



Director Detlef ECKERT
Directorate General for Employment,
Social Affairs and Inclusion
European Commission
Rue de Spa 3
1000 Brussels

Brussels, 30 March 2016

Joint letter of Sectoral Social Partners in response to ESCO consultation

Dear Mr. Eckert,

European Sectoral Social Partners (SP) of the chemical industry, ECEG and industriAll Europe TU together represent chemical, pharmaceutical, rubber and plastics industries and have been conducting social dialogue on the EU level since 2002. One of the core activities of the sectoral SPs, for more than a decade, has been Education, LLL and Training. SPs are therefore concerned about the recently developed skills profiles for the chemical industry by ESCO.

ESCO (European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations) being part of the Europe 2020 strategy, was launched in 2010 with an open stakeholder consultation. The first version of ESCO was published on 23 October 2013. It has to be mentioned that since then neither ECEG nor industriAll Europe were consulted despite the fact that in 2011 the Framework Agreement on Competence profiles in the chemical industry was signed by the SPs, disseminated and implemented among our respective members.

The draft classification presented by ESCO to the SPs on 14 October 2015 consisted of 120 very detailed profiles and was supposed to be reviewed within only two months. ECEG together with some of its national member associations tried to improve the presented list. Needless to say, that a very little number of members participated in it both due to the time constraint and fully volunteer character of a complicated exercise. IndustriAll Europe took the decision not to participate for the same reasons, plus the fact that it had not been consulted in the development phase of the profiles and that too many sectors under its jurisdiction were involved.

Having said that, we do not consider that stakeholders have been and/or are closely involved in the development and dissemination of ESCO skills profiles as indicated on the website.



We consider that at this stage, it is essential for the ESCO project to take into account various objectives in order to ensure the success of this initiative. Among those, we would suggest: implication of the SPs of the chemical sector (not only for checking already developed skills profiles), the simplification of tools with regard to already created profiles by SPs (see aforementioned Framework Agreement), the simplification of the initiative and the identification of skills in a global manner.

These are key to ensure full support of various stakeholders in this exercise and to facilitate mobility in Europe.

We believe, that ECEG and industriAll Europe are the two most important actors (not just stakeholders) when it comes to determining profiles needed in our industries across Europe. Our respective members are inside companies and keep us informed about their needs both on national and European levels.

The chemical industry has already developed job definitions in the field of production activities, which we advise ESCO to consider in order to avoid further complications, confusion and unnecessary work.

To conclude, ECEG and industriAll Europe request periodic meetings on evaluation of the project within the framework of SSDC. We believe, that only under these conditions, the ESCO project could be successful in the various sectors we represent.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvain LEFEBVRE
Deputy General Secretary
industriAll Europe

Emma ARGUTYAN-KAHLMEYER
Secretary General
ECEG

ECEG :

The European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG) represents the chemical, pharmaceutical, rubber and plastics industries in Europe. As a Brussels-based social affairs organisation it is a recognised social partner and a consultation body of the European Institutions and other stakeholders. With approximately 2.25 million direct employees in more than 16.000 companies, the sector is one of the biggest and most dynamic industries in the EU.

industriAll European Trade Union:

IndustriAll European Trade Union is the voice of industrial workers all over Europe. It represents 6.9 million workers across supply chains in manufacturing, mining and energy sectors on the European level.