

## EU Skills Agenda – Pact for Skills in Construction

### Brief description and main aims:

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, the European Commission presented an update EU Skills Agenda, building on the 2016 Agenda – which, in the meantime, has been implemented.

This agenda sets new ambitious quantitative objectives for upskilling (improving existing skills) and reskilling (training in new skills) people over the next 5 years.

First action amongst the 12 is the set-up of sectoral “Pact for Skills”, including in construction. It is aimed at bringing together stakeholders, including social partners, which share the objective of up- and reskilling the workforce to enable the green and digital transition. These stakeholders are requested to sign a Charter, which defines the key principles that are essential to fulfil this objective, within their organisations but also across their value chain.

### Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

The problems of lack of skilled workforce, skills gaps and skills mismatches in the construction sector are significantly affecting construction companies.

This is even more the case now as the availability of skilled construction workers will be key to the success of the European Green Deal’s Renovation Wave, as well as to the overall digital transition of the construction industry.

FIEC is already involved in these topics in many ways, and namely through our social dialogue with EFBWW (European Federation of Building and Woodworkers).

Moreover, FIEC has been partner in the “*Construction Blueprint for a Sectorial Skills Strategy*” (Erasmus+ EU-funded project) which lasted until March 2023 and defined the new skills needs in the fields of energy efficiency, circular economy and digitalisation.

Together with the EFBWW, and in cooperation with EBC (European Builders Confederation), FIEC worked on a *Pact for Skills in construction*, based on our joint experience in this field. We also targeted a few quantitative and qualitative objectives to which we can commit in this framework.

In February 2022, at the occasion of the *Industry Days 2022*, the Pact for Skills in Construction was officially launched. FIEC, EFBWW and EBC are now monitoring the implementation of this initiative (i.e. collecting the commitments of stakeholders who wants to join) in view of reporting on the outcomes to the European Commission.

### Actions and key dates:

**01/07/2020** → European Commission presents the update *EU Skills Agenda*.

**10/11/2020** → Official launch of the [Pact for Skills](#) (with several sectors involved).

**27/11/2020** → FIEC (VP Joel Schoens and VP Piero Petrucco) participates in meeting with EU Commissioners Thierry Breton (Internal Market and Industry) and Nicolas Schmit (Employment and Social affairs) on a *Pact for Skills in Construction*.

**February 2022** → [Official launch of the “Pact for Skills in Construction”](#), prepared by FIEC, EFBWW and EBC, at the occasion of the *EU Industry Days 2022*.

**16/10/2023** → Meeting of the signatories of the *Pact for Skills in Construction*.

**Ongoing** → Collection of commitments from interested stakeholders in construction sector.