

# Memorandum of understanding on engagement in a social dialogue

(17 June 1994)

The following principles apply to the social dialogue between the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) and the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW).

## *Article 1*

The undersigned organization, the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries, in short CEI-Bois, and the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers, in short EFBWW, agree to engage in a social dialogue for the woodworking sector of the EU Member States and for specific cases beyond, in the framework of their respective representations.

The social dialogue will take place on the basis of Article 118b of the EC Treaty and on the Agreement on social policy concluded between the Member States of the European Community with the exception of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as published in the Official Journal of the European Communities C 191, 29.7.1992.

## *Article 2*

Both parties will retain their full organizational, sectoral and general political autonomy within the context of this dialogue, both internally and externally. The dialogue will be based exclusively on consensus. Once a consensus on a certain subject is reached, the common position will be defended towards the public by both parties.

Both parties proceed on the assumption that final and/or binding declarations will be ap-

proved by their respective member organizations before public use.

## *Article 3*

As a general rule, only vertical themes will be discussed, i.e. themes specifically related to the sector concerned, its industry and employees. Horizontal themes are to be dealt with by the responsible central organizations, which does not exclude that the partners in this agreement can have a preceding internal discussion and possibly come to a common position which will be defended within their respective central organizations.

## *Article 4*

The dialogue between both parties should not be restricted to social matters in a narrow sense following Articles 2, 3 and 4 of the abovementioned Agreement on social policy, but can also include all other areas deemed relevant by both parties.

## *Article 5*

Tariff policy, in the broad and narrow sense, for example of wages and all other wage-related subjects, will not be discussed in the social dialogue of the woodworking industry at European level.

## *Article 6*

Once a year a plenary meeting will be held on the initiative of both parties.

Additional contacts have to be arranged between the two partners.

*Article 7*

Instruments of the social dialogue can be:

- mutual information and consultation;
- coordinated information of the members;
- joint declarations;
- technical meetings;
- working groups.

*Article 8*

Both parties agree to check the application and implementation of the instruments as foreseen by the Social Agreement referred to above and more specifically Article 2 paragraph 4, Article 3 paragraphs 2 to 4 and Article 4.

*Article 9*

Requests for modification or the intention to terminate the memorandum of understanding have to be submitted in writing to the other party.

In case of a request for modification, both parties dispose of a three months' period to renegotiate the present memorandum of understanding. If this is not done, the request for modification has failed. Both parties can, however, agree upon a longer time period.

The party which wants to terminate the memorandum has to give notice three months in advance to the end of the month.

