Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union
EU2015.LV

Ministry of Education and Science Republic of Latvia

European Commission

Meeting of Ministers in charge of Vocational Education and Training, European Social Partners and European Commission

"Innovating for Future VET"

21 – 22 June 2015, Riga

Venue: National Library of Latvia (Mūkusalas Street 3)

Draft Agenda

Sunday, June 21

19:30 – 21:30 Welcome dinner at the Latvian Railway History Museum (Uzvaras Blvd. 2A)

Monday, June 22

Morning Session

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

Hall "Rīga", 2nd floor *(live streaming 09:00 – 10:00)*

Interpretation: LV/EN/DE/FR/IT/ES

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcoming speeches**
Ms Mārīte Seile, Minister for Education and Science, Latvia
Ms Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

09:30 – 10:00 **Keynote speeches on VET in the context of the new socio-economic and demographic challenges**

Breakout rooms (tbc)

Working language: ENG

10:00 – 11:30 **Discussion in parallel sessions on the future of the Copenhagen process and the current challenges for competitive European VET 2015-2020 and beyond** (each group brings together ministers of EU member countries, candidate countries, EEA countries, European Commission, high-level representatives of the European level social partners; background documents and guiding questions will be provided to facilitate the discussion)

11:30 – 12:00 **Coffee break**

Hall "Rīga", 2nd floor

Interpretation: LV/ENG/DE/FR/IT/ESP

12:00 – 12:15 **Feedback from the parallel sessions – main conclusions and new ideas**

(input for agenda setting for the next Presidencies)

12:15 – 12:45 **Riga Conclusions**
Adoption

12:45 – 12:55 **Joint declaration of VET providers in support to the Riga Conclusions**

12:55 – 13:00 **Closing Remarks of morning session**

13:00 – 13:10 Family photo (only for heads of delegations)

13:10 – 14:30 Lunch *for heads of delegations – hall "Jūra",*
Buffet lunch *for delegates – restaurant, 1st floor*

13:15 – 13:45 Press Conference
Interpretation: LV/ENG

Afternoon session

Hall "Ziedonis", 1nd floor

Interpretation: LV/ENG

14:30 – 15:00 **Opening session**

Welcoming speech
Ms Mārīte Seile, Minister for Education and Science, Latvia

Keynote speech on boosting the Alliance – EU support and new incentives
Ms Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

The contribution of the EU social partners
Mr Javier Calderón Beltrán, Chair of BUSINESSEUROPE's Education and Training Working Group
Mr Luca Visentini, Confederal Secretary, ETUC

15:00 – 15:15 **Welcoming new pledges**
Signing of new pledges joining the European Alliance for Apprenticeships

15:15 – 16:15 **Panel I: How to get companies on board, particularly SMEs?**

Moderator: Mr Martin Watson

Panellists:

Mr James Calleja, Director, Cedefop

Ms Marie Dousova, Vice President, Sales & Customer Management at Nestlé Europe, Middle East & North Africa, European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT)

Mr Arnaldo Abruzzini, General Secretary, Eurochambres

Ms Lone Folmer Berthelsen, VET Director, Confederation of Danish Industry

Ms Sarah Daepp, Expert in VPET/Project Manager, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI, Switzerland

Questions/answer session with participants

16:15 – 16:45 Coffee break

16:45 – 17:45 **Presentation of success stories and communication tools**

Moderator: Mr Allan Päll, Secretary General, European Youth Forum

- **The perspective from Apprentices**
  Europeans@Berlin (Siemens)

- **Presentation of projects**

  Mr Matthew Thomson, Chief Executive, Fifteen Cornwall; *Project Fifteen – A Recipe for Success (ESF project, RegioStars Award 2014)*

  Ms Anita Līce, Adviser on Education Affairs, Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LLDK); *National Authorities for Apprenticeships. Implementing Work-based Learning in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia (Erasmus+ project)*

  Ms Vita Žunda, Q-Placements Project manager; *VET-Enterprise Cooperation for Quality Assurance of VET Placements and Apprenticeship (Lifelong Learning Programme)*

- **Presentation of image campaigns at national level**
  Mr Holger Schwannecke, Secretary General, German Confederation of Skilled Crafts (ZDH)

- **The global perspective**
  Ms Shea Gopaul, Executive Director, Global Apprenticeships Network (GAN)

  Mr Jos de Goey, President of WorldSkills Europe

- **Latest developments**
  Mr Norbert Schöbel, EAfA Team Leader, DG EMPL

17:45 – 18:45 **Panel II: Expectations from companies, business organisations and social partners and next steps for EAfA**

Moderator: Mr Martin Watson

Panellists:

Ms Celia Moore, IBM, Chair of Board, CSR Europe

Ms Dorthe Andersen, European Economic and Social Committee, Rapporteur

Ms Liliane Volozinskis, Director, UEAPME

Mr Sylvain Lefebvre, Deputy General Secretary, Industrial European Trade Union

Ms Emma Argutyan-Kahlmeyer, Secretary General, European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG)

Mr Ulrich Paetzold, Director General, European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)

Questions/answer session with participants

Concluding remarks by Mr Detlef Eckert, Director, DG EMPL

18:45 – 19:00 **Final boost**
Ready, steady go! Incentives from apprentices

19:00 – 20:30 **Networking reception**