



European Federation of Food,
Agriculture and Tourism Trade
Unions

HOTREC

Hotels, Restaurants & Cafés in Europe

EFFAT/HOTREC joint statement
on their 2006 discussions and their 2007 plans in relation to a
“European Qualifications Passport”*

1. During 2006, on the occasion of their various meetings in the context of their social dialogue, EFFAT and HOTREC exchanged views on the desirability and feasibility of a *“European Qualifications Passport”* for the hospitality industry.

Such a passport should

- allow workers to document their qualifications and skills acquired through education and vocational training and on the job;
- allow employers to assess the skills and experiences of job candidates from their own and other EU countries;
- facilitate a better match of offer and demand in employment in the hotel and restaurant sector.

This is deemed particularly important with a view to the level of cross-border vocational mobility.

The social partners agree that such a passport should provide information about qualifications and skills acquired through education and vocational training and on the job. The passport should also provide information on the employment history of an employee. It is the understanding of the social partners that this instrument should be set up on a voluntary basis.

2. An enlarged SSD Steering Committee meeting, held on 30 November 2006, was devoted entirely to the topic and allowed for more detailed discussions. Various presentations facilitated a better understanding of the issues at stake and of the European context:

- “Europass and related documents” by Mr. Carlo Scatoli (European Commission)
- “UK Skills Passport” by Mr. Lindsay Campbell (People 1st)
- “EURES” by Mr. Lambert Kleinmann (EURES)
- “ENGCARD” by Mr. Léon Jean Blaffart and Mr. Philippe Wauters (FEANI)

The following conclusions were drawn from the meeting on 30 November:

- The setting-up of a specific *“European Qualifications Passport”* for the hospitality industry could be and should be made compatible with the Europass and related documents, the EURES system as well as the proposed European Qualifications Framework;
- In view of the technologies available nowadays, the setting-up of a specific *“European Qualifications Passport”* available on-line, on paper or on a smart card should not pose major difficulties.

* provisional title – to be discussed further at a later stage

3. The next stages should consist of:

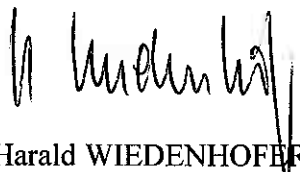
- The development of a joint pilot model of a qualification passport;
- In parallel, an assessment of the feasibility of a passport, including:
 - the need of employers/employees for an “*European Qualifications Passport*” in each EU Member State;
 - the likely extent of the use of such a Passport in each EU Member State;
 - the position of employers’ and employees’ associations, respectively, in each Member State, taking into consideration
 - Previous experiences (e.g. Italy, Hungary)
 - New projects (e.g. France);
- In parallel, further examination of the compatibility and possible combination with:
 - Europass and related documents, EURES as well as the proposed European Qualifications Framework;
 - Existing/planned national and sectoral qualification passports;
- In parallel, initial discussions on costs, financing, management and responsibilities for the project, if it were to go forward.

4. At the plenary session of their Social Dialogue Committee on 11 December 2006, EFFAT and HOTREC decided to set up a special working group to work on the “next stages” listed above. They call upon the Commission to organise and finance the meetings of this working group.

The group should consist of 4 national experts of EFFAT and HOTREC respectively, whose travel/accommodation costs will be reimbursed by the Commission, and of representatives of the EFFAT and HOTREC Secretariats. Some 4 meetings should be organised during 2007. At the end of 2007, the working group will present a detailed report on its work during the year. An interim report, including a first draft of the joint pilot model, should be discussed at the June 2007 plenary meeting of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee.

Brussels, 11 December 2006

For EFFAT



Harald WIEDENHOFER
General Secretary

For HOTREC



Marguerite SEQUARIS
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