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**JOINT STATEMENT  
of the European Construction Industry's Social Partners**

**On Young People**

**EFBWW**

is the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers, representing via its 50 national member trade unions in 17 countries 2.3 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**

FIEC is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 34 national Member Federations in 27 countries (24 EU & EFTA, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey) construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. small and medium-sized enterprises as well as "global players", carrying out all forms of building and civil engineering activities.

**EFBWW and FIEC,**

**Being recognised by the European Commission as the social partners respectively representing the workers and the employers in the European Sectoral Social Dialogue in the Construction Industry, agree as follows :**

**THAT WHEREAS**

- in order to be able to effectively carry out construction works and to remain a competitive and innovative industry, the recruitment of qualified young people is vital for the sector; and
- that promoting a more attractive image of the sector is fundamental to attracting young people who should be encouraged to choose education and training schemes which properly prepare them for a career in construction; and
- that young people, on completion of their training, must by all means be encouraged to remain in the sector once having entered it.

**HEREBY CONFIRM** their long term involvement in favour of young people, as has already been demonstrated by the two joint initiatives recently undertaken by the Social Partners, namely:

- the promotion of tutorship schemes through the industry with the aim of improving the mentoring and retention of young workers in the sector; and
- the organisation of an exchange of best practices during the construction social dialogue committee meeting held on 7/3/2005 as concerns activities in favour of young people developed at national level by certain member federations.

**HEREBY AGREE** to implement the following initiatives through their member federations:

- the provision of adequate information to young people about the construction sector in such manner as to raise the image of the sector and thereby attract them;
- the promotion of education and training programmes to ensure an adequate level of qualifications among young workers
- to encourage and to motivate young workers and ensure their employability inside the sector through continuous training;
- the provision of supporting measures for young people to assist them in obtaining employment in the construction sector;
- the continuation of awareness raising initiatives among employers towards lifelong learning, career development and the job security of young people.

**RECALLS** that in some EU countries, many young people are without employment while, at the same time, the construction industry faces difficulties in recruiting young and adults able to be successful and qualified in the sector. This high level of youth unemployment is a supplementary reason to develop specific actions aimed at achieving tangible progress.

for EFBWW

**Harrie Bijen**

Secretary General

4th March 2005

for FIEC

**Ulrich Paetzold**

Director General