

A step forward to Social Dialogue for the EU sport sector



23rd of March, Berlin.

At last, the long awaited Plenary Meeting in Berlin hosted by UNI Europa together with partners (as EASE, Europe Active, EC OE) took place on the 23th and 24th of March. 40 participants from nineteen different European nationalities all traveled to Berlin. They all had a common goal: Discuss the results of the project to support the Social Dialogue Committee establishing social dialogue for sports at European level. Through social dialogue many issues and decisions can be tackled in the sports sector. EASE participated in this project and has been present at the Round Table discussions. Amel Djemail, policy advisor for sports and gender equality and representative of UNI Europa said *“Bringing together so many stakeholders from this growing sector, it is clear that there is a tremendous willingness from both sides of the industry to make vast improvements to the lives of sport sector workers, and together with the support of the EU institutions in consolidating social dialogue within the sector”*.

Amel Djemail, president of the plenary, opened the meeting with a small welcoming speech and then gave the floor to her colleague Johannes Herber (PO) who gave an opening speech on behalf of UNI Europa Sport. He discussed the meaning of sports and stressed the importance of consolidation. During the meeting the visions from various organisation on Social Dialogue were discussed. Lobke Mentrop, president of EASE, was one of the speakers. Furthermore, extensive attention was given to the Round Tables that had taken place before and a short summary of the project was given.

The importance of establishing Social Dialogue was felt under the participants. Sigried Caspar, representative of the European Commission enthusiastically expressed the opinion of the Commission. The aim of the project is to inform Member States with no social dialogue and to persuade them of the necessity and advantages. Hopefully, this will lead to

future establishment of social dialogue in the sports sector with qualitative and quantitative representativeness.

In order to create response of the audience and get an overall insight the online tool 'Buzz Master' was used. Questions regarding social dialogue, employability, good governance and evaluation of the project were asked. Buzz Master generated many responses from the attendees. The results were positive as many Member States that previously had no or minor social dialogue are now considering using it in the future or at least make sure dialogue takes place between employees and employers in sports. Another project was presented by EASE, the so-called ESSA project (European Sector Skills Alliance). EASE is one of the leading partners of the project which aims to portray a European skill map of the labour market of sports.

Overall, the plenary meeting can be described as a success. EASE president Lobke Mentrop exclaims *"I am pleased with the constructive way employers and employee organisations have collaborated during the Round Tables and the Plenary Meeting"*.