Meeting of Ministers in charge of Vocational Education and Training, European Social Partners and European Commission

22 June 2015, Riga
Venue: National Library of Latvia (Mūkusalas Street 3)

Afternoon session
Hall “Ziedonis”, 1st floor
Interpretation: LV/EN

14:30 – 15:00 Opening session

Welcoming speech
Ms Mārīte Seile, Minister for Education and Science, Latvia

Keynote speech on boosting the Alliance – EU support and new incentives
Ms Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

The contribution of the EU social partners
Mr Javier Calderón Beltrán, Chair of BUSINESSEUROPE’s Education and Training Working Group
Mr Luca Visentini, Confederal Secretary, ETUC

15:00 – 15:30 Welcoming new pledges
Signing of new pledges joining the European Alliance for Apprenticeships

15:30 – 15:50 Ready, steady go! - Apprentices have their say!
Testimonials and expectations from apprentices with an introduction from Europeans@Berlin (Siemens)

15:50 – 16:00 Presentation of the new Alliance Website and Collaboration Platform

16:00 – 16:45 Presentation of success stories and communication tools
Moderator: Mr Allan Päll, Secretary General, European Youth Forum

Raising attractiveness of Apprenticeships for SME’s in the crafts sector
• Mr Holger Schwannecke, Secretary General, German Confederation of Skilled Crafts (ZDH)
Presentation of projects
• Mr Matthew Thomson, Chief Executive, Fifteen Cornwall; Project Fifteen – A Recipe for Success (ESF project, RegioStars award 2014)
• Ms Anita Līce, Adviser on Education Affairs, Employers’ Confederation of Latvia (LLDK); National Authorities for Apprenticeships. Implementing Work-based Learning in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia (Erasmus+ project)
• Ms Vita Žunda, Q-Placements Project manager; VET-Enterprise Cooperation for Quality Assurance of VET Placements and Apprenticeship (LLL Programme)

The global perspective
• Ms Andrea Nigg, Head of Marketing and Communications, Global Apprenticeships Network (GAN)
• Mr Jos de Goey, President of WorldSkills Europe

Latest developments
• Mr Norbert Schöbel, EAfA Team Leader, DG EMPL

16:45 – 17:15 Coffee break

17:15 – 18:45 Panel discussions
Moderator: Mr Martin Watson

Panel I: How to get companies on board, particularly SMEs?
• Mr James Calleja, Director, Cedefop
• Ms Marie Dousova, Vice President, Sales & Customer Management, Nestlé Europe, Middle East & North Africa, European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT)
• Mr Ben Butters, Director, Eurochambres
• Ms Lone Folmer Berthelsen, VET Director, Confederation of Danish Industry
• Ms Sarah Daepp, Expert in VPET/Project Manager, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI, Switzerland

Panel II: Expectations from companies, business organisations and social partners and next steps for EAfA
• Ms Celia Moore, IBM, Chair of Board, CSR Europe
• Ms Dorthe Andersen, European Economic and Social Committee, Rapporteur
• Mr Philippe Perfetti, Head of Unit, APCMA, UEAPME Representative
• Mr Sylvain Lefebvre, Deputy General Secretary, Industrial European Trade Union
• Mr Simon Marsh, Vice-President of the ECEG’s Steering Committee (European Chemical Employers Group)
• Mr Ulrich Paetzold, Director General, European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)

Questions/answer session with participants

Concluding remarks by Mr Detlef Eckert, Director, DG EMPL

18:45 – 20:30 Networking reception