Joint meeting of the ESCO Board and ESCO Maintenance Committee

Minutes

11 July 2016

European Commission

Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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Tuesday, 11 July 2016

Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie
Av. Louise 91-93, Brussels

Item 1 Opening of the meeting

Mr Tony Bird and Mr Peter Thiele co-chaired the joint ESCO Board (BOA) and ESCO Maintenance Committee (MAI) meeting.

Mr Bird informed the joint meeting that Ms Doriana Bezzina resigned from the BOA and Mr Johan Cloet resigned as Secretary-General of EURASHE. Mr Michal Karpisek replaces Mr Cloet in the BOA as representative of EURASHE.

Mr Bird informed the joint meeting on excused absentees from the BOA: Mr Jeremy Groombridge, Mr Michal Karpisek, Mr James Calleja, Klaudia Zagórowicz, Sophie Weisswange.

Mr Bird welcomed Mr Philippe Tissot, replacing Mr James Calleja during the joint meeting.

After adding the following topic to the agenda, the joint meeting adopted the agenda of the meeting:

- Update on the letter of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) about ESCO to the European Commission

Item 2 The New Skills Agenda for Europe [for information]

The Commission presented the BOA with an overview update on the New Skills Agenda for Europe.

The main focus of the Skills Agenda is to enhance the employability of people and the competitiveness of our economy. The New Skills Agenda for Europe is a shared agenda within the Commission, across DG's. The Commission has the ambition for it to become a shared agenda with the Member States, Social Partners and education providers. Its purpose is to generate discussion on these topics with and among the various stakeholders and further grow from there.

In September, the Commission will present a technical non-paper on the governance – structure in the context of the New Skills Agenda for Europe. The paper will not contain concrete proposals but rather serve as a starting point to further discussions on the governance structure. In light of the further development of the qualifications pillar, the Commission sees the Member States Working Group (MSWG) as the main governance instrument for ESCO.

Members of the BOA asked about the position of ESCO within the new Europass. The Commission stated that the use of ESCO will not be obligatory in the new Europass

Advice of the joint meeting:

According to its current mandate the BOA and MAI cease to exist upon the publication of ESCO v1. The joint meeting advises the Commission to incorporate the technical expertise of the MAI into the future governance structure for ESCO and to inform about the continuation of the MSWG and any changes to its mandate.

Follow up actions:

- Once ready, the Commission will share the technical non-paper on the future governance structure with the BOA and MAI.
- In the next meetings of the BOA and MAI, the Commission will provide an update on the New Skills Agenda for Europe, including its governance structure.

Item 3 Overview of the ESCO development and quality assurance process [for information]

The Commission presented the joint meeting with an overview of the ESCO development process. The presentation included a summary of the quality assurance process, the recommendations of the BOA and MAI how the Commission took their recommendations into account for the development of ESCO. The Commission informed the BOA and MAI that ESCO v1 will be launched in spring 2017.

Mr Tony Bird, chair of the MAI, presented the joint meeting with a summary of the discussions and follow up actions from the 20th MAI meeting on the 11th of July 2016. Several members of the MAI added to his summary.

Summary of the discussions during the 20th ESCO Maintenance Committee meeting:

Based on the information report provided by the Commission, the MAI discussed technical topics related to finalising the English reference version of ESCO v1, e.g. the skills clean up.

With content development as the main topic on the agenda, the MAI discussed in detail the final results of the ESCO Online Consultation and ESCO gap analysis. The MAI observed a lot of work done and quality improvements made to ESCO as a result of both.

During the ESCO Online Consultation, 189 occupational profiles (out of 2975, this equals 6%) received no ratings or comments on the ESCO Online Consultation Platform. The Commission and MAI are still working to close these gaps before the start of the translation work by DG Translation on 1 September 2016. The

Commission will develop a proposal to be discussed with the MAI for what to do with the residual occupations without sectoral review.

The MAI agreed that the gap analysis was a powerful tool to compare ESCO with eight National Occupational Classifications. As a result of the gap analysis, the Commission created 249 occupations to remediate identified gaps, 45 occupations to solve granularity differences and corrected 115 ESCO mappings with ISCO 08. The MAI advised the Commission to develop a process to quality assure the knowledge, skills and competences newly created in the context of the gap analysis.

The MAI advised the Commission to involve the custodians of the eight National Occupational Classifications in the gap analysis to validate the final results of the gap analysis.

The MAI discussed with DG Translations the concerns raised in earlier MAI meetings regarding the translation timelines. The Commission informed the MAI that the concerns raised have been addressed with several measures, such as the ESCO translation platform, trainings for the translators and shifted timeline with an additional two months to complete the translation exercise. The MAI welcomed the measures, still it advised the Commission to develop a back-up plan in case DG Translation is unable to deliver timely.

The MAI will look into the pre-release version of ESCO v1 as distributed for consultation to the MSWG. It will inform the Commission on any issues identified to be remediated still before the start of the translation process 1 September 2016.

Follow up actions:

- The Commission will add the information to the document '06 Recommendations of the ESCO Board and ESCO Maintenance Committee for the development of ESCO' that is available on the following topics:
    - concerns raised by the BOA and MAI which lead to the recommendations they made, especially from the perspective of testing or piloting these recommendations
    - the impact of the results of testing and pilots on the recommendations and the decisions taken by the Commission
    - reference to the dates the BOA and MAI made its recommendations
    - reference to the dates the Commission started with the implementation of the BOA and MAI recommendations
- The Commission will inform the MSWG, BOA and MAI to direct all questions deriving from the MSWG consultation to the ESCO Secretariat functional mailbox: EMPL-ESCO-SECRETARIAT@ec.europa.eu
- The Commission will inform the EURES-team on the joint meeting's feedback with regards to the use of NACE rev2 on the EURES platform.
- The Commission will liaise with the Member States using ROME to understand how they use thematic areas to cluster of occupations.
- Both BOA and MAI will look into the pre-release version of ESCO v1 as distributed for consultation by the MSWG and inform the Commission on possible issues with the aim to have all resolved before 1 September 2016.

- The Commission will revisit the Dutch terminological guidelines to ensure terminological guidelines are included for sectors and occupations which exist in Flanders only

- The Commission will revisit the gap analysis report to ensure correct reflection of the National Occupational Classifications in it.

- The Commission will follow up with the custodians of the National Occupational Classifications for feedback on their classifications and the validation of the gap analysis.

- The Commission will clarify the criteria used for excluding national or international experts during the development of ESCO v1 and how feedback will be given to the experts involved in the work of the last 16 sectors on their input.

- Before the ending of their current mandate, MAI and BOA will present the Commission at the end of 2016 a common list of their final recommendations for the future of ESCO (3 pillars). Before the next BOA meeting the MAI could prepare a first draft of this list.

Item 4 Commission update on CPME statement [for information]

The Commission updated the joint meeting on the letter received from the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), the agreement reached during a meeting with CPME and its practical implications for ESCO.

Follow up action:

- The Commission will inform the stakeholders on the relation between ESCO and Directive 2005/36/EC (as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU).

Item 5 Scope of the ESCO v1 release [for information] and timeframe for the delivery of ESCO v1 [for consultation]

The Commission summarised to the joint meeting the scope of the ESCO v1 release and the time frame for its delivery.

The joint meeting indicated to the Commission that users may alter ESCO and republish it the changed data set as ESCO without clearly informing the end-users. It questioned who would take the responsibility on this matter. The Commission explained to the joint meeting that the Linked Open Data publication mechanism of ESCO, prevents users to republish altered data sets as ESCO. It makes it possible to identify the initial altered ESCO data sets as ESCO on the basis of the specific codes and URL. Topics like ownership and the possibility of changing the content of ESCO should be clarified in the license agreement, which is not yet ready.

Some members of the joint meeting expressed their concern on the quality assurance process of ESCO, which might hamper the agenda and the future of the project. At this stage, there is no clear view of the capacity of the different groups to have a clear understanding in terms of costs and decision making on the evolution of the system. The future role of the ESCO Member States Working Group is not very clear in the perspective of the evolution of the governance of EQF, ESCO and other tools which are proposed by the Commission, and not yet discussed. A discussion about the launch of ESCO v1 and the visibility of National Qualifications Databases (NQD) in the ESCO

qualifications pillar clarified that when linking their NQD to the European portals (ESCO and LOQ) the countries will comply with the technical specifications indicated in the call for proposals for which they participated.

Follow up actions:

- The Commission will publish the presentations of the joint meeting on the ESCO Portal shortly.
- The Commission will update the MAI on the translation progress and time line in the 21st MAI-meeting.
- In its communication to the wider public, the Commission will make a clear distinction between the ESCO website, the ESCO classification and services supported by the ESCO classification.
- The Commission and MAI will prepare a briefing for the BOA, MAI and MSWG with the overall quality assurance process for ESCO v1, including an overview of the quality assurance measures before release of ESCO v1. In addition, the Commission and MAI will cooperate to define quality indicators for post-release.

Item 6 Consultation of the ESCO MSWG [for information]

The Commission informed the joint meeting on the set up, status and purpose of the ESCO Member States Working Group consultation for ESCO v1.

Follow up actions:

- The Commission will inform the MSWG on the communication sent to the EURES advisors with regards to the MSWG consultation.
- Next to the pre-release-portal, the Commission will support the MSWG consultation with the delivery of the ESCO v1 data in excel format and share it with the MSWG, BOA and MAI.

Item 6 AOB

The BOA and MAI expressed satisfaction on the format of the joint meeting and asks the Commission to consider having a joint meeting for the BOA meeting in November as well.

The 21st MAI meeting will take place in Brussels on the 14th and 15th of September 2016.

The 17th ESCO Board meeting will be hosted by the German Ministry of Education and Research and will take place in Berlin on the 8th of November 2016.

Follow up actions:

- During the next BOA meeting, the Commission will provide an update on the Europass revision.The Commission will discuss internally upon the BOA and MAI proposal to make the 17th ESCO Board meeting in Berlin a joint meeting as well. When a decision is taken, the Commission will inform BOA and MAI on it.

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Participants

ESCO Maintenance Committee

- BERGENHILL Rita	Swedish PES (Arbetsförmedlingen)
- BIRD Tony	Bird and Associates
- DA SILVA CIPRIANO Paulo	EURES National Coordination, Employment department Portugal
- DIEKMANN Knut	Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce
- DUPUCH Alain	French PES (Pôle Emploi)
- EKELAND Anders	Statistics Norway, Senior Adviser
- GOETSCHALCKX Gerd	Flemish PES (VDAB)
- HUNTER David	International Labour Organisation
- MILFORD Kate	Milford & Marah Ltd
- VOLTMAN Janneke	SBB (Dutch foundation for cooperation on vocational education, training and the labour market)
- WECHSLER Dietmar	BW Bildung und Wissen Verlag, Service provider and information expert in the fields of education, training, occupations and careers

Permanent observer to the ESCO Maintenance Committee

- FRANCO LOPES Ana	Eurostat

ESCO Board Members

- ÅHMAN Göran	Swedish PES (Arbetsförmedlingen)
- BOOMGAERT Wilfried	The Ministry of education and training of Flanders, Belgium and the EQF Advisory Group
- BOUQUET Brigitte	Commission nationale de la certification professionnelle
- DANEV Bojidar	Bulgarian Industrial Association
- FERNANDEZ DIEZ Miguel	Ministry of Employment and Social Security of Spain
- MICHEL Isabelle	FGTB
- PENNEL Denis	EUROCIETT, European Confederation of Private Employment Services
- RIES Jean	ADEM Luxembourg
- SKJERVE Tormod	EUROCHAMBERS, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- THIELE Peter	Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany

- WILSON Tom — Unionlearn

Permanent observers to the ESCO Board

- ECKERT Detlef — DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- PERISTERAS Vassilios — DIGIT
- TISSOT Philippe — CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training)

ESCO Secretariat

- CHAVES Pedro — DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- DE JONG Barend Jan — Everis
- LAUDI Aldo — DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- LE VRANG Martin — DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- MOYES Nuria — Everis
- SPINELLI Vito — Everis
- VANDER KUYLEN Katrien — Everis
- VISAN Laura — Everis
- WYWIAŁ Katarzyna — Everis

Excused

- BJORNAVOLD Jens — CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training)
- BUSUIOC Bianca — DG Education and Culture
- CALLEJA James — CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training)
- DE ZEEUW, Julius — Dutch PES (UWV)
- GROOMBRIDGE Jeremy — Private expert
- HEATWOOD Cathy — Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)
- HODGSON Peter — EFVET, the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- KARPISEK Michal — EURASHE, the European Association of Higher Education Institutions
- MAES Katrien — LERU Office, the League of European Research Universities
- PEREIRA Ana Carla — Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion
- WEISSWANGE Sophie — DG Growth
- ZAGÓROWICZ Klaudia — DG Translation