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Recognised "Sectoral Social Partner" (employers)



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Ensuring mobility and a level playing field in the Internal Market: key challenges for the sustainability of the construction industry

■ "Ensuring the right balance between the opening of the EU Internal Market and those rules and tools aimed at ensuring a level playing field for companies and the respect of workers' rights are key challenges for the long term sustainability of the construction industry" declared FIEC President, Jean-Louis Marchand, during the 2017 FIEC conference in Stockholm.

"Several Member States are still facing dramatically high unemployment rates, in particular amongst young people, whilst at the same time in others, companies cannot find workers with the right skills. We need mobility within the EU, but not at any price." added Jean-Louis Marchand.

The construction industry is confronted with fraud and abuse, caused by, amongst other things, difficulties in controlling cross-border situations, due to a lack of data exchange between Member States and loopholes in the existing legislation. This situation is affecting genuine companies, in particular SMEs, workers, as well as our socio-economic models and our welfare systems.

The various stakeholders (contractors, workers, public authorities, inspection authorities,...) from all over the EU presented and exchanged their views on the tools that have been put in place, or that are being envisaged, both at EU and national level, to ensure a level playing field.

Particular attention was given to the "Social ID cards" that have been introduced in various Member States (Belgium, France, Finland, Luxembourg, Sweden,...) in order to ensure transparency and facilitate controls on construction worksites.

"It is in our interest and it is our duty to continue to cooperate with our Social Partner, the EFBWW, and with the EU and national authorities, in order to ensure that the tools and measures put in place adequately take into account the circumstances of our industry" concluded Jean-Louis Marchand.