



**A Meeting of the EFFC Sustainability Working Group held on Monday 28 September between 10:00 - 13:00 (BST) / 11:00 – 14.00 (CET) via WebEx Conference Call**

**Minutes**

In attendance:

Ruben Van den Broeck	Belgium
Luke Deamer	United Kingdom
Chris Harnan (Chair)	United Kingdom
Heleni Pantelidou	United Kingdom
Alexander Rostert	Germany
Alexander Zöhrer	Austria

Present:

Ciaran Jennings	EFFC Secretary
Isabel Jennings	EFFC Secretariat

Topic		
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Rick Riggelink (Netherlands), Jeroen Ritzer van Dinther (Netherlands), Jaap Estié (Netherlands).</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Approval of <a href="#">Minutes</a> of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b></p> <p>The group approved the minutes of the last meeting.</p> <p><b>Run through of <a href="#">Action list</a> from the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b></p> <p>It was agreed that most of the action list had been superseded. Alexander Rostert agreed to contact SAFE to see if they could send a new representative to the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low Carbon Concrete TG (feedback)</li> </ul> <p>Ruben explained that he has been successful researching within Belgium but that researching across borders is proving difficult. Ruben suggested that it might be best to decentralise the research so that the group can get the bigger picture quicker. Ruben also noted that he contacted Lars Meyer but did not get the information he was hoping for from him.</p> <p>Heleni noted that she had sent Chris a couple of emails about her findings. Heleni explained that she liked Ruben’s suggestion of having a template of evidence for each country, and that she had completed the UK overview. Ciaran noted that the FPS (in the UK) are currently setting up a SWG and that the Ground Forum are also interested in Sustainability. Ciaran suggested that he and Heleni talk about this outside the meeting.</p>	<b>AR</b>

	<p>Chris noted that he was happy for Heleni and Ruben to stay as champions of the TG. Ruben committed to creating a template document to help countries summarise sustainability/LCC information. Ciaran agreed to contact Andreas Körbler for more information on Lerfage's carbon capture work. Chris committed to talk to Francesco Biasioli to see what he knows about Low Carbon Concrete. Alexander Rostert agreed to talk to Lars Meyer to see what further information he could provide. It was agreed that the group should submit any information (within the members own national federation/country) which might help with research.</p>	<p><b>RVB</b> <b>CJ</b> <b>CH</b> <b>AR</b>  <b>ALL</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>FIEC, Sustainability at European level</b></p> <p>a. FIEC Circular Economy Action Plan meeting (feedback)</p> <p>Luke noted that nearly all the EFFC SWG suggestions had been incorporated within the FIEC position paper. Following FIEC publishing their response, Luke noted that he, Sue Arundale and the leader of TEC-3 had an introductory meeting with Rozalina Petrova - a member of the European Commission. At this meeting there was a big push to make sure that specific sub-sector targets are introduced. Luke noted that the end of waste criteria was also mentioned but is seen, by FIEC, as a bag of worms. Luke concluded that he thinks the EFFC has shown good intent to engage and should be able to keep up influence at this level. Chris asked Luke whether he thinks Sue will keep him in the loop with any new developments. Luke confirmed this. Chris therefore asked Luke to continue fronting this on behalf of the working group.</p> <p>(It was noted that Luke, Chris, Jaap and Alexander R are all invited to sit on TEC-3.)</p> <p>b. FIEC Sustainability Group</p> <p>i. Meeting Feedback</p> <p>Chris noted that he, Luke and Ruben had sat in on the FIEC SWG meeting earlier in the month. Ruben commented that he expected a lot more from the meeting and that conversation was dominated by discussion of what the EIC had already done on sustainability, opposed to new initiatives. Luke agreed with Ruben and added that the group does not have a clear direction – no action plans, roadmaps etc. Luke noted that the EFFC might be able to impact/guide the group direction. Chris seconded Luke and Ruben. Chris commented that he does not believe there is a true focus, or want, for sustainability – with members more interested in the monetary gain from the EU 'green economy' investment. Chris suggested they should keep tabs on the groups progress, despite their current disappointment.</p> <p>ii. What impact on the group do we want to have?</p> <p>Heleni noted that no-one would get the green funding without a true commitment to Sustainability. Chris agreed and suggested he send an email to Sue Arundale about this. Luke noted that the exact wording of the green funding has not been published yet and asked if it would be better to wait. Heleni suggested that encouraging FIEC to be pro-active, and drive the sustainability agenda, would benefit the group's results. Luke and Heleni agreed to draft an email to send to FIEC. Chris asked that this include a suggestion to FIEC to create an action plan</p>	<p><b>LD</b> <b>HP</b> <b>IJ</b> <b>CH</b></p>

	<p>from their CEAP response position paper. Isabel agreed to circulate this to the group for feedback, after which Chris will send to Sue Arundale.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>EFFC Officers meeting (feedback)</b></p> <p>a. Sustainability Audit</p> <p>Ciaran explained that he asked the officers if the EFFC/SWG could start collecting carbon consumption data to benchmark the industry. Ciaran continued to say that the officers were critical of the idea, as it would be difficult to get this information from the NF's. Ciaran also commented that the officers believe the data would reflect market prosperity opposed to sustainability.</p> <p>Chris expressed disappointment at the audit's immediate dismissal. Chris accepted that asking all NF's to collect data would be difficult but that the EFFC could start collecting data directly from the bigger companies in the NF's. Chris noted he plans to write a paper on how the willingness to report data is inversely proportional to the amount of greenwash within one's company.</p> <p>Luke suggested that instead of the audit route it might be better to investigate creating a 12-month action plan. This could then be advertised as a guidance, like the Tremie Guide.</p> <p>b. Electrified Plant &amp; Tier 4 Machines</p> <p>Ciaran noted that the officers were negative about the feasibility of electrified plant and tier 4 machines, as they believe there is not enough power to run these via electricity. Ciaran concluded that the officers seem to be reactionary, opposed to leaders, when it comes to sustainability.</p> <p>Heleni expressed her disappointment about the officer's negative reaction to carbon reduction. Heleni continued to say that sustainable working is not a new phenomenon – for example, TBM's are currently run by electricity and Volvo have been testing electrical plant for the last 5-10 years. Ciaran noted that there have been efforts to create hydrogen plant in Northern Ireland. Chris concluded that this negative stance to sustainable change is nothing new from the EFFC. Chris continued to say that, without the EFFC giving a true commitment to sustainability, there is little point in continuing the WG.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Road map to becoming sustainable for foundation contractors</b></p> <p>Chris concluded that there was little point in investigating the suggested "next steps" without full re-commitment to sustainability by the EFFC. It was agreed to revisit these agenda items if the group gets support from the executive at the AGM.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>AGM Presentation</b></p> <p>a. Key issues &amp; initiatives</p> <p>Chris likened sustainability to the Tremie Guide – in that it originally seemed impossible but was achieved with hard work. Luke and Ciaran continued by likening sustainability to the H&amp;S of 30 years ago. Heleni argued that sustainability</p>	

	<p>is even more important than H&amp;S, in the fact that unsustainable working will result in no work at all. Heleni continued to warn that piling will get designed out of the picture if the industry does not adapt. Chris concluded that the group needs to convince the EFFC exec that sustainability is critical for procurement.</p> <p>Luke suggested that the group should pull together the main drivers for sustainability for the foundations sector – e.g. big client projects, legislation, recruiting young talent, risk management, right thing to do etc.</p> <p>Chris agreed that this should be the message for the AGM and asked the group to send across any important information (straplines, data etc.) which he could use in the presentation. Ciaran committed to asking the SWG members from the Netherlands if they had any good information. Luke agreed to present a short “introduction to sustainability” as he did during the FPS webinar.</p> <p>b. Any questions to the wider AGM</p> <p>The group agreed that the main question at the AGM was if they have <i>real</i> support for sustainability.</p>	<p><b>ALL CJ LD</b></p>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FPS Webinar – EFFC/DFI Carbon Calculator</li> </ul> <p>Ciaran noted that the FPS had recently held a webinar explaining how to use the carbon calculator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EFFC Sustainability WG webinars</li> </ul> <p>Ciaran asked the group whether they would be comfortable presenting an EFFC SWG webinar. Chris expressed that he thought it was a brilliant way of disseminating information through the NF’s. Chris and Luke noted that the group could start with a carbon calculator. Heleni suggested that the focus should be on reduction and how calculation can help with this. It was agreed to put this topic on the next agenda.</p>	<p><b>IJ</b></p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November (10am-13pm) (GMT)</b></p>	