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Social Affairs n°02/2016

24 May 2016

INVITATION

**Invitation to the "Textile and Clothing" - "Tanning and Leather" - "Footwear",
Joint Working Group Meeting, Social Dialogue Committee
Brussels-21st June 2016**

Registration by 7/06/2016 at the latest

Summary: The Commission invites EURATEX members to attend the Joint Textile, Clothing, Tannery, Leather and Footwear Working Group organized in the context of the Social Dialogue on **Tuesday 21st June 2016 in Brussels from 11h00 till 17h00.**

All members' representatives have to **inform EURATEX by 7th June 2016 at the latest** if they intend to attend the meeting using [annex 5](#). Then they can still register on line by **15 June 2016 at 18h00 CET** (strict deadline) to be able to access the building using the link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/TextileFootwearTanning21June2016>

Please find attached the official invitation from the EU Commission for this Joint Working Group of the Social Dialogue is attached, as well as the agenda (annex 1 & 2) and all the practical information to be compulsorily followed as requested by the Commission's services.

Practical information

Reimbursement: We remind you that EURATEX EU members who will be present during this meeting will have their travel and accommodation expenses **reimbursed** by the European Commission (conditions in **Annex 3**). Information concerning rules for reimbursements can be found [here](#)¹ and in Annex 3.

Registration is a pre-requisite: Reimbursements will only be made for those participants who are referred to in the list of participants transmitted to the Commission **8 working days before the meeting** (strictly applied).

Fill-in of documents: In order to be more efficient during the day of the meeting, participants can pick out the forms in their own language¹ and fill in all documents **before arriving at the meeting**. Participants will be asked to sign the list of presence at the entrance of the meeting room before the start of the meeting.

EURATEX would be grateful to receive your confirmation for participation to be sent to francesco.marchi@euratex.eu by **7/06/2016 at the latest** using or completing annex 5 form.

Francesco MARCHI
Director General

¹ <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/5cf18da6-a3a7-437a-9743-c452e6830e93>



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
Employment and Social Governance
Social dialogue

Ref. Ares(2016)2393520 - 24/05/2016

Brussels,
EMPLA.2/DPD/SC/gb

Mr F. Marchi
Euratex
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Ms Carmen Arias
CEC
c.arias@cec-footwearindustry.eu

Mr L. Triangle
IndustriAll
luc.triangle@industriall-europe.eu

Mr Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano Vasquez
Cotance
cotance@euroleather.com

Subject: Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for "Textile and Clothing", "Tanning and Leather", and "Footwear" - Joint Working Group Meeting on 21 June 2016

Dear Sirs, Dear Madam,

We are pleased to invite you to the above-mentioned meeting to be held on

Tuesday 21 June 2016
from: 9h30 to 17h00

at the following address **Conference Centre "Albert Borschette"**
Rue Froissart 36
1040 Brussels
Rooms: 3D + 020 + 310

Please find attached the draft agenda for the meeting.

The preparatory meeting for the workers' delegation will be held in the main room 3D with interpretation from 9h30 to 10h45.

Simultaneously the preparatory meetings will be held in separate rooms without interpretation:

- the CEC Footwear employers' delegation will meet in room 020
- the Cotance Tanning and Leather employers' delegation will meet in room 310

The joint meeting will start at 11h00 in the main room 3D

Simultaneous interpretation has been requested for the following languages: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES.

The Commission will reimburse travel and subsistence expenses for a maximum of 15 EU representatives per delegation (employers and workers). Please see Annex 1 for details.

The complete list of participants and their interpretation needs must be sent to Danny.Scheerlinck@ec.europa.eu at least eight working days before the meeting. If the list is not transmitted in time, interpretation will automatically be cancelled.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)
David Pascal DION
Head of Unit

Encl.: 1. Rules for the reimbursement of expenses
2. Draft Agenda



Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees
"Textile and Clothing" - "Tanning & Leather" - "Footwear"
Joint working group meeting, 21 June 2016
Albert Borschette Centre - rooms 3D, 020, 310
 (Interpretation : FR/EN/DE/IT/ES)

Draft agenda

09h30 – 10h45 : Preparatory meetings: Trade Union IndustriAll : 3D with interpretation
 Employer CEC : AB020 without interpretation
 Employer Cotance : AB310 without interpretation

11h00

1. Approval of the Report of the last meetings and adoption of the agenda
2. Introductory Remarks of the Social Partners
3. Internal market level playing field : controls/enforcement of EU legislation (Commission representative, TBC)
4. Regulation on Conflict Minerals : state of play (DG TRADE).

12h30 : lunch break

14h00

5. EU Flagship initiative on Responsible management of the supply chain in the garment sector : results, next steps, involvement of social partners and funding (DG DEVCO)
6. Change your shoes campaign : update (COTANCE, CEC)
7. New initiative on skills : new blueprint for sectoral cooperation (DG GROW)
8. Ongoing projects :
 - Tanning & Leather : Leather is my job 2
 - Textile & Clothing : CSR
 - All : European Sector Skills Council > next steps
9. AOB

RULES FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

What is reimbursed?	
Travel expenses	<p>Your travel expenses will be reimbursed from your place of work or home address to the place of the meeting (and back) on the basis of the shortest and cheapest usual route:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by first-class rail travel for journeys of less than 400 km (one way), • by economy-class air travel if the distance by rail exceeds 400 km. If business class is used, justification is required from the travel agency proving that no lower fare was available, • by car, in which case travel expenses are reimbursed at the same rate as for the journey by first-class rail, if available, or, if not, at the rate of € 0.22/km, • local transport from the airport or the railway station to the meeting place and back. <p>Taxi fares and parking fees are not reimbursed (see daily allowances).</p>
Daily allowance	<p>A flat-rate daily allowance (€92) is paid to cover your incidental expenses, for instance meals and local transport (e.g. taxi fares) and also your personal travel and accident insurance. If the distance between the place of departure (be it your private or business address) and Brussels is 100 km or less, only half of the full daily allowance is paid (€46). You are <u>not</u> entitled to a daily allowance if you live and/or work in or near Brussels.</p>
Accommodation allowance	<p>The accommodation allowance is a fixed amount of €100 per night. You are entitled to this allowance if you have to spend one or more nights in Brussels because the times of meetings are incompatible with the times of flights or trains. The number of nights may not exceed the number of meeting days + 1. No invoices are required.</p>

Please bring the following documents on the day of the meeting to accelerate your reimbursement

1. APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Original duly completed and signed.

2. IDENTIFICATION STICKER or EXPERT IDENTIFICATION SHEET

- Please stick your identification label in the appropriate place and sign it with your initials.

- If you do not have a personal identification sticker OR if your personal details have changed OR if the bank account of your organisation has changed,

you need to provide the expert identification sheet duly completed with the IBAN code and signed by the account holder, and including:

- either the bank's signature and stamp on the form
- or a document issued by your bank containing the following data: account number, name and address of the account holder (e.g. account statement, proof of opening of account or account identification number).

3. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

You must provide the transport tickets (if the booking was made online, a printout of the electronic reservation). The documents supplied must show: (1) the class of travel used, (2) the time of travel, (3) the route and (4) the amount paid.

For journeys by car where the total distance travelled exceeds 800 km you must provide the fuel and, if possible, the toll receipts related to the travel made.

In line with the Commission's financial rules, the reimbursement will only be made in euros to one and the same bank account (your private bank account or the bank account of your organisation).

4. LEGAL ENTITY FORM (ONLY FOR NEW EXPERTS)

When applying for reimbursement for the **first time**, you need to duly complete and sign one of the two legal entity forms giving the bank account as indicated under point 2 and attach copies of the following documents:

- For experts to receive reimbursement on their individual bank account: the 'Individuals' form + a legible photocopy of your ID card or passport;
- For experts to receive reimbursement on their organisation's bank account: the 'Private company' form and
 - (1) a copy of any official document (e.g. official gazette, register of companies, etc.) showing the organisation's name and address and its registration number as issued by the national authorities,
 - (2) a copy of the VAT registration document if applicable and if the VAT number does not appear on the above-mentioned official document.

Useful information and the forms (in all EU languages) can be found on the website:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/5cf18da6-a3a7-437a-9743-c452e6830e93>

You must send the secretariat of the meeting (by e-mail or post) the documents necessary for reimbursement no later than **30 calendar days** after the last day of the meeting. Beyond that deadline, the Commission is no longer under the obligation to reimburse travel expenses or pay any allowances.

Electronically signed on 20/05/2016 12:41 (1170-02) in accordance with article 4.2 (Validity of electronic documents) of Commission Decision 2004/563

The Commission is not liable for any material, non-material or physical damage suffered by invited experts or those responsible for accompanying a disabled expert in the course of their journey to or to stay in the place where the meeting is held, unless such harm is directly attributable to it.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue
Social dialogue

**PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE
TEXTILE AND CLOTHING**

30 November 2015
DRAFT MINUTES

Chair: Commission

1. Discussion and approval of the minutes of the last meeting and of the agenda

The agenda and the minutes were approved.

2. EU Commercial, Economic and Social Issues of common interest:

- Presentation of the new Communication "Trade4All"

Ms Ruta Zarnauskaite (DG TRADE) presented the communication "Trade for All – New EU Trade and Investment Strategy", to promote a new approach to trade, focused on the concept of social responsibility, transparency and ethical values. The objective is to design an open approach to bilateral and regional agreements – including TTIP – and to re-energise multilateral negotiations and reaffirm WTO centrality in developing global trade rules, pushing for the Doha Development Agenda conclusion. Ms Zarnauskaite underlined the high relevance of "Trade4all" to the textile sector and supply chain.

Mr Luc Triangle (industriAll) welcomed the initiative by the Commission, saying that multilateral agreements will be fundamental to trade. In precedence, the main tool used in trade policies were bilateral agreements, which rarely contributed to create a level playing field for the sector's industry. The attribution of the status of "market economy" to China could be an issue for the recognition of those values announced in the "Trade4all" communication. Mr Francesco Marchi (Euratex) wondered about the possible incentives to the industry to maintain the production in Europe. DG GROW should then intervene with a proposal to avoid dumping and help the companies to make their activities sustainable. Free trade agreements have not the same target of the EU trade, so multilateral agreements are welcomed, on condition that also "emergent" countries have to comply with them. It is needed to modernise trade agreements with Turkey, Japan, China.

- EU Flagship initiative "Responsible management of the supply chain in the Garment sector"

Ms Ruth Hoekstra (DG DEVCO) said that the main objective of the EU garment initiative is to foster improvements in terms of environmental impacts and working conditions in producing countries, promoting notably an effective implementation of existing international guidelines, standards and initiatives. The proposed multi-stakeholder approach builds on

strengthening existing tools within the Commission and the EEAS and on encouraging progress from all relevant stakeholders, including EU companies in the garment sector. The EU Garment initiative aims at gathering up all stakeholders to exchange best practices and promoting initiatives from private sector and CSOs on responsible management of supply chains (such as voluntary labels, private standards, certification or audit schemes, fair trade, etc.). In the 55 Stakeholder questionnaire received, stakeholders suggest a strong guidance and focus of the EU Initiative, in direction of more complementarity and coordination with existing initiatives, avoiding duplication and results-oriented action. Internal preparations on the initiative are also ongoing, including a mapping analysis of existing initiatives and the gaps, to define concrete action and strengthen the Commission policy coherence. The initiative will be operationalized in 2016 and there could be a joint event with the future Dutch EU Presidency.

- Future of the EU Textile and Garment sector

Mr Laurent Bontoux, Mr Philip Boucher and Ms Alice Szczepanikova (JRC) pointed out that the results of the research on the Textile and Garment sector show: a lack of workers with the right skills, an ageing process of workers and consequent loss of skills and, thirdly, a demand of new skills and know-how. In this sense, it is essential to promote the visibility of the sector, to give to young people the opportunity to be co-owners in SMEs of the sector and to support technical schools and various forms of collaboration with universities, such as carrying out PhD research within companies. Another element affecting this industry is the demand of better working conditions by young workers. Social partners should better make a detailed mapping of the skills mismatch in the sector.

Mr Triangle underlined the poor involvement of trade unions in this JRC research and also the role of the Skills council in the Textile sector. Stéphanie Le Berre (Euratex) asked for a more detailed analysis that better describe the particular features of the sector.

3. Common Projects: State of play

- Follow-up of the EU Joint CSR Risk assessment joint project (EURATEX-IndustriAll)

Mr Marchi said that the result of the joint project will be soon translated in various languages, but the data collected cannot be shared yet. In general, he outlined the importance of a full approach to corporate social responsibility by companies, in order to have CSR policies really implemented and not only on the surface. While trade unions want CSR as a binding measure to take, employers prefer to engage voluntarily on CSR. Ms Le Berre added that some companies have their own tools on CSR that are more advanced than the present one, which is designed for SMEs. It is fundamental to make companies aware of the economic, social and environmental stakes of CSR.

- Project on the current state-of-the-art of the Textile-Clothing industry and the national Social Dialogue systems and practices, for the renewal and adaptation of the EU T/C sectoral social dialogue to the occurred and emerging national changes in employment and work (EURATEX-IndustriAll)

Ms Le Berre said that the project will last 18 months and it is starting in December 2015. Many countries will be involved and it is to be defined how and if Turkey will be one the selected countries.

- Proposal for a project under ERASMUS+ -Key action 2- Sector Skills Alliances: Launch of a 3rd year of activities of the EU TCLF Skills Council (EURATEX-IndustriAll)

It was announced that a proposal will be advanced by February 2016. Mr Triangle reminded that IndustriAll would prefer to not be part in this project as it does not have the necessary expertise to be involved in the project consortium.

4. Discussion on a draft annual programme for 2016

Mr Triangle proposed to discuss the future SSDC programme in January 2016, so to define also the line to take on the Energy Union initiative and provide comments from the sector. Mr Marchi agreed on an update on Energy Union and Digital Single Market later in January.

5. AOB

N/A.

Annex: List of participants

<p><u>Employers</u></p> <p>EURATEX</p> <p>Mr Francesco MARCHI (EU) Ms Stephanie LE BERRE (EU) Ms Kim MATTHYS (BE)</p> <p>3 employers representatives (2 woman, 1 men)</p>	<p><u>Workers</u></p> <p>industriAll</p> <p>Mr Luc TRIANGLE (EU) Mr Laurent ZIBELL (EU) Ms Carmen EXPOSITO (ES) Ms Ana FILIPE (PT) Mr Gerald KREUZER (AT) Ms Nina LAINE (FI) Ms Alena NAROVCOVA (CZ) Ms Iris SCHIEWEK (FI) Mr Sergio SPILLER (IT)</p> <p>9 workers representatives (5 women, 4 men)</p>
<p><u>European Commission</u></p> <p>Mr Laurent BONTOUX (JRC) Mr Philip BOUCHER (JRC) Ms Sigried CASPAR (EMPL) Mr Leonardo EBNER (EMPL) Ms Sarah GONDY (TRADE) Ms Ruth HOEKSTRA (DEVCO) Ms Milena PIROLLI (DEVCO) Ms Alice SZCZEPANIKOVA (JRC) Ms Ruta ZARNAUSKAITE (TRADE)</p>	

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE "TEXTILE AND CLOTHING" "TANNING AND LEATHER"
"FOOTWEAR" JOINT WG - 21/06/2016**

TO BE COMPLETED WHERE NEEDED AND SENT TO francesco.marchi@euratex.eu by 7/06/2016

Nr	Mr/Ms	Last/Family Name	First Name	Organisation	Delegation (*)	Country	Reimbursement required Y/N	E-mail
1	Ms	Dr. Kokas Palicska	Livia	AHLI	EURATEX	HU	Y	kokas@innovatex.hu
2	Mr	Serna	Pepe	Asociación Textil de la Comunidad Valenciana	EURATEX	ES	Y	pepeserna@ateval.com
3	Mr	Altan	Cem	İstanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters' Association	EURATEX	TR	Y	
4		Özdemir	Nilgün	İstanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters' Association	EURATEX	TR	Y	
5		Sazak	Işıl	İstanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters' Association	EURATEX	TR	Y	isila@itkib.org.tr
6	Mr	Marchi	Francesco	EURATEX	EURATEX	BE	N	francesco.marchi@euratex.eu
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(*) If applicable, please indicate on behalf of which European social partner organisation the person participates.