



A Meeting of the EFFC Executive held at The Marriott Hotel Hungary,
Budapest Thursday 7th and Friday 8th April 2022, between 15:00-18:00 (CET)
and 08:30-12:00 (CET)

President: Andreas Körbler	Austria
Senior Vice President: Serge Borel	France
Immediate Past President: José Candela	Spain

Officers:

Bob Thompson	UK
Boris von Luebtow	Germany
Fabrizio Leoni	Italy
José Candela	Spain

Working Group Chairs:

David Hard (Technical)	UK
Federico Trevisani (Contracts)	Italy
Lorenzo Alessi (Health & Safety)	France
Chris Harnan (Sustainability)	UK

Members:

Maurice Bottiau	Belgium
Rasin Duzceer	Turkey
Jaap Estié	Netherlands
Frank Haehning	Germany
Tamás Kaltenbacher	Hungary
Przemyslaw Nowak	Poland
Jindrich Ricia	Czech Republic
Hubert Tomczak	Poland
Peter Vroom	Netherlands
Jim De Waele	UK

In Attendance:

Kathryn de Rochefort	EFFC Secretariat
Ciaran Jennings	EFFC Secretary

Owner	Action	Deadline
M Bottiau	To discuss the document that Chris presented during the first half of the meeting with the DFI [US] to ensure their views are aligned with DFI Europe.	13th May
C Jennings	To remove white and yellow rig picture from the front cover of the carbon reduction guide.	13th May
C Jennings	Share the sustainability presentation with the group.	
K de Rochefort	To circulate the link for the graphic around the UN Sustainable Development Goals.	15th April
C Harnan	State deadlines for comment on the Carbon Reduction Guide.	22nd April
C Jennings	To ask Chris Harnan if they have received any feedback from the current sites testing Support Fluids.	3rd June
C Jennings	To ask Chris Harnan what the time scale of the next 5 sites would be, with regards to support fluids.	3rd June
ALL	To review and comment on the two documents presented by the CWG and return to Federico. -Retention Position Paper -General Terms and Conditions Paper	31st May
C Jennings	To send an email template round to the group to promote the DFI/EFFC Conference.	11th April
C Jennings J De Waele	To review the comments from Theresa on the MOU.	

Minutes		
Session 1: 15:00-17:00 7th April 2022		
1.	Welcome & Legal Compliance Statement Andreas welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the legal compliance statement that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss common industry issues and to not in any way engage in the discussion of prices or fixing of markets.	

<p>2.</p>	<p>Apologises for Absence</p> <p>Frank Haehnig (Bauer), Jindrich Ricica (ADSZS), Karsten Beckhaus (Bauer), Dejan Lukic (Infra) and Göran Svensson (SAFE).</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting</p> <p>Executive Minutes (22nd April 2021, virtual) – for approval</p> <p>The minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 22nd April 2021 were approved.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Introduction & National Federation Issues – Round Table:</p> <p><u>Turkish Federation</u></p> <p>Rasin Duzceer presented on behalf of the Turkish Federation. He reported that 16 companies are currently members of the newly formed Turkish Federation and showed some of the big projects that the Members are currently working on: a Natural Gas Operation Facility, a Nuclear Power Plant, an Automobile Factory, a TAF Headquarter Project, Melen Dam Project and Istanbul Canal Project.</p> <p>The construction sector contributions equates to around 30% of the Turkish economy. Between 1972 and 2018 Turkish contractors have undertaken 7,706 projects which have cost a total of 300 billion US dollars in 104 different countries and Turkey is one of the leading producers of construction materials.</p> <p>Rasin finished his presentation by outlining dates of upcoming conferences and symposiums in 2022 (refer to PowerPoint presentation).</p> <p>Andreas Körbler commented that it was a great achievement to form a national association during the time of COVID and welcomed the new Federation into the EFCF.</p> <p><u>Polish Federation – PZWFS</u></p> <p>Hubert presented on behalf of the Polish Federation. Hubert stated that due to current conflict in the Ukraine Poland has taken in 2.5 million refugees, which has put a strain on Poland in a general sense. Hubert also reported that the cost of materials, fuel, steel etc are extremely high presently. The competition to win projects has become heated and with the current economic situation the sector could face collapse, the year 2023 will be difficult.</p>	

He noted that they have recently seen some stabilisation of prices but there is still the immediate threat of the Ukraine war.

Netherlands Federation – NVAF

Jaap presented on behalf of the Netherlands Federation. Jaap reported that they have produced guidelines for cables in the ground.

The Dutch and Belgian Federations have now bilaterally recognised each other's rig operator training programmes with 10 site workers currently going through the training. It has been difficult to schedule the education sessions, so they are being held across a single week.

Sustainability has been a focal point within the Federation, and they have been working hard to reduce diesel engines emissions on site.

The NVAF is celebrating 75 years of being a Federation this year and we would like to arrange an event with the Executive group as a thank you. Jaap also offered that the Netherlands would be happy to host the next Executive Meeting in the Netherlands.

Belgium Federation – ABEF

Maurice Bottiau reported that their federations have issued letter to their clients about current price volatility, in Belgium the price of steel has increased by 50% and there has been rumour of possible shortages of cement.

Due to the current material situation some projects have already been delayed and poses the threat of further delays. The increased pressures on infrastructure projects, both public and private has led to delays of around 3 years.

Maurice stated that they have been working on a new guide for working platforms. Jim questioned if this would be similar to NVAF, Maurice indicated that the document is still being developed but it will not be a straight copy of the NVAF.

Italian Federation – AIF

Fabrizio reported that they have seen the same issues with material prices and the war in the Ukraine has also been a mitigating factor. Fabrizio added that they have also seen delays on projects with due cost and ability to source materials.

Hungarian Federation – AVSZ

Tamás reported that Hungary has been very divided at present due to the recent election. Tamas continued to state that he had a meeting with other contractors and the forecast total turnover for the construction market was €14 billion.

We have also experienced issues with materials such as steel and in the last 5 years the cost of residential buildings have doubled. They have seen a large investment into Budapest’s rail station. Currently we are predicting a recession that we will need to be prepared for during these unprecedented times.

French Federation - SOFFONS

Serge Borel reported that the Ukraine war has affected the industry along with issues of material prices.

The French Government have decided to review the contractor commission. SOFFONS have working group updating our guide on Working Platforms as the last one was released 15 years ago; the group is being led by Paul Vedel.

There have been discussions between SOFFONS and the French Health and Safety Authority regarding International Standards, we lack the right influence, we need a clearer view from the EFFC to support the use of the EN16228 rig standard to help reinforce its application within France.

We are already recording Scope 1, 2 and 3 as France has a goal to reach net zero carbon by 2050, but there is a need to encourage other companies, we need to be leaders in carbon reporting.

German Federation – HBF

Boris reported that they have had the same issues with the Ukraine war and material prices.

In Germany there is a National Certificate for sustainable construction site for ground engineering in development. This is a new certificate that contractors are trying to achieve so as a Federation we are looking to develop guidelines on how to obtain the certificate.

We have also been discussing execution ownership data as this is a challenging subject between suppliers, contractors a clients so we are trying to develop some regulations/strategy for our members. We have two major conferences approach, the DFI/EFFC Berlin Conference and one we host every two years in October, where you can apply for the innovation prize.

We also have a common education system for foundation workers, which has been supported by all members of the Federation. There has been a lot of focus on this with one session on H&S and another on BIM and process data.

Spanish Federation – AETESS

José reported that the AETESS website has been renovated. They have also now incorporated 10 new associate members and retain 5 affiliate members.

José also stated that they have six working committees including two new groups: Communication & External Relations and R+D+I Sustainability committees.

There has been political unrest in Spain. We currently have a 10% inflection with the economy, which is the second worse out of the EU countries. The two to three years they have had most work in housing and they are coming to the end of a large project for a High Speed train.

UK Federation – FPS

Bob Thompson reported that the overall situation within the UK has been dominated by HS2, it has created a lot of work but has also been draining resources, predominately people. This has only been exacerbated by Brexit which has created an extreme shortage in skilled labour.

Bob also echoed the same experience with material prices, extreme inflation. Warehouse construction have also suffered but housing has remained strong.

A study was carried out looking at the effects of fatigue on site workers, a lot of this has stemmed from looking to understand the opportunities to offer more flexible working patterns for people who do not want to work the long hours away from home.

Jim asked if Bob could offer an update on the flexible working pilot that was carried out within the FPS? Ciaran stated that a report

	<p>was produced on the study but it has not gone any further than that at this point but there is a look to have flexible working on projects in the future being led by Build UK (the UK general construction federation).</p> <p><u>Austrian Federation – VÖBU</u></p> <p>Andreas reported that they have suffered the same issues with material prices as well as limited amounts of both steel and cement, which has in turn either delayed projects or caused them to be cancelled.</p> <p>Andreas stated that the Austrian Federation now have a drilling master manual and every 2 years they have a seminar over 4 weeks, which ends with an examination. They usually have from 8 to 10 seminars each year which will have people from universities, other companies etc. All seminars can be found on the VÖBU website.</p> <p>We will be hosting a geotechnical conference in Vienna, it had to be postponed twice due to COVID, we are expecting between 500 and 600 participants. There is also an opportunity for the top three young people to win a prize in ground engineering. They have 150 members, 40 of which are drilling companies.</p> <p>Andreas added that he has been re-elected to be the president of the Austrian Federation.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>EFFC Operational Matters</p> <p>a) Nomination for a New Officer</p> <p>Ciaran stated that José will be stepping down as an Officer for the EFFC, we will need to nominate a new officer. The Officers have run a selection process asking for volunteers to step forward and identifying potential candidates. Przemyslaw Nowak from Poland was nominated by the Officers. The group supported this application. Ciaran noted that this will not be official until the next AGM in October.</p> <p>b) Early Careers Presentations Proposal</p> <p>Ciaran reported that David Major tried to form an Early Careers Group for the EFFC but had a very limited response from members. David is also still looking for speakers to present on a project at the DFI/EFFC Berlin Conference, if anyone has a young person within their company that they would be willing to put forwards, please contact David.</p>	

	<p>Jaap highlighted that money maybe an issue for some companies sending their younger members of staff to the conference.</p> <p>The group discussed the EFFC cover a percentage of the cost, but it was felt that this should be left with independent countries federations and companies to cover.</p> <p>c) Financial Report and Budget</p> <p>Ciaran has circulated the financial report with notes, if any members have any questions/concerns they should contact Ciaran directly.</p>	
6.	<p>DFI-EFFC Relationship</p> <p>a) Collaboration on Working Groups and Projects</p> <p>Chris reported on work with the DFI and put forward a document outline of where the relationship should be heading. The document summed up not diluting resources, incorporating WGs where it makes sense to do so, and DFI Europe not duplicating working groups that already exist with the EFFC. Chris also presented the cover of the EFFC Carbon Reduction Guide and stated that currently this will be an EFFC guide and not a joint venture with the DFI. Maurice offered the backstory to the relationship between the EFFC and the DFI. Maurice highlighted that although he agreed with Chris about not diluting the number of available people shared between the EFFC and the DFI and that having joint working groups would be advantageous but stated that incorporating them is condescending as they have a different purpose in representing the industry more generally.</p> <p>Maurice disagreed with some of the language of the document and stated that the two organisations should be working together and looking at the bigger picture, Maurice confirmed that DFI Europe would be happy to have the EFFC join their digitalisation working group as they are further ahead on this topic.</p> <p>Serge questioned what is DFI Europe? There seems to be no clear definition of what they do or what their aiming towards. Maurice outlined that DFI Europe is the US DFI counterpart working with hundreds of people in Europe. Serge queried what WG DFI Europe have, Maurice stated that they have Sustainability, Digitalisation and Education WG's. Andreas agreed that it is very hard to find volunteers as it is so would be advantageous to not compete between one another.</p> <p>Maurice continued that it is difficult to be present with the end product [EFFC Carbon Reduction Guide] rather than having been involved from the beginning.</p>	C Jennings

	<p>There were general disagreements between Chris and Maurice over the way the DFI and EFFC work together, Andreas drew the conversation to a close stating that we do want to continue working with the DFI, Jaap suggested that we start with one of the working groups and not dive too deep.</p> <p>b) Updates on Conference</p> <p>Ciaran gave an update on the conference; our target is to have 359 attendees based on the numbers from the last conference held in Rome.</p> <p>The current number of registrations stand at 80 which is very low at this point, we need to promote the conference heavily. The early bird deal for registrations ends on the 15th of April, this may be a good hook to get members registering now.</p> <p>The group discussed that the low numbers maybe due to COVID, as some members maybe waiting to book until they can be sure the conference will go ahead.</p> <p>Ciaran offered to send an email template round that can be used to promote the conference to members.</p>	
<p>Session 2: 09:00-12:00 8th April 2022</p>		
<p>7.</p>	<p>EFFC 5-Year Strategy-Critical Issues and WG Updates</p> <p>i) Safety</p> <p><u>H & S WG</u></p> <p>Lorenzo reported that he has given 3 health and safety webinars recently on Accident Investigation Training [2021], What Health and Safety looks like...in special foundations industry [2021] and People-Plant Interface [2022]. All of which were well attended, and we received very positive feedback.</p> <p>The next webinar based on Lifting Operations and will be held on Wednesday 1st June 2022, which will be provided in English and Spanish.</p> <p>There are now safety alerts available on the members area of the EFFC website. We have also developed training (ESTEEM Project) for non-technical skills, e.g., developing communication skills, management skills etc. It is free and available on the website.</p> <p>Boris highlighted that he has not received information about the webinars, Ciaran will investigate.</p>	

Lorenzo informed the group that as a part of the EFFC's 5-year strategy the H+S group will address; Insights into incidents, promoting webinars, providing training, producing guidance, improving the level of collaboration, focusing on engagement and productivity, and looking at safety leadership training [to be discussed with the Executive].

Andreas stated that he was in support of safety leadership training. Bob added that there has been behavioural safety training the UK for years, looking at the psychology of safety and suggested that the EFFC should look producing something similar.

The group discussed the best way for the training to be delivered, Lorenzo suggested that he can draft content and if approved it can be delivered at the next executive meeting.

Working Platforms TG

Jim reported that the group has been well attend, roughly 30 attendees, we have been working well with the DFI.

We are currently working on 3 areas: New testing methods for platforms, comparison of design methods, we had run a competition between 20 designers, they used 7 different solutions and platforms varied from 500mm to 1.5m. This is very problematic.

The last area we are looking into is Rig Bearing Pressures, we have trials taking place in the US.

We are also preparing for the Berlin Conference; we have a meeting and presentations that will take place.

Ciaran highlighted that Theresa sent through the Memorandum of Understanding with notes that needs to be reviewed.

EFFC Rig Operator License

Jaap reported that he has a meeting with FIEC on Tuesday 3rd May, Ciaran added that FIEC are meeting at the end of April with Dominico and Christine to organise what will be presented. There is resistance against having a "license" but there has been the suggestion of a certificate instead.

ii) Sustainability

**C Jennings
J De Waele**

	<p>Ciaran presented on sustainability on Chris Harnan’s behalf. The sustainability group has been meeting every 8 weeks, normally with subgroup meetings in between those times looking at such things as the Carbon Reduction Guide. It is a practical guide that we are looking to present at the EFFC/DFI Berlin Conference.</p> <p>Legislation will be coming down the line to force companies to reduce their carbon consumption and this guide will act as great starting point for contractors. Jim also highlight that clients are now added contractual clauses around the use low carbon materials and practices.</p> <p>We met with the DFI yesterday, and they are keen join the guide and have agreed to cooperate with is with regards to sustainability. The document that Chris shared yesterday still needs approval, but we feel that they may make minor changes will agree to the document.</p> <p>Boris raised concerns that this is not the feeling that was presented when Chris and Maurice discuss the document yesterday. Maurice will discuss with the DFI.</p> <p>Ciaran presented the current design for the front of the guide. Andreas highlighted that the picture on the front of the guide with a yellow and white rig should be removed, as they used a large diesel generator on the job and anyone who worked the project will know that.</p> <p>Ciaran highlighted that as practices change this guide will need updating regularly. Ciaran stated that he would share the presentation after the meeting but showed a graphic with the presentation around the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Kathryn will share the link with the group.</p> <p>Boris questioned why Chris had suggested about creating 8 guides, Boris felt that we only needed the carbon guide, Ciaran stated that the other guides would cover what we have on each point of the EFFC road map, covering the 3 pillars of sustainability. Boris felt that it makes no sense to create more guides on overarching issues as no one will read them.</p> <p>Serge stated that the guides would be targeted to how these issues and they affect our industry, so they would not be too general. Serge and Boris added that more time should be allowed to review and offer comments to the guide, months not days. Ciaran stated that the guide is still with the SWG but will be circulated next week</p>	<p>M Bottiau</p> <p>C Jennings</p> <p>C Jennings K de Rochefort</p>
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	<p>be discussed at the next CWG in June to be approved by the following Executive in July.</p> <p>Jim questioned if the document on cash retention, would have any teeth. Ciaran stated that we cannot mandate anything as a Federation this kind of document, but the intention is to steer companies away from CR and highlight other methods.</p> <p>The hope is to bring the document to FIEC and gain their support to move away from CR. Serge queried where is digitalisation, Ciaran stated that this be defined at the Berlin Conference in May.</p> <p><u>TWG</u></p> <p>David Hard reported that the Technical group have not met this year but are looking to start having physical meetings again.</p> <p>The group have created documents on water tightness and retaining walls, it has received a great deal of comments, but we are looking to have this ready for approval in June.</p> <p>Work continues on EN206 APP D [relates to concrete and the tremie guide], we have a lot of comments to work through and it will not be completed this year.</p> <p>Ciaran suggested that we could do a webinar on the Tremie Guide, Maurice felt that we should contact the national federations to impress upon them the importance of the guide rather than hosting a webinar. David stated that there is TWG representation with the working platforms, as required. Jim highlighted that it has been fairly inactive.</p> <p>EN1997 parts 1-3 will be going for formal enquiry in Q4 2022, it will be the last chance for countries to comment.</p> <p>David stated that there is a rolling 5 review process for execution standards [see the table on slide 6 of TWG presentation]. There have been no volunteers to review several standards that need to be review. The lack of involvement with these standards is problematic as they are standards, we all have to use.</p> <p>The next meeting of the TWG will be held in the Autumn of 2022 and we have had offer from Austria to host.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Boris highlighted there is an email missing from the EFFC to the National Federations about how the carbon data will be handled.</p>	

	Ciaran stated that this is being explored currently as there are difficulties on how to aggregate the data.	
9.	Date of Next Meeting Monday 11 th July 2022 (13:00-16:00 GMT/14:00-17:00 CET)	