

EFEE

THE EUROPEAN
FEDERATION OF
EDUCATION
EMPLOYERS

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION
COMITE SYNDICAL EUROPEEN DE L'EDUCATION



Joint position EFEE and ETUCE: The contribution of sectoral social dialogue to the strengthening of social dialogue

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We, the European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE) and the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), recognised European Sectoral Social Partners in the Education sector, are strongly convinced of the important contribution of sectoral social dialogue to the strengthening of social dialogue. EFEE represents 33 employers' organisations from all education levels in 17 countries. ETUCE represents 135 teachers' trade unions in education in Europe, with 14 million individual members from all education sectors.

The social dialogue underwent an important development in 1998, when the Commission decided on the establishment of sectoral dialogue committees promoting the dialogue between the social partners in the sectors at European level (Commission decision of 20 May 1998 – 98/500/EC).

The sectoral social committees are fora to discuss, to negotiate and agree on how to improve working conditions and industrial relations in their respective sectors. By doing so, they contribute to the modernisation of economic and social policies, as stated in the Commission Staff Working Document on the functioning and potential of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue (SEC(2010) 964 final).

We fully agree with this statement of the Commission Staff Working Document and are convinced that the described potentials of European sectoral social dialogue are still very relevant today.

European sectoral social partners have particular expertise in their sectors and in the realities of their workplaces. They are well placed to help respond to issues such as management of change, restructuring, anticipation of skills and training needs, transitions to employment, occupational safety and health, labour market integration, youth employment, etc; Topics that are all of great importance in the light of the EU2020 strategy.

Moreover, because the European sectoral social partners are closely linked to their sectors and the people on the ground, they can make an important contribution to the priority of

Commission Juncker to make the European Union more democratic and bringing it closer to its citizens; or in the words of the Commission to create 'A Union of Democratic Change'.

The contribution of the sectoral social partners in Education can improve the outcome of EU processes through the partners' closeness to the education providers in early childhood education, in schools and in colleges and universities. We see it as our responsibility, as European sectoral social partners, to work together to influence European initiatives so as to ensure that they are useful and practical.

This is why we ask the EC to enable the European sectoral social partners in education to get together regularly so they can continuously and effectively develop their dialogue. We also do hope that the EC will ensure the consistent involvement of the social partners in education in all future policy making processes relevant to education and training and we trust that this will be the case.



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