



EFFAT

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM TRADE UNIONS

**Meeting of the EFFAT Executive Committee
BRUSSELS, 17 and 18 December 2018**

Agenda item 17: ACTIVITY REPORTS AND EFFAT WORK AREAS 2018

A) FOOD, DRINKS AND TOBACCO

Decision: The Executive Committee takes note of the reports and endorses the documents presented.

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More and better jobs and protecting workers from labour exploitation	
Activities	Results and progress
1. Meat coordinating committee	
European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) pilot study in the meat sector	The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has finalised an information report on " <i>The Services Directive in the meat industry</i> " which builds on interviews with the social partners and public authorities in seven Member States (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands) as well as with Brussels-based European social partners, institutions and think tanks. Peter Schmidt (NGG), Member of the EESC, leads the report which should be adopted by the end of this year. https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/information-reports/services-directive-meat-processing-sector
EFFAT meat coordinating group	On 20 September 2018, European trade unions met in Madrid to discuss a range of challenges in the meat sector in Europe. The event was organised by EFFAT's Spanish member organisations at the Spanish Economic and Social Committee. While significant efforts have been made by EFFAT and its affiliates over the years to advance labour rights, working conditions and health and safety at work in the European meat industry, campaigning against the social and economic distortions caused by social dumping, progress has been uneven. Much work still needs to be done at all levels, to reduce the causes of vulnerability and promote equality, human rights and good relations in the sector. EFFAT and its member organisations resolved to build on the work trade unions are already doing in recruiting and supporting migrant workers with organising campaigns aimed at vulnerable workers, enabling workers to gain the benefit of trade union activities and foster more dialogue through European and international trade union cooperation to achieve better terms



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	and conditions. The EFFAT meat coordinating committee will meet on 30 November to discuss the next steps. http://www.effat.org/en/node/14773
2. Fish processing coordinating group	The first seminar of the joint ETF-EFFAT project on a “Socially sustainable EU common fisheries policy (CFP): workers’ organisations’ participation in the fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors” that took place in June in Malaga, highlighted the following concerns: labour abuses inside and outside of the EU; social inequality; safety; policy exclusion; under-representation; sector reputation etc. Participants discussed a potential approach to engage in the reform of the CFP, by establishing the evidence base and raising awareness, advocating for more union seats at the table, engaging with the European institutions in the legislative process, working with various stakeholders to address labour issues, etc. The next seminar, on 14-15 November, will focus on health and safety, working conditions, organising and collective bargaining. This is the first time all trade union representatives from sea to plate come together as one voice to develop a joint vision on how to promote and defend workers’ occupational interests in the CFP. https://www.etf-europe.org/fair-fishing-for-europe-trade-unions-launch-debate-on-a-more-social-eu-fisheries-policy/
3. Brexit & European Globalisation Adjustment Fund	In addition to sensitive topics such as the Irish question, citizens’ rights and labour standards, we are, together with NNF and SIPTU, exploring with the European Commission and the European Parliament whether the notion of a “job fund” or the extension of the scope of the European Globalisation Fund in case of people losing their jobs because of major structural changes in trade patterns due to Brexit could be set up, with supporting measures. The European Commission published a proposal for the future EGF framework. EFFAT has been in contact with the European Parliament Committee on employment and social affairs. The EGF should support workers with the possibility of reintegrating them into the occupational sector of their former employment, where a major restructuring event has created a need for new or supplementary skills, and where existing skills can be utilised most efficiently.



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4. Solidarity activities	On-going actions to build active solidarity among the member organisations, in joint cooperation with the IUF.
Fair and effective labour laws and policies	
5. EU mobility package and cross-cutting projects	Revision of the posting of workers Directive¹. The revision of the posting of workers directive has been adopted in June. The aim of the revised directive is to facilitate the transnational provision of services, whilst ensuring fair competition and respect for the rights of those workers who are employed in one Member State and sent to work temporarily in another by their employer. The implementation phase of the revised posting of workers directive will be important to ensure that all workers are effectively treated fairly across the Union. EFFAT is associate partner in a joint EFBWW project on cross-border social security fraud. A final conference where EFFAT affiliates participated took place in Vienna on 17-18 September. Trade

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EFFAT is also part of the steering committee of a project looking at posting of workers, enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information: 'Protecting Mobility through Improving Labour Rights Enforcement'. The project is undertaken by Prof. Nathan Lillie, University of Jyväskylä, Finland. The work is ongoing.



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	unions across Europe and social security experts discussed the specific challenges for the workers temporarily posted in another EU Member State. One of the conclusions of this congress was that more efficient and effective cooperation between national authorities (labour inspectorates, tax and social security authorities) and with social partners was a must to ensure a comprehensive system of inspections of working conditions, implementation of rules and deterrent sanctioning and punishing when breaches of relevant laws are identified. EFFAT will continue to work on those issues. The single market is not there to take advantage of minimal regulation, low or no taxes, cheap company registration fees and freedom to employ cheap labour. As trade unions, we need to step up our industrial campaign in enforcing fair, living wages and conditions at all levels. EFFAT member organisations from Albania, Bulgaria and Croatia attended the conference.
6. Industrial policy	The first seminar of the EFFAT project on “the bioeconomy and a future biobased food industry and agriculture sector: How can workers’ organisations shape the change?” took place in Copenhagen on 9-10 October. The participants learned the fundamentals of the bioeconomy, and expressed their view on what is the bioeconomy in their country. They also learned about experiences, opportunities and challenges from companies in the bioeconomy, emphasising employment potentials within the entire biobased value chains (feedstock, processing, production, retail and supply). Finally, the participants were encouraged to discuss what actions were needed for developing a socially inclusive and sustainable bioeconomy and how to capture the opportunities and overcome challenges in the bioeconomy. http://www.effat.org/en/node/14785 EFFAT FDT Secretary is co-rapporteur of an own-initiative opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on “Sustainable inclusive bio-economy – new opportunities for European economy”. In particular, the opinion concluded that it was important to enhance education,

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	training and skills programmes for new talents and existing employees. Ensuring the continued development and adaptation of individuals' skills over their lifetimes is of utmost importance. Commitment from all relevant stakeholders – biomass producers, education providers, companies, trade unions, public employment services and governments –to improve the quality and responsiveness of education and vocational training provision is paramount for reducing the skills mismatch by reinforcing links between educational systems and labour markets. The opinion should be adopted in plenary by the end of the year. https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/sustainable-inclusive-bio-economy-new-opportunities-european-economy-own-initiative-opinion
Strong social dialogue at EU and national levels	
7. EU Social dialogue in the food and drink sector (Social partner: FoodDrinkEurope)	EFFAT and FoodDrinkEurope had on 25-26 October, in Budapest, their first regional workshop (Central and South East Europe) of their joint project: "New professions and career paths in the food and drink industry: Delivering high level food industry skills in the digital economy", with the overarching aim of meeting the challenges and opportunities resulting from an increased digitalisation of the European food and drink industry. Two other regional workshops are planned, one for Northern Europe that will take place on 5-6 February 2019 in Copenhagen and another one for Southern Europe in April/May 2019. What do we mean by digitalisation? What are the effects of the so-called 4th industrial revolution on the food and drink labour market, on working conditions, on training etc., what role social partners can play in the digital economy? Active participation of EFFAT member organisations in the food and drink industry is essential to enrich the debate and provoke discussion.



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8. EU Social dialogue in the sugar industry (Social partner: CEFS)	EFFAT and CEFS had their social dialogue working group meeting on 12 October and sounded the alarm about the extreme crisis on the European sugar market. We called on the European institutions to respond appropriately to this crisis: http://www.effat.org/en/node/14786
Fair and sustainable food supply chain	
9. Business-to-Business (B2B) contractual practices and Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) in food supply chains	The European Commission has published in April an EU legislative proposal against UTPs. EFFAT is in favour of an EU legislative framework that calls for effective and robust enforcement mechanisms at Member State level, ensuring that all stakeholders, including farmers and trade unions can participate. We need a fair, equitable, transparent and sustainable food supply chain in the EU, benefiting all actors: http://www.effat.org/en/node/14791 ; http://www.effat.org/en/node/14778 ; http://www.effat.org/en/node/14775
10. Cocoa value chain	The EFFAT Secretariat is providing support to the EFFAT cocoa steering committee. They prepared campaign material for the World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June to focus attention on the global extent of child labour in the cocoa sector and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. The EFFAT Secretariat and the committee is currently working towards a binding legislation to stop cocoa and coffee from coming into the EU if it is linked to deforestation and child labour. Voluntary action by some private stakeholders is not enough and not securing a level playing field. The European Union must set mandatory rules to tackle child labour and deforestation in the cocoa and coffee sectors. http://www.effat.org/en/node/14758