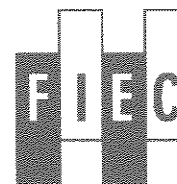


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JOINT RECOMMENDATION
of the European Construction Industry's Social Partners

on
THE PREVENTION OF OCCUPATIONAL STRESS
in
THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

EFBWW

is the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers, representing via its 59 national member trade unions in 24 countries 2.4 million workers from the building and woodworking sector. In its capacity as a European Federation, the EFBWW occupies a key position as observer of the social and economic situation in the construction sector.

FIEC

is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 33 national Member Federations in 27 countries representing construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. small and medium-sized enterprises as well as "global players", performing all kinds of building and civil engineering activities.

EFBWW and FIEC,
recognised by the European Commission as the social partners representing the workers and the employers in the European Sectoral Social Dialogue in the Construction Industry, fully agree, on the following:

Considering,

- the joint declarations of the European Construction Industry Social Partners issued on the occasion of the European Health and Safety Summit 2004 in Bilbao (Spain) on 22 November 2004;
- the framework agreement on work-related stress adopted by the cross-sectoral European social partners on 8 October 2004, in which stress is defined as "a state, which is accompanied by physical, psychological or social complaints or dysfunctions and which results from individuals feeling unable to bridge a gap with the requirements or expectations placed on them."

Considering the specificities of the construction sector which differs from other sectors due to :

- a high risk of occupational accidents;
- a complex production process, often consisting of a chain of subcontractors and secondary contractors working more or less simultaneously;
- the influence on the production process of external factors such as weather conditions;
- a relatively high mobility of workers, in some cases, and consequently the existence of long journeys to and from work;

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- the strong pressure on the production process to complete the work within in adequately short time limits.

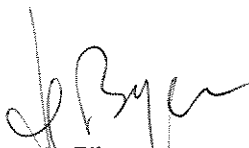
FIEC and EFBWW, the European Construction Industry's Social Partners, on the basis of article 7 § 9 of the framework agreement on stress of the cross-sectoral European social partners:

- **agree** that, even if not all work places and workers are necessarily concerned and even if not all manifestations of stress at work can be considered as work-related stress, nevertheless work-related stress can affect some of them. Consequently, tackling stress at work can lead to greater work efficiency and improved occupational health and safety,
- **declare** that a positive policy should be developed in the construction sector to prevent, reduce and combat stress-related problems if any when they occur, once the reasons of the work-related stress and the way they affect different people involved, have been investigated and determined.
- **recommend** to their member federations at national level to jointly formulate a positive policy to prevent, reduce and combat work-related stress, once again when the result of the previous reasons may be known.

FIEC and EFBWW, the European social partners in the construction sector will examine the progress achieved in the framework of this joint statement, two years after its signature, within their European social dialogue.

Brussels, 10 January 2006.

For the EFBWW



Harrie Bijen
General Secretary

For FIEC



Ulrich Paetzold
Director General