

Brussels, 9/2/2010

FIEC – EFBWW PRESS RELEASE

Tackling short term needs with an eye to the future through sustainable investment in construction

“Most of the recovery and stimulus programmes adopted in Europe are unsatisfactory in respect of both their content and their scale, as well as their objectives” declared jointly Dirk Cordeel and Domenico Pesenti, respectively President of FIEC and EFBWW, the European Social Partners of the construction industry.

“These programmes often provide short term solutions, whilst what is needed is investment that can ensure long term sustainable development” added Dirk Cordeel and Domenico Pesenti.

In view of the forthcoming extraordinary European Summit to take place on 11th February, FIEC and EFBWW have signed a joint appeal calling on the European Union and the Member States to considerably boost efforts, not in words but in action, through concrete measures aimed at emerging from the crisis whilst at the same time securing the sustainable development of the EU economy. This appeal is also a contribution to the debate on the EU 2020 strategy.

The construction industry plays a key role in the EU economy (10.4% of EU GDP in 2008), in employment (7.6% of total EU employment) and in climate change policies (buildings are currently responsible for 42% of EU final energy consumption and produce about 35% of all greenhouse gas emissions).

Therefore in this framework the construction industry is a key player. Securing sustainable long term development, in full respect of fundamental social rights, together with targeted shorter term measures are essential levers for rapid recovery from the current global economic crisis, for meeting the EU's employment and environmental strategies and for ensuring the sustainable long term development of the EU's economy.

In order to tackle short term needs with an eye to the future, FIEC and EFBWW urge the EU and the national authorities to focus action on:

- 1. investments that promote sustainability and energy saving**
- 2. vocational and professional training facilities**
- 3. investments in R&D and innovation**
- 4. ensuring access to credit for enterprises and citizens**
- 5. securing long-term investment.**

“The construction industry is not asking for subsidies, but for the steady and consistent flow of investment that is needed for securing, social and economic development and the well-being of Europe's citizens for today and future generations” concluded Dirk Cordeel and Domenico Pesenti.

*The EFBWW and FIEC are the sole European social partners of the European construction industry.
The EFBWW represents 2,3 million workers affiliated by 74 trade unions in 30 countries.
FIEC represents 34 federations from 29 countries.*

*For more information please contact either
Mr Werner Buelen, Political secretary EFBWW
(wbuelen@efbh.be – Tel : 32 2 227 10 40 – www.efbww.org) or
Mr Domenico Campogrande, Director Social Affairs FIEC
(d.campogrande@fiec.eu – Tel : +32 2 514 55 35 – www.fiec.eu)*