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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOUNDATION CONTRACTORS

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A Meeting of the EFFC Officers will be held on Thursday 13th October 2022 at 10am
Club TP / 90 av des, Champs Elysée Paris 8, Salle Opéra

Contact Report

1. Welcome & Compliance statement

The President made a legal and compliance statement that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss industry issues and not to engage in any way in the fixing of prices or markets.

2. Approval of minutes – 06-09-22

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and accepted.

3. AGM Paris – Key matters

The Officers discussed how to proceed with the transfer to the new president (Serge Borel). The group agreed that Segre will give an Opening Statement at the beginning of Friday's meeting and the formal confirmation of the Officers shall be conducted at that point in the AGM

- Strategic aims for next 5 years

Ciaran presented the strategic aims to the group, looking at the 10 Key Strategy Points.

Andreas asked how much feedback was received from the members. Ciaran stated that most members feedback and summarised as follows:

Sustainability roadmap – There is broad support for sustainability the sustainability roadmap and the carbon reporting project and the Carbon Calculator.

Rig operator license scheme – there is general support for the rig operator license but there had been pushback from Sweden (SAFE) and the general construction federation of Spain through FIEC. Ciaran also stated that the German Federation and Zumbau had both raised concerns about making the scheme a FIEC project. Boris explained there was concern about FIEC being involved with the license scheme and the German Federation fear losing control to FIEC allowing them to interfere in the training systems for other machinery. Ciaran commented that FIEC were interested in the approach the EFFC is taking because it harmonised the exams in different systems so that there was a common level. FIEC recognise that it is impossible to harmonise training specifically as each country has its own system. He noted that it may be possible to speak to FIEC about how the scheme is run to ensure that the EFFC remains in control. Ciaran

also noted that SAFE's objection was largely on the basis that their qualification is very comprehensive and covers areas outside of those that are commonly covered in other countries. He reported that he had emailed SAFE to explain that they would have freedom to require additional testing and that the scheme was voluntary – so they did not have to participate if they were concerned.

Serge noted that there is a need to explain how the proposal will work as there are likely to be misunderstandings about it currently. He noted that in the French system there are various bodies that accredit training, but the responsibility ultimately lies with the contractor.

It was agreed that the starting point should be to gather five or so countries together to start the process of recognition. These Federations should support the common exam questions and then work with their authorities to recognise them within their systems. Austria, Germany, France, UK, Netherlands, and Italy are understood to be willing to take part. Boris stipulated that Germany's participation would require FIEC to not being involved.

Ciaran commented that if FIEC are involved it is likely to require the EFFC to become incorporated in order to be a legal entity that FIEC and other parties can contract with formally.

Establishing and EFFC Early Careers Group – Starting an ECGs in the EFFC has suffered a lack of support, generally, which had been demotivating for David Major who had been working to bring different groups together. Andreas reported that they have had several university students within his country that have spontaneously created their own group, including three women. This group is seeking recognition from the various geotechnical organisations within Austria including VÖBU. He showed a presentation from this group that stated their aims and how they are organising themselves.

Ciaran reported that Dave Major has put together a proposal to copy the DFI model and establish EFFC student chapters in each country but thought that these groups may already exist and just need to be brought together.

Bob stated that we need to define what the benefit would be for them getting involved with the EFFC, perhaps create a page on the website.

Serge suggested that the EFFC offer mobility all over Europe, Andreas added that they can also be involved in the EFFC WGs.

It was agreed that instead of looking at David's proposal, they will show the Executive the Austrian ECG presentation and get all of the federations to report on what they have with their countries.

Boris suggested that we can ask Federations to bring a young person to the next AGM to present.

Improving Working Platform safety – Ciaran stated that most countries are in support of improving working platforms, Jim de Waele is currently performing site tests looking at four different testing methods including a deflectometer test that could be a good solution for contractors. The UK has committed sites to be tested, costing around £600 per test. Tests are also ongoing in Germany, Denmark, and France and in the US.

Digitisation – The group asked about digitalisation within the DFI, Ciaran explained that he has emailed Jason Boddy but has not received a response from him on whether the EFFC can collaborate with his WG.

Ciaran added that we can look to produce a guide around digitisation to help companies that are less advanced. Andreas felt that companies are moving at their own rates, and it would be difficult to produce a guide.

José suggested that each federation could put forward the level of digitalisation in their country so that we can understand the differences across Europe. Bob stated that there is general reticence from UK about sharing any digital data as it is commercial data that can be abused. He noted that Arup have been

seeking to collect all the production data on sites with a view to monetising it through using software to create comparison between contractors. It was agreed that protection of contractor data should be a priority for the EFFC outside of a legitimate need for as-built information.

José argued that if the information was coming from Federation, comparing countries, rather than individual companies it could set EFFC members above other companies.

There was some discussion on putting together various companies' digital experts – however it was thought these people would want to share more data rather than protect it and could take the industry in the wrong direction. It was agreed that there was a need to set a standard at the EFFC level that would support national federations.

Boris stated that Germany have a digitalisation group working on a paper, the group agreed that each company/federation can put forwards their digitalisation groups to communicate together and form a basic standard/position paper.

Action: Boris to share the German digitisation paper has been produced share with Officers.

Supporting EFFC Webinars – Ciaran added that the EFFC members need to offer continued support for webinars, and this should be uncontroversial.

4. Attracting Talent

- Dave Major proposal

Previously covered.

5. DFI/EFFC Conference in Berlin

- Update re financial result

A small surplus of €300 was made according to the DFI financial statement. However, the EFFC will receive €5k for their input into the management of the conference.

- 2026 – Brussels/Bruges next conference?

The DFI have agreed to host the next conference in 2025 and this will require more input from the EFFC. Maurice Bottiau has indicated that he would be willing to anchor the conference as a Belgian industry representative.

6. Secretariat contract

- Schedule of services & fees

Andreas stated that they want more time to look over the specification of services the EFFC require and define what the Secretariate should be doing going forwards. He committed to completing this work by the end of November 2022 and for a discussion to be held after this point.

Action: Ciaran to send over the signed contract from 2018.

7. Financial update

- Financial Statement & Budget 2023

AP: Serge will speak to Tamas Kaltenbacher about the Hungarian Federation's outstanding payments.

Ciaran ran through the budget, giving a budget for the coming year of €66,930.00. We are awaiting the bill from FIEC, anticipating an inflationary increase. Projecting a surplus of €7,750 if the secretariate fee remains the same.

€10,000 has been assigned for the carbon calculator but the DFI are required to pay half so we may not need the full allocation. We have been chasing the money they did not contribute during the time that they left the project, they have said they will likely fund updates in the future in order to bring them back into parity with the money the EFFC has spent on the project in the interim.

€2,000 has been assigned for the support fluid and tremie guide groups each as they have restarted their activities.

€3,000 has been assigned to the carbon reporting initiative due to the time that would be required from the secretariate to chase up data and €3,500 budgeted against the development of the reporting.

€5,000 has been set aside for the Rig Operator License in case we need to pay for Jaap Estié's time.

8. Updates (by exception)

- Working platform initiative

Previously Covered.

- EFFC Rig Operator license initiative

Previously Covered.

9. AOB

No other business.

10. Date & Time of Next meeting TBD.

The group requested that the AGM in October 2023 is held on 28th-29th September in Poland – **[it was agreed in the AGM to hold this in Istanbul]**.

The date was agreed for the Executive in April in Amsterdam – 20-21st April 2023.

Next Officers meeting Monday 23rd January 2023-Vienna