to accept this process into their system. Hans advised that this will need to start off in the countries most open to the system and lead on from there. The group also need to identify the testing agencies who are qualified to take on the test.</p> <p>Jaap Estié added that someone from DNV would be attending the meeting the next day to present on how they manage similar courses.</p> <p>There was a discussion on whether the EFFC could become the certifying/testing body for the scheme, however it was noted that this is not possible as the EFFC is the issuing body. It is envisioned that the testing authorities in each country will carry out the standardised test, which should integrate with their own. They can then mutually recognise other qualifications from testing centres that conform to the EFFC scheme. It was emphasised that the bodies in each country need to be on board for this system to work.</p>	
7.	<p>Rig Safety Standard – EN16228 update</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported on behalf of Daniel Perpezat who was unable to attend the meeting. Daniel has now retired from Soletanche Bachy but is continuing to Chair the working group until it is finalised.</p> <p>Ciaran advised that the EFFC is funding work to de-bug the standard, but it is not intended to create big changes to it. The amendments went out to public enquiry and 4 members were not happy with it.</p> <p>Daniel sent in a presentation covering the main points, please see presentation here.</p>	
8.	<p>FIEC</p> <p>a. FIEC Manifesto 2019-2024</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings advised that FIEC changed their leadership this year with Domenico Campogrande taking over as Director General. Ciaran noted that the EFFC has a good relationship with Domenico and that he is quite familiar with the issues raised by EFFC to date.</p> <p>Ciaran advised that FIEC have recently launched a new manifesto with two big themes of sustainability and digitisation. They are also very active on the topic of preventing Chinese contractors from entering Europe and carrying out works at uncompetitive prices.</p> <p>Ciaran noted that the EFFC have a number of individuals on the FIEC working groups and that this is a real point where the federation can have an influence on the direction of FIEC.</p> <p>Ciaran explained that FIEC have a Construction 4.0 working group that focuses on digitisation. He noted that this is something the EFFC lobbied for and is an opportunity for the EFFC to present issues to FIEC and change what is happening at that level.</p> <p>b. EFFC key priorities</p> <p>José Candela advised that the Officers had discussed how the EFFC can improve their participation in FIEC and its working groups. They had also discussed how the outcome of this participation is fed back to the rest of the federation. José noted</p>	



	<p>that Wim Clauses currently attends Construction 4.0 and that Martin Sonnberger is on one of the SOC groups.</p> <p>José advised that the Officers had discussed the key EFFC issues for FIEC were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EFFC Rig Operator License - Working Platform Improvement - Safety Co-ordination onsite - Attracting young talent to the industry <p>Bob Thompson noted that the UK are currently focusing on diversity as an area for addressing and suggested that this is added to the issues to take to FIEC.</p>	
Issues requiring a decision		
9.	<p>Associate Membership - new applications</p> <p>This issue was covered above.</p>	
Funding		
10.	<p>Finance</p> <p>a. Adoption of the 2018 Accounts (attached) Resolution: That the 2018 Accounts should be adopted</p> <p>Bob Thompson proposed the EFFC 2018 accounts. Maurice Bottiau seconded them.</p> <p>b. Appointment of Auditor</p> <p>i. Resolution: That Crane & Partners be reappointed as auditors of the EFFC accounts.</p> <p>Bob Thompson proposed the appointment of Crane & Partners as auditors of the EFFC accounts. Maurice Bottiau seconded this.</p> <p>c. Financial Statement to Aug 2019</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported on the financial statement for 2019 so far. He noted that the budget on full membership is slightly more than expected but the expected for Associate Members is less. He noted that the admittance of Kasktas as an affiliate member had evened this out.</p> <p>Ciaran noted that the audit fee was higher than expected this year, which has been amended accordingly for 2020.</p> <p>Ciaran advised that meeting expenses is another area that has gone over budget this year. He noted that the Officers had hoped for the use of member facilities for meetings, however this had not been possible in all countries visited throughout the year. Ciaran also noted that the sustainability meetings have also contributed to this increase, however two of their meetings took place in member facilities.</p> <p>Ciaran advised that in 2020 there would only be two executive meetings, with the Officers meeting up in between via a mixture of physical and conference meetings. This should reduce meeting costs for the federation.</p> <p>Ciaran reported that in the special projects fund the item most over budget was the rig standard work the federation have been funding. This excess was a result of rejections which meant the standard had to be amended several times.</p> <p>Ciaran also advised that the EFFC had agreed to pay €12,500 in 2019 and a further €12,500 in 2020 for the Support Fluids R&D phase.</p> <p>Ciaran noted that the budget had allowed €5,000 for a corporate video but that this needs to be readdressed. This was initially going to be one long video, however it is now likely to be several smaller videos for placement on the website.</p>	



	<p>d. 2020 Budget and Subscriptions</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported on the budget and subscriptions for 2020. He noted that these will be budgeted lower for 2020 as Portugal have informed that they would like to become an affiliate member as they do not have a formal association. Ivo Rosa attends the Technical Working Group and his company would like to become an affiliate member. Ciaran advised that their subs will be in line with those of Kaskatas and Denmark.</p> <p>Ciaran advised that the rest of the budget will remain the same in 2020. He noted that there is an €1,800 deficit in the general fund which would be balanced out by the admittance of another Associate Member.</p> <p>Jaap Estié noted he had spoken to someone from the Finnish piling federation who were surprised that they were not members of the EFFC. Ciaran advised that they were approached several years ago but that it would be a good idea to re-approach them. There was also discussion about the federation in Norway. Ciaran noted that Hans Bliss has contacted them before but had little progress. Hans Bliss agreed to approach them once more.</p>	<p>H Bliss</p>
11. Confirmation of Officers		
<p>11.</p>	<p>Confirmation of Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. President – Andreas Körbler (Austria) b. Senior Vice President – Serge Borel (France) c. Officer – Fabrizio Leoni (Italy) d. Officer – Bob Thompson (UK) e. Officer – Boris Von Luebtow (Germany) f. Immediate Past President – José Candela (Spain) 	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Final Statement from José Candela as President of the EFFC</p> <p>Dear Members and Colleagues. Dear friends of EFFC.</p> <p>Almost two years ago, in 2017, I was appointed President of the EFFC, on behalf of the Spanish association AETESS. In a few days we will hold our Annual Assembly at which my mandate will end.</p> <p>It has been an honour for me to carry out this position throughout these two years, which have passed quickly, and in which we are living through political events in Europe, which are influencing the progress of some of our associations, by the reduction of construction activity in the local markets of our companies. The appearance of populist or pro-independence politicians is causing instability in the governments of some countries in Europe, and consequently, they are negatively affecting investments in infrastructure and the promotion of private initiative projects.</p> <p>On the other hand, we are living with great changes in the world, motivated by the advance of the digital revolution, which is more and more present in our society and particularly in our companies: More ease in communications, monitoring and remote control of our mechanical equipment, digital modelling of our designs (BIM), and other applications that improve the effectiveness of our decisions and reduce response times.</p> <p>Focusing on the EFFC, we have managed to maintain a good level of activity, thanks to the voluntary contribution of the representatives of our members and collaborators, without which, we would not have carried out issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Final edition of the Guide to Tremie Concrete for Deep Foundations. – DFI-EFFC International Conference in Rome. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Incorporation into the EFFC of the company Kasktas, as a new affiliate member, and the first associate members, Klemm, Commachio, Bauer, Tensar, Optimise, and Huesker.- Participation in FIEC's SOC and TEC working groups.- First edition of the Guide to Support Fluids for Deep Foundations.- Draft of the EFFC Guide to Working Platforms. <p>Nevertheless, there are still new challenges to be faced, such as achieving a greater participation of young geotechnical engineers in the federation, in order to ensure the renovation of the EFFC and contribute to the maintenance of our profession.</p> <p>It is time to thank the participation of the colleagues representing the Executive Committee and the General Assembly, as well as the chairs of the Technical, Contracts, Health & Safety and Sustainability Working Groups and the Task Groups. I would especially like to thank Chris Harnan for his personal attitude, encouragement and professional contribution in the carrying out of the two Guides: Tremie Concrete and Support Fluids, mentioned above.</p> <p>I also appreciate the collaboration of the representatives on the Officers Committee, and the assistance of Ciaran Jennings, and his team, as head of the Federation Secretariat.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to thank the EFFC for giving me the opportunity, not only to discuss professional matters, but also to share with colleagues, and their partners, different social events, cultural acts and tours, in the different cities we have visited; which constitutes an important attraction of the Federation's activity, encouraging personal relations.</p> <p>I hope that the soul of the EFFC remains alive and well, so I will continue to collaborate as much as I can, wishing all the best to Andreas Körbler, as the next president of the federation, on behalf of the Austrian association.</p> <p>José Candela</p>	
13.	<p>New President Introduction</p> <p>Jose Candela handed Andrea Körbler the EFFC President gavel.</p> <p>Andreas thanked Jose for his time as president. Andreas noted that this is the first time Austria will be taking over the presidency and that it is an hour for him to take on the role. He explained that he had joined the EFFC around 7 years ago on the Contracts WG. He explained that he had learnt that it is not easy to come to conclusions within the Federation but that it is a good way to celebrate Europe and the EU.</p> <p>Andreas noted that his target for his time as president is to work with local federations and improve communication between them and the EFFC. He explained he wants the EFFC to be a place where all the local federations feel represented, something that will need work to implement.</p> <p>Andreas advised that he will try his best over the next two years, and emphasised that the success of the EFFC depends on the motivation and initiative of its members to progress things forward. Andreas noted that he hopes this spirit will remain alive over the next few years and beyond.</p> <p>Andreas also introduced his assistant Eva who will attend meetings with him.</p> <p>Andreas closed the meeting and wished everyone an enjoyable stay in Vienna.</p>	