



# 16<sup>th</sup> ESCO Board meeting

## Minutes

*7 April 2016*

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## Minutes

### **16<sup>th</sup> ESCO Board meeting**

**Thursday, 7 April 2016**

European Commission

#### **Item 1 Opening of the meeting**

Mr Jeremy Groombridge chaired the ESCO Board meeting.

The minutes of the 15th ESCO Board meeting have been endorsed via written procedure. The ESCO Board unanimously adopted the agenda of the 16th ESCO Board meeting.

#### **Item 2 New Skills Agenda for Europe [for information]**

Ms Ana Carla Pereira presented an overview on the key elements and actions of the New Skills Agenda for Europe.

The overall goal of the New Skills Agenda is to increase skills levels in Europe, as they are a pathway to prosperity, competitiveness and growth. Action will focus on helping more people develop and upgrade their skills; to support the documentation and improve the transparency and comparability of skills and qualifications to facilitate work and study mobility and to offer better and more timely intelligence on skills needs and trends in a simple and interactive way.

Adoption of the Skills Agenda is foreseen for 7 June 2016. It should be presented as a package to include:

- A Chapeau Communication announcing several actions spanning over the rest of the Commission's mandate in the three priority areas identified.
- Three proposals:
  - I. A proposal for the revision of the European Qualifications Framework - EQF (2008), aimed at increasing transparency and comparability of qualifications, including an improved understanding of third country qualifications.
  - II. A proposal for the revision of the Europass Decision (2004), to improve effectiveness of EU tools and services for skills documentation, information and guidance on skills and qualifications related issues.

- III. A proposal for a Council Recommendation establishing a "Skills Guarantee" to upskill low qualified adults and provide them with opportunities to achieve a minimum level of qualifications (i.e. upper secondary, EQF level 4)
- An accompanying Staff Working Document (SWD) supporting the overall package and presenting detailed evidence supporting specific proposals in technical annexes, including one on higher education.

The Commission understands the need of having a more integrated governance structure to discuss the different instruments in a more coordinated way. For this the Commission will propose a new governance group that can follow a number of initiatives such as EQF or ESCO. The group will be managed by the Member States and chaired by the Commission. Other stakeholders such as social partners will also be invited to take part in the structure.

The platform of discussion with the Member States will also become the main platform of discussion on ESCO. Until there is a mandate for this new group, the MSWG and the EQF advisory group will continue their own mandates. However, it is foreseen that the BOA and the MAI will cease its mandate after the release of ESCO v1.

### **General Comments:**

Some of the Board members expressed their concerns on this governance structure being too broad but having to cope with very concrete issues. This might provoke losing track of every process and some of the focus they currently have on ESCO.

In addition, the Board members advised on the need of assessing how the new governance structure would impact on the time that national experts would need to cope with all the initiatives as a whole.

### **Item 3 ESCO showcase session [for information]**

The Commission prepared an ESCO showcase session to illustrate how ESCO can be used in practice. Mr Martin Le Vrang explained the building block character of ESCO and introduced the showcases:

- EURES pilot: Mr Antoine Mallia
- Academy Cube pilot: Ms Aikaterini Sylla
- Pilot with DG Informatics on the use of ESCO for matching and labour market intelligence: Mr Aldo Laudi
- Pilot with DG Informatics on qualifications in ESCO: Ms Nuria Moyes

Mr Le Vrang presented an overview of the pilots that are in the scoping phase and initiated several Q&A sessions during the ESCO showcase session.

### **General Comments:**

Some of the Board members expressed a concern that pilots with private organisations could lead to promote certain training programs or commercial advantages. They advised to ensure equal treatment of private operators, i.e. to make sure that every company knows ESCO and has the same opportunity to access to it. They consider that ESCO should be equally opened to everybody.

The Commission clarified that at this stage some private companies actively requested to gain access to the ESCO pilot version. The Commission does not refuse any such request and thus treat the private actors equally.

Mr Barend Jan de Jong presented an overview of the ESCO mapping pilot

#### **General Comments:**

Some of the Board members would like to see an approach to map KSC in ESCO. They consider that the top priority should be to involve the PES in the mapping for the KSC. In addition, the Board members pointed out that the Commission needs to address the concerns about quality in ESCO. The Commission clarified that it is difficult to assess the effort and resources to map skills because there is no experience with that. Further piloting will be needed to define the approach for mapping skills.

#### **Item 4 ESCO project management [for information]**

The Commission shared the ESCO Project status update in writing prior to the meeting. During the meeting, Mr Le Vrang shortly informed the ESCO Board on the comments received on the written report and highlighted the next steps to take.

In addition, he informed the ESCO Board on three main other topics:

- The preliminary results of the ESCO online consultation
- Communication on the quality of ESCO
- An overview of the project planning until the release of ESCO v1

#### **General Comments:**

In line with the ESCO Maintenance Committee's advice, the ESCO Board considers it crucial to carry out a gap analysis between ESCO and some National Occupations Classifications to have a clear overview on the status of the coverage of ESCO and on what is missing. This gap analysis should be complete by June.

In addition, they reiterated that the timeframe proposed by the Commission for the translation process seems too ambitious and they insisted on the need to use labour market expertise during the translation process

#### **Follow up actions:**

- The Commission will carry out a gap analysis process with some of the NOCs by June.
- The Directorate General for translations (DGT) will closely cooperate with the labour market experts that the Member States Working Group (MSWG) will suggest.
- The MAI and the BOA will meet in June in view of the results of the gap analysis and to review the content resulting from the online consultation.
- The final version of the ESCO Communication strategy will be shared with the ESCO Board shortly after the meeting. At the same time, the Commission will share two graphic representations of ESCO with the ESCO Board for written feedback procedure.

## Item 5 Update on the development of the qualifications pillar [for information]

Mr Pedro Chaves informed the ESCO Board on the status of the development of the ESCO qualifications pillar.

### General Comments:

The Commission will provide a general report on the country visits which will be public, as well as a report to each Member State visited.

## Item 6 AOB

The Board members asked the Commission to organise a joint meeting of the MAI and the BOA before the summer so before the launch of ESCO v1 to, among other tasks, assess the quality of the full classification.

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.

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## Participants

### ESCO Board Members

- ÅHMAN Göran Swedish PES (Arbetsförmedlingen)
- BOUQUET Brigitte Commission nationale de la certification professionnelle
- GROOMBRIDGE Jeremy Private expert
- MAES Katrien LERU Office, the League of European Research Universities
- MICHEL Isabelle FGTB
- THIELE Peter Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany
- WILSON Tom Unionlearn

### Permanent observers to the ESCO Board

- GOETSCHALCKX Gerd ESCO Maintenance Committee
- PEREIRA Ana Carla Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion
- PERISTERAS Vassilios DIGIT
- TOIVONEN Anna EURASHE
- ZAGÓROWICZ Klaudia DG Translation

### Observers

- MALLIA Antoine EURES team

## ESCO Secretariat

- BASTIDA Marta Everis
- BJORNAVOLD Jens CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training)
- CHAVES Pedro DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- DEDOPOULOU Angeliki Everis
- 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
- PERERA Cristina Everis
- SPINELLI Vito Everis
- SYLLA Aikaterini Everis
- VANDER KUYLEN Katrien Everis
- VISAN Laura Everis

## Excused

- BEZZINA Doriana The Ministry of education and employment of Malta
- BUSUIOC Bianca DG Education and Culture
- CLOET Johan EURASHE, the European Association of Higher Education Institutions
- DANEV Bojidar Bulgarian Industrial Association
- CALLEJA James CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training)
- HODGSON Peter EFVET, the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- PENNEL Denis EUROCIETT, European Confederation of Private Employment Services
- BOOMGAERT Wilfried The Ministry of education and training of Flanders, Belgium and the EQF Advisory Group
- FERNANDEZ DIEZ Miguel Ministry of Employment and Social Security of Spain
- RIES Jean ADEM Luxembourg
- SKJERVE Tormod EUROCHAMBERS, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- WEISSWANGE Sophie DG Growth
- WYWIAŁ Katarzyna ESCO Secretariat, Everis