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## Putting things right about the EU sectoral Social Dialogue «Construction»

FIEC usually does not comment press statements of other organisations. But when the information provided is misleading and affecting FIEC's representativeness as social partner, it is our duty to put things right.

Last week a communication was circulated referring to the [Representativeness study](#) of the European social partner organisations in the construction sector that was published by Eurofound in December 2024 on behalf of the European Commission.

According to the study:

- **FIEC has Member Federations in 24 Member States. In 21 Member States, these organisations are involved in collective bargaining.** The European Builders Confederation (EBC) has members in 15 Member States (and only at regional level in Belgium) and their affiliates are involved in collective bargaining in 8 countries only.
- 88% of the companies represented by EBC are concentrated in 3 Member States only (Italy, France, and Poland).
- In all the Member States covered by FIEC, except Slovenia, the employers of microfirms are represented by FIEC in the European Sectoral Social Dialogue for construction. **Microfirms represent 66.5% of FIEC membership** in terms of companies affiliated to the national member organisations.
- The representativeness study refers to the category of microfirms, which includes also self-employed people without employees. The available data does not allow for a distinction between companies with employees and self-employed people without employees.

For these reasons the study clearly concludes by reaffirming that ***“FIEC can be considered the most representative of the employers in the largest companies, SMEs and microfirms with employees in the sector”***.

FIEC recalls that according to the European Commission (*Decision 98/500/EC of 20 May 1998*), to be recognised as a partner in the European sectoral Social Dialogue, an organisation must *“consist of organisations which are themselves an integral and recognised part of Member States' social partner structures and have the capacity to negotiate agreements, and which are representative of several Member States”*.

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Through its 32 national member associations in 27 countries (24 EU countries, Norway, Switzerland and Ukraine), the European Construction Industry Federation represents construction companies of all sizes, i.e., small, and medium-sized enterprises and "global players", carrying out all forms of building and civil engineering activities. FIEC is officially recognised sectoral social partner in the European *Social Dialogue for Construction*.