



Country : Ireland

Organization : SIPTU

Date :27th April 2020

1/ What is the current situation of economic activity in the construction/construction material and wood/forestry/furniture sectors?

- The industry is in close-down the exception being essential services which is mainly social housing.

2/ What are the specific agreements, measures or regulations that were adopted to fight the COVID-19 situation in our sectors; Related to what topics?

- The standard COVID 19 guidelines are applying and we are currently in talks with the employer's body CIF regarding a gradual return to work protocol for construction. In addition, talks are ongoing at national level between government and all stakeholders in relation to a protocol for a gradual start-up of most/all sectors of employment.

3/ What is the current situation of migrant and mobile workers in the construction and wood/forestry/furniture sectors? Is it possible for you to monitor the situation effectively?

- All workers regardless of status are treated the same all rules and laws apply the same for all workers. SIPTU has a national committee for migrant workers that is working well in the current situation.

4/ Is there an exit strategy plan on sectoral level? Are sectoral trade unions involved in the discussions and /or implementation of the exit strategy plan (sectoral level)?

- Point 2 and Point 3 above involves all unions representing workers in the Construction Industry and all other industries.

5/ What are your ideas / proposals to fight the COVID-19 crisis and its effects

- **Related to Health and Safety for specific occupations/work processes and conditions**
 - We are applying the COVID 19 guidelines and the current talks on the introduction of a protocol will enhance these guidelines to make sure Health and Safety is prioritised. Our ideas are greater access to construction sites and making sure our minimum legal entitlements are fully implemented.
- **Related to income protection**
 - We have a Construction Sector Employment Orders that gives legal entitlements to Terms and Conditions which includes pay for Construction workers.
- **Related to an economic relaunch of the construction and wood/forestry/furniture sectors**
 - Unions are considering shift work or staggered starts/finish times.
- **Related to better protection of workers in our industries**
 - No restrictions to Unions access to construction sites.
- **Related to specific protection of posted and migrant workers in our sectors**
 - We are constantly trying to get greater protection for migrants' but we find a reluctance by these workers particularly in construction to get involved so this is a barrier for unions.