



**A Meeting of the EFFC Sustainability Working Group held on Monday 2 November between 10:00 - 13:00 (GMT) / 11:00 – 14.00 (CET) via WebEx Conference Call**

**Minutes**

In attendance:

Luke Deamer	United Kingdom
Laurent Frasconi	France
Chris Harnan (Chair)	United Kingdom
Andreas Körbler	Austria
Dejan Lukic	Switzerland
Alberto Majer	Italy
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>Ruben Van den Broeck (Belgium), Heleni Pantelidou (United Kingdom), Jaap Estié (Netherlands), Rick Riggelink (Netherlands), Jeroen Ritzer van Dinther (Netherlands).</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Approval of <a href="#">Minutes</a> of the Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <p>a. Presentation by Dejan Lukic on the newly established sustainability standard in Switzerland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presentation deck can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>The German/English translated standard criteria can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul> <p>Dejan provided a comprehensive overview of how, who and what has been needed to create the new Swiss standard for sustainability. Dejan commented that this new standard was driven by upcoming changes to public procurement laws. Dejan noted that the new standard is now being trialled on medium sized projects across Switzerland and that, by the start of 2021, it should be accepted as a national standard.</p> <p>Luke commended Dejan stating that it was impressive that Switzerland had pulled together a holistic approach to sustainability incorporating all the UN goals. Luke asked Dejan whether the Swiss ‘sustainability network’ had</p>

<p>considered using other international measurement frameworks – e.g. BREEAM, CEEQUAL or LEED. Dejan thanked Luke and noted that the network initially considered these international standards but that they gained no traction. Therefore, the network made their own standard bespoke to Swiss requirements. Luke noted he would be interested to see some feedback from the projects where it is being trialled. Dejan agreed to share with the group once they have data returned.</p> <p>Chris asked Dejan what the EFFC should do to help National Federations achieve sustainability goals. Dejan stated that the group should outline what a sustainability standard <i>could</i> look like and then help National Federation’s tailor this to their specific countries. Dejan advised that creating an open network for sustainability is an efficient way to keep up a communication between stakeholders.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b. Low Carbon Concrete (LCC) TG (Update)</p> <p>Chris confirmed that he had contacted Francesco Biasioli. Chris explained that he has sent across 3 typical concrete samples, so that Francesco can assess their carbon footprint, but has not received a response yet. Chris noted he would keep the group informed of any responses.</p> <p>Alexander R confirmed that he had been in contact with Lars Meyer - the Managing Director of the German Society of Concrete and Construction Technology. Alexander R explained that Lars and the German Cement Industry Association have agreed to create a working group focusing on LCC concrete. In addition to LCC, the working group will focus on how to change aggregate mixtures and design new structural parts (e.g. re-usable and exchangeable parts). Alexander R noted that the working group is aiming to create a common sustainability roadmap by the start of 2022. Alexander R highlighted that the focus on sustainability is partially driven by the federal election in 2021 – where it is expected the German Green Party will excel.</p> <p>Alexander R noted that Lars anticipates slow progress on LCC technology due supply issues with GGBS &amp; fly-ash – resulting from the steel and coal industry being phased out. Alexander R also commented that the main issue with carbon in the cement industry is not due to the energy needed to produce it but the chemical reaction in the cement cleaner.</p> <p>Alexander R stated that (in December) he will be joining a meeting with Lars and the German construction industry sustainability working group leader. Alexander R noted they aim to create a new paper/common plan to share with the EFFC. Alexander R concluded by saying that he, and the German associations, are eager to help communicate with FIEC and the EU.</p> <p>Ciaran noted that the FPS (in the UK) are establishing a sustainability working group which will primarily focus on environmental sustainability. Ciaran explained that low carbon concrete will be a key topic and that he would (along with Luke and Heleni) feedback any progress.</p> <p>Andreas committed to talking with Lefarge about their work on carbon reduction and will feedback to the group accordingly. Ciaran suggested that Lefarge could come and present at a future SWG meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c. Possible SWG webinar topics</p> <p>Ciaran reminded the group that the EFFC WG’s have been tasked with creating webinars relating to their current work. Chris commented that the EFFC has always had a problem disseminating information below the</p>	<p>C Harnan</p> <p>C Jennings</p> <p>A Körbler</p>
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	<p>Executive Committee level and that webinars would be a great way to do this. Luke agreed and noted that the FPS webinar on the EFFC Carbon Calculator has been a great resource/reference to send on to colleagues.</p> <p>Chris and Ciaran suggested that the first EFFC SWG meeting could start with the basics of “what is sustainability?”. Chris proposed it could cover the basics of the Sustainability Overview. Luke noted that the best webinars are proactive and address actions companies can realistically achieve. Luke suggested that a webinar on the Sustainability Overview should therefore focus on the key legislation and regulations. The group also discussed the possibility of presenting on LCC – considering it is a hot topic in the industry. Luke suggested that Keltbray could be invited as a guest speaker, as they were interested in presenting at the FPS webinar. Chris noted that Wagner would also be a good guest speaker.</p> <p>The group agreed that LCC would be a good starting topic, if they can get the guest speakers involved. Ciaran committed to contacting Keltbray and Wagner. The group noted that, if contacting speakers takes too long to organise, they would do a Sustainability Overview webinar first. It was agreed that the first webinar would take place in late January.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">d. Progress report on email to Sue Arundale about FIEC SWG</p> <p>Luke noted that he had compiled and sent the email on to Chris. Chris agreed to review Luke’s email and forward on to Sue.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>C Jennings</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C Harnan</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>FIEC, Sustainability at European level (updates)</b></p> <p>Luke stated that FIEC have been asked to provide an official response to the Circular Economy Action Plan. A request for information (on specific case studies) was circulated and has helped create this response. Luke noted that this response aligns well with the original position paper. Luke added that the EFFC SWG is in a good position to influence TEC-3 and should utilise this at meetings. Luke also noted that FIEC had invited experts to volunteer to represent them at the EU Commission, but that no EFFC representative put themselves forward. It was acknowledged that the deadline has now passed.</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>EFFC AGM Presentation (feedback)</b></p> <p>Chris stated that the SWG presentation at the AGM had the desired effect and that he had secured a mandate to pursue an EFFC sustainability agenda.</p> <p>Chris stated that there were no objections to collecting KPI data if the KPI’s were fair, sensible, and reported anonymously. It was agreed by the Executive that this would have to be reported on a company-by-company basis. Chris acknowledged that, to start, this data would likely be messy but that the willingness of the Executive to report was encouraging. Luke noted that collecting Scope 1+2 emissions would be a good place to start as all large companies are required to report these in their annual report. Ciaran also noted that the carbon calculator could be used as a way of benchmarking geotechnical techniques so that contractors can optimise their projects.</p>	

	<p>The group discussed the different metrics which could be applied (e.g. man hours, money, productivity) and concluded it would be beneficial to have a KPI Task Group to decide the specific details. Luke, Alexander R, and Alexander Z all volunteered to be part of the group. It was noted that Jaap would also be a valuable contributor. Isabel agreed to set-up an initial meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>Chris also noted that the Executive is happy for the SWG to produce best practice guidance.</p> <p>Chris asked Ciaran what Power BI would be used for in this process. Ciaran explained that Power BI can be used to aggregate data and drill-down into datasets. This should allow the group to carry out meaningful analysis off the KPIs over time.</p>	<b>I Jennings</b>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Road map to becoming sustainable for foundation contractors</b></p> <p>Luke noted that the group had not published anything for a long time and suggested that Jeroen and Rick should collate a document listing 'quick wins' for sustainability. Luke reasoned this would be relatively quick to produce and would then allow for the group to move on and provide a more detailed plan. The group agreed this could be beneficial to smaller companies and that Jeroen and Rick would be well placed to create this document. Ciaran agreed to ask Jeroen and Rick to compile this guidance.</p>	<b>C Jennings</b>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Nothing to discuss.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021.</b></p>	