



EMU NEWSLETTER - 2nd Semester 2019

Next EMU meetings in 2020: save the dates!

EMU WORKING GROUP ON STANDARDISATION & TECHNIQUE (AGNT):
The next meeting will take place in Essen, Germany, on 19 February 2020.

EMU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL & SOCIAL DIALOGUE (LR+SDA):
The next meetings will take place in Hanover, Germany, on 23-24 April 2020.

EMU ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES & WORKING GROUP ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING (DV+BBA):
The next meetings will take place in Graz, Austria, from 16 to 18 September 2020.

More practical information will follow.

EMU 2019 Assembly of Delegates in Eindhoven

The European Metal Union (EMU) held its 2019 Assembly of Delegates in Eindhoven on 20 September 2019. The 20th September meeting focused in particular on recruitment and training issues and on environmental and climate change challenges.



Meet your Digital Twin at Brainport

The EMU Assembly of Delegates visited the Brainport innovation campus (<https://brainporteindhoven.com/>), located close to the Eindhoven Airport together with the Summa Training Center (<https://www.summacollege.nl/en/home>).

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The Brainport Campus is promoting high tech industry in the Eindhoven region, at the heart of the Dutch Smart Industry programme (a programme directly inspired by the Industry 4.0 programme in Germany). The concept of supply chain paths the way to the value chain, and Digital Twin are added to programmers to test innovative solutions before entering the production process.

The Brainport industry system was further presented by Peter van Harten, a Smart Industry Ambassador himself. After the division of Philips into various companies, among whom the chip leader ASML, the entire economic landscape had to be wound up to develop a multi-tier ecosystem of suppliers. Brainport industry enhances suppliers' cooperation in the value chain, from design & engineering to system integration, with the key objective to develop one of the best digitally connected network of suppliers and to face the bigger challenge of increasing productivity in The Netherlands. The benefit is to be part of new technologies, increase the visibility of the company and be at the forefront for the future.

EMU participants also visited the Van Hoof group manufacturing company (www.vanhoofgroep.nl). As portrayed in a YouTube video (<https://youtu.be/-U-2WdBeJc>), Nicol van Hoof, the firm CEO, clearly stated, the Van Hof approach is entirely in line with the Brainport spirit. The presentation video, available on YouTube, precisely ends with the motto: "You will be wiser because we think with you".



Retirement age in Europe: pay more, receive less and retire later

The EMU Social Dialogue Working Group held a meeting on 21st September in Eindhoven. As a guest speaker, Ben van Popta, Chairman of the Metaalunie Pension System, presented the diversity of pensions systems in Europe. He highlighted that most European countries have the same goal, face similar difficulties but endorse different solutions, depending on their own traditions. In countries where you have a large first pillar (state pension), it is difficult to create a strong second pillar (typically employer's pension scheme). With low interest rates and investments all over the world, the question is raised whether the Dutch pension system is still sustainable. At any rate, in every country, the motto is: pay more, receive less and retire later.

The debate on "hard work" (*Schwerarbeit*) was also discussed. A list exists in Austria to define what hard work is, though it seems to be an exception. As higher-income workers tend to live longer with fewer health problems, there is a discrepancy between high and low incomes. According to Ben van Popta, the difference should be borne by the second pillar.

EMU Draft Position Paper on CE Marking of Construction Products



Recent EU developments are leading to inordinate and disproportionate administrative and financial burdens on SME's that produce low risk and relatively simple construction products such as lintels or small frames. The withdrawal of the obligation to CE Mark construction products in case that a manufacturer is also installing the product it made into the building, opens up a Pandora's box that would bring total confusion and a breakdown of any residual backing of the Construction Product Regulation.

Uniform communication on product performances and conformity is essential for the European internal market, regardless of the way the market is structured. EMU is calling on the EU Commission to restructure the Construction Product Regulation in a way that ensures uniform communication on product performances regardless of the market structure and to impose clearly defined exemptions for clearly specified situations such as heritage-related constructions.



[EMU Position Paper on CE Marking of Construction Products](#)

EMU

Rue de l'Hôpital 31 B2
B-1000 Brussels
Tel: + 32 (0)2 274.22.07
Fax: +32 (0)2 400 71 26

Email: office@emu-sme.eu
Website: www.emu-sme.eu