

SGIEU.24/AC.20-GA.21
16 DECEMBER 2024

SGI EUROPE STATUTORY MEETINGS
9 DECEMBER 2024,
14:30-17:30

EESC
VMA - Rue Van Maerlant 2, 1000 Brussels
Room VMA 22

DRAFT MINUTES

**MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOGETHER WITH
THE CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS AND GENERAL RAPPORTEURS OF THE BOARDS AND TASK FORCES**

PARTICIPANTS

PRESIDENTIAL TEAM	PRESENT
President	Pascal BOLO
Vice President	Milena ANGELOVA
Vice President	Filippo BRANDOLINI
Vice President	Ingbert LIEBING
Vice President	Jacek CIEPLAK

ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL

National Sections/ Sectoral members	PRESENT	EXCUSED + proxy	EXCUSED No Proxy	NO ANSWER
AUSTRIA			Virginia HAGN	
BENELUX	Michael DE GOLS Arjen FRENTZ			
BULGARIA	Stefan CHAYKOV	Kiril JELIAZKOV Proxy to Stefan CHAYKOV		
CYPRUS		Constantinos PHELLAS Proxy to Ioannis STAVROU		
DENMARK	Marianne BRINCH-FISCHER	Pernille CHRISTENSEN Proxy to Marianne BRINCH-FISCHER		
FINLAND	Henrika NYBONDAS-KANGAS	Markku JALONEN Proxy to Henrika NYBONDAS-KANGAS		
FRANCE	Benjamin GALLEPE Jérémie PÉLERIN			
GERMANY	Sven-Joachim OTTO Manca POCIVAVSEK			
GREECE	Ioannis STAVROU Loukia SARANTIS			
ITALY	Luigi Joseph DEL GIACCO		Silvia RINVERSI	Leone
MALTA			Kevin BORG	
NORWAY	Bjarte RORMARK	Oivind BREVIK Proxy to Bjarte RORMARK		
POLAND	Piotr KAMINSKI Janusz PIETKIEWICZ			
PORTUGAL		Duarte VEIGA da CUNHA Proxy to Michael DE GOLS		

SWEDEN	Tomas BJÖRCK	Per NORDENSTAM Proxy to Tomas BJÖRCK		
TURKEY			Caner TOPKARA	
RUBES TRIVA				Giuseppe MULAZZI
EBU	Wouter GEKIERE			
HOSPEEM		Marta BRANCA Proxy to Wouter GEKIERE		
EFEE				Daniel WISNIEWSKI
General Secretariat				
General Secretary	Valeria RONZITTI			
Office Manager	Rachel de WOUTERS			
Senior Communications Manager	Maxime STAELENS			
External				
Accountant	François Xavier THIMUS			
Observers				
FRANCE	Frédéric AMIAND			
	Camille BOULAT			

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

National Sections/ Sectoral members	PRESENT	EXCUSED + proxy	EXCUSED No Proxy	NO ANSWER
AUSTRIA			Virginia HAGN	
BENELUX	Michael de GOLS Arjen FRENTZ			
BULGARIA	Stefan CHAYKOV	Kiril JELIAZKOV Proxy to Stefan CHAYKOV		
CYPRUS		Constantinos PHELLAS Proxy to Ioannis STAVROU		
DENMARK	Marianne BRINCH-FISCHER	Pernille CHRISTENSEN Proxy to Marianne BRINCH-FISCHER Camilla LINDQVIST Proxy to Marianne BRINCH-FISCHER		
FINLAND	Henrika NYBONDAS-KANGAS	Markku JALONEN Proxy to Henrika NYBONDAS-KANGAS Anna KUKKA Proxy to Henrika NYBONDAS-KANGAS		
FRANCE	Benjamin GALLEPE Jeremie PÉLERIN Sylvain RENOUVEL	Laurent GHEKIERE Proxy to Benjamin GALLEPE Christelle DEFAYE-GENESTE Proxy to Benjamin GALLEPE		

GERMANY	Nadine FISCHER Manca POCIVAVSEK Sven-Joachim OTTO Elmar THYEN Klaus STÜRMER	Frederike REICHHOLD Proxy to Manca POCIVAVSK Denise HAIN Proxy to Manca POCIVAVSEK		
GREECE	Ioannis STAVROU Loukia SARANTIS			
ITALY	Luigi DEL GIACCO		Antonio NADDEO Silvia RINVERSI Federica LEONE	
MALTA			Kevin BORG	
NORWAY	Bjarte RORMARKE	Oivind BREVIK Proxy to Bjarte RORMARKE Tore Eugen KVALHEIM Proxy to Bjarte RORMARKE		
POLAND	Maciej LEGUTKO Janusz PIETKIEWICZ	Mr DUTKIEWICZ Proxy to Maciej LEGUTKO		
PORTUGAL		Duarte VEIGA da CUNHA Proxy to Michael DE GOLS		
SWEDEN	Tomas BJÖRCK Lars ANDREN	Per NORDENSTAM Proxy to Tomas BJÖRCK		
TURKEY			Caner TOPKARA	
RUBES TRIVA				Giuseppe MULAZZI
EBU	Wouter GEKIERE			
HOSPEEM		Marta BRANCA Proxy to Wouter GEKIERE		

EFEE				Daniel WISNIEWSKI
General Secretariat				
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Office Manager	Rachel de WOUTERS			
Senior Communications Manager	Maxime STAELENS			
External				
Accountant	François Xavier THIMUS			
Observers				
FRANCE	Frédéric AMIAND			
	Camille BOULAT			

CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS AND GENERAL RAPPORTEURS

<i>Chairs, Vice Chairs & General Rapporteurs</i>	
Internal Market Board	Nadine Fischer (Chair) Luigi Joseph Del Giacco (Vice-Chair) Benjamin Gallepe (Vice-Chair)
Sustainability Board	Alain Taccoen (Chair) Stefan Chaykov (Vice-Chair)
Energy Task Force	Elmar Thyen (Chair)
Transport Task Force	Mihai Chirca (Chair) Joanna Popiolek (Vice-Chair)
Communications Task Force	Maciej Legutko (Vice-Chair) Wouter Gekiere (General Rapporteur)
Social Affairs Board	Jeanette Grenfors (Chair) Michael de Gols (Vice-Chair)
Macro-economics Task Force	Tor Hatlevoll (Chair) Cosimo Pacciani (Vice-Chair)
Social Protection Task Force	Klaus Stürmer (Chair)
Health & Safety Task Force	Pawel Langowski (Chair)

APOLOGIES

<i>Chairs, Vice Chairs & General Rapporteurs</i>	
Sustainability Board	Lina Furch (Vice-Chair)
Transport Task Force	Martin Schaeffer (Vice-Chair)
Water Task Force	Michele Falcone (Chair)
Communications Task Force	Martine Allaire (Chair)

NO APOLOGIES

<i>Chairs, Vice Chairs & General Rapporteurs</i>	
Social Affairs Board	Elvira Gentile (Vice-Chair) Urban Sieberts (Vice-Chair)
Sustainability Board	Sebastien Gonet (Vice-Chair)
Energy Task Force	K. Dahl Larsen (Vice-Chair) P. Clavel (Vice-Chair) Eleonora Capaccioli (Vice-Chair)
Environment Task Force	Bernardo Piccioli (Chair) Janusz Karwot (Vice-Chair)
Water Task Force	Hans de Groene (Vice-Chair) B. Velikov (Vice-Chair)
Macro-economics Task Force	J. Domanski (Vice-Chair) R. Rickes (Vice-Chair)
Vocational & Educational Training Task Force	Rossitsa Steliyanova (Chair)

DRAFT MINUTES		
ITEM	DOCUMENT	ACTION
1. Draft agenda	SGIEU.24/AC09-GA10	The President, Pascal Bolo, opened the meeting and informed the assembly that the opinion on climate had to be removed from the agenda since it needs to be further discussed in the Sustainability board. Further to this update, the agenda was approved.
2. Draft Minutes of the meeting of 17 June 2024	SGIEU.24/AC08-GA09	The President asked the assembly if they had any comments on the minutes. There were no comments, and the minutes were therefore approved.
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL		
3. Draft SGI Europe Work Programme 2025	Draft SGI Europe Work Programme 2025 will be sent out on 2 nd December, since the chairs and vice chairs are still working on the draft	The President introduced the item and then gave the floor to the General Secretary, Valeria Ronzitti, who presented the Work Programme based on the attached PPT . As per previous years, she limited her presentation to the corporate priorities, leaving then the Chairs of Boards and Task Forces to present their respective plans for 2025. The SGI Europe Work Programme is indeed the fruit of a collective work between the General Secretariat and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Boards and Task Forces. Following the presentation of the corporate priorities the floor was given in sequence to:

		Jeanette Grenfors, Chair of the Social Affairs Board and the chairs of the Social Affairs Task Forces attending the General Assembly, namely Tor Hatlevoll, Klaus Stürmer and Pawel Langowski; Nadine Fischer, Chair of the Internal Market Board, as well as Vice chairs Luigi Del Giacco and Benjamin Gallepe; Alain Taccoen, Chair of the Sustainability Board and the chairs of the Sustainability Task Forces attending the General Assembly, namely Elmar Thyen, Mihai Chirca, together with Wouter Ghekiere, General Rapporteur. All the above presentation followed the attached PPT. Jeanette Grenfors added an important information, namely the agreement reached on 5/12 by the EU cross-sectoral Social Partners' delegations on the continuation of the Val Duchesse process, including the Pact for Social Dialogue. The common text agreed will be submitted to the General Assembly and Social Affairs Board in parallel for approval through the written procedure. However, Jeanette Grenfors already extensively presented to the General Assembly the key points from the agreement. Special emphasis was given to the commitment taken by social partners to mutual respect, trust, representativeness and democracy (an important request from
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		SGI Europe, especially in view of the ongoing discussion with Business Europe/SMEunited on the organisation of the representation of employers in negotiations). SGI Europe is very happy with the outcome, including the performance of the SGI Europe delegation who proved again able to speak with one coherent voice. The presentation of the draft Work Programme was followed by several comments namely: <u>Vice President Ingbert Liebing:</u> ○ One aspect of the Internal Market Board is very important for public companies: Public procurement. ○ The revision of the public procurement framework is now on-going at European level, and it cannot be in our interest. Maybe the focus on reducing administrative burden could work, but nothing else. ○ Adding new requirements to public procurement is a danger to make the process more bureaucratic and difficult to manage. The risk is the unilateral application of new measures only to public companies, putting them at a disadvantage towards private competitors ○ Had a Franco-German meeting recently with Kerstin Jorna (DG of DG GROW, European Commission), during which she showed
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		that she knows nothing about the issue and only saw the political end goal. ○ Probably cannot work in good faith with the EC in those conditions and need to identify other allies (in the EP, for instance) who could be more receptive to our concerns. <u>President Bolo:</u> ○ SGI Europe is rich in the diversity of its positions. ○ We must ensure that all the boards and task forces move forward together. ○ There is a strong political will of Ursula von der Leyen to make the public procurement reform move forward. ○ SGI Europe must demonstrate pragmatism to guide the machine already set in motion, instead of trying to stop it. <u>Vice President Filippo Brandolini:</u> ○ Agreed with Vice President Ingbert Liebing on the issue of administrative burden: as highlighted also during the morning's event organised by Employers of Poland, licencing and authorisation processes are very burdensome and we need to cut the red tape to make those easier, simpler and faster. ○ However, we will also need to look into scaling up and mergers to help and provide a better playing field for SGIs to invest in their green and
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		digital transformation and benefit from economies of scale when investing. ○ Considering the investing needs, the current structure and legislative framework simply doesn't work for us. <u>Alain Taccoen, Chair of the Sustainability Board:</u> Exchanged regularly over the past few months with representatives from large industries in Europe, which are all doing badly. They see four solutions to get out of the rut: ○ Reduce the price of energy, through yet another revision of the European acquis regarding energy and electricity. (which has just been revised). ○ Increase public fundings (difficult seen the budgetary context in numerous Member States). ○ Adopt measures at the borders on the model of Donald Trump. ○ Encourage buying European to create new markets for enterprises producing in Europe. It is important to put forward the localisation of the production of used products. <u>Vice President Milena Angelova:</u> ○ Congratulated on the priorities. ○ Agreed with Alain Taccoen: threatened by geopolitical and geo-economic tensions, Bulgaria is facing a record-
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		high number of bankruptcies and lost jobs. ○ Stressed the need to simplify bureaucratic requirements, such as: ○ Implementation of the CSRD, which has been completed in Bulgaria but not in many other Member States and creates difficulties for Bulgarian companies at a disadvantage as a consequence (call for postponing the implementation OR making it a priority at EU level to ensure all companies have the same requirements). ○ Implementation of the Minimum Wages directive. ○ Now need to step back and look at how complex and burdensome the legislation adopted in the past mandate is. <u>Marianne Brinch-Fischer, Danish Correspondent:</u> ○ Important to work on the administrative burden and the implementation of the EU acquis <u>Manca Pocivavsek, German Correspondent:</u> - The title “Circular Single Market” is very ‘proactive’. It should be changed to better reflect our position on the issue.
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		<u>Nadine Fischer, Chair of the Internal Market Board:</u> ○ We tried to frame the topics the best way we could at this stage. ○ Once we have more clarity on the plans of the European Commission on the issue, we will be able to refine the title and adapt it accordingly <u>The Secretary General resumed the debate on</u> <u>Public Procurement:</u> ○ The development on the Green Single Market is von der Leyen and Jorna's priority, and stems from the Clean Transition Dialogues. ○ Séjourné showed a more conciliatory tone during his hearing, including an openness to consult the local and ground level. He is the person in the European Commission we want to meet the most in order to clarify this, and place SGI Europe in the picture. ○ We need to adopt a pragmatic and economic approach on this issue, and not a legal/technical one. ○ The discussion will continue in the IMB, and we will make sure that our end position represents our whole membership. <u>Administrative burden:</u> ○ We all agree with the need to address the administrative
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		burden, but in order to be taken seriously we need concrete, detailed and comprehensive examples to bring up to the Commission (also to follow up on the joint meeting with the Sustainability board we had in Paris in September, with the participation of Antonina Cipollone, Head of Unit - Evaluation & Impact Assessment, Regulatory Scrutiny Board Secretariat, who now has us on their radar on the matter) ○ Valdis Dombrovskis, who has known us for at least 10 years (as former EC VP/EVP in charge of Social Dialogue), is in charge of simplification. We have already asked for a meeting, and we can add those points to the list. ○ There is also a commitment from the upcoming Polish Presidency to assess the state of play on the implementation and support the EC in identifying ways to simplify the administrative burden. Regarding minimum wages, we can take the point on Bulgaria and any other Member States that members will signal to us in the EC expert group on the implementation The President thanked the General Secretary and the Chairs for their interventions and the important debate following it.
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		The Work Programme 2025 was approved.
4. Proposal to codify the selection procedure for participation in EU Expert Groups	Explanatory Note SGIEU.24/AC10-GA11 Proposal for revised Rules of Procedure	The General Secretary presented the item based on the related note and attached PPT. She stressed the importance of codifying this practice in the Rules of Procedure. The assembly approved the proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure as shown in the draft sent out prior to the meeting (see final version attached).
5. How important for us is the match between our June SGI Day and the UN Day of Public Services of 23 June	Explanatory note SGIEU.24/AC20-GA21	The General Secretary presented the item based on the related note and attached PPT. She added that we must bear in mind the availability of the EESC rooms, but also of high-level guests. A majority of members opted for a “structured flexibility” It was therefore decided to stick with 23 June as much as possible, but remain flexible when necessary, and try to fix the date for 2025 asap.
6. Update of the Statutes regarding the notice period for members	Draft revised Statutes Explanatory Note SGIEU.24/AC11-GA12	The General Secretary presented the item based on the related note and attached PPT. She added that inserting this notice period in the Statutes will ensure the predictability of our finances. The President added that the General Secretariat and Presidential Team should ensure that this is followed strictly. The amendment to the Statutes was approved (see final version attached)

7. Audit Company mandate	Explanatory Note SGIEU.24/AC12-GA13	The President presented the item based on the related note and attached PPT. The assembly approved the renewal of BDO as Auditor company for the next 3 financial years, this 2025, 2026 and 2027. The President asked the assembly if they could approve the appointment of the Office Manager, Rachel de Wouters as Delegate for the Day-to-day management, "<i>Deléguée à la gestion journalière</i>". The assembly approved this appointment.
8. Revision of the mandate of Vice President coopted Jacek Cieplak that started in December 2022	Explanatory Note SGIEU.24/AC21-GA22	The President presented the item based on the related note and attached PPT. The renewal of the mandate of Vice President Coopted Jacek Cieplak for a further year was approved. Vice President Coopted Jacek Cieplak thanked the assembly for its trust and committed to continue his mandate as best possible especially with the upcoming Polish Presidency of the Council. The General Secretary congratulated Jacek Cieplak for the excellent conference held that morning.
9. SGI Europe Draft budget 2025	SGIEU.24/AC13-GA14 Explanatory note SGIEU.24/AC14-GA15	The General Secretary presented the item based on the related note and attached PPT. In addition, it was specified that: ○ Sections/Sectoral members that had not submitted a

		request for rebate within the required deadline will be considered as committing to pay their full fee. - Sections/sectoral members that had submitted a request for rebate within the required deadline were considered when calculating the total amount of revenues by membership fees, pending the decision by the Administration Council and General Assembly to accept or not their request. - An updated prevision of the indexation of salaries foreseen for January 2025 (3.56 %) was notified to us after the budget had been - drafted and sent to the General Assembly. Nevertheless, we will keep the annual increase for 2025 at 2%. On that basis, the draft budget 2025 was approved.
10. Requests for rebate received and likely to receive	Explanatory Note SGIEU.24/AC15-GA16 Requests for rebate: Turkey Portugal EFEE Austria Benelux	The General Secretary presented the item based on the related note and attached PPT. She specified that: - The requests for rebate that are not approved will be considered as losses. - Whether the rebate is accepted or not, the General Secretariat will continue to support sections in recruiting and retaining members (recent example: with retaining SPGE, member of the Benelux section).

		○ For the approved rebates, recovery plans must be put in place. The President: ○ Questioned the request from the Austrian section, based on the arguments expressed in their letter. ○ Suggested considering the other requests bearing in mind the difficulty of their respective situations. Henrika Nybondas Kangas, representing Finland, Bjarte Romark, representing Norway and Lars Andren, representing Sweden argued about the fact that EFEE is experiencing difficulties. As members of the organisation, they can indeed testify that the number of members in EFEE has increased, and the economy has substantially improved. They therefore offered to get together to discuss with EFEE this issue. Based on the above discussion, the Administration Council and General Assembly agreed to include in the draft budget all requests except for Austria and EFEE. The difference between the fees they will pay and the due fees will therefore be considered as a loss in the financial situation 2025, unless a positive solution is found by the end of December 2025.
ITEMS FOR INFORMATION		
11. Financial Situation as at 31 October and projection for December 2024	SGIEU.24/AC16-GA17 Explanatory Note	The General Secretary presented the item based on the related note and attached PPT .

	SGIEU.24/AC17-GA18	All positive results that we will have will mainly be used to increase badly needed reserves. The President thanked the General Secretariat for its efforts.
12. Stocktaking of SGI Europe's activities of the 2nd Semester Report from the President and General Secretary Report from the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the boards and task forces Report from the National Sections	Note on Projects SGIEU.24/AC18-GA19	The General Secretary reported on main activities and achievements in second semester 2024, based on the related note and attached PPT. The chairs of the boards and task forces presented their achievements in second semester 2024 based on the attached PPT. National Sections and Sectoral members presented new developments/ members: <u>Germany:</u> Manca Pocivavsek, Correspondent Germany announced that they had lost two members but gained one member, so stable.
ITEMS FOR ADOPTION/INFORMATION		
13. Documents for adoption	Internal Market Board - Draft SGI Europe opinion on the Clean Industrial Deal: Sustainability Board - Draft SGI Europe opinion on Climate	The draft opinion was approved As explained by the President at item 1 related to the draft agenda, this opinion will be submitted through the written procedure once

		the Sustainability board has finished its work on the paper.
14. Documents published since the last meeting on 17 June 2024	Social Affairs Board: • June: Response to the first stage consultation on possible action in the area of telework and workers' right to disconnect • June : SGI Europe position paper FIDA • October: SGI Europe Opinion on the European Commission directive and recommendation on Traineeship • October: Joint employers' contribution consultations ASGS 2025 • October: SGIs Network Joint Declaration for the High-level Dialogue with the European Commission Macroeconomics task force • September: Involvement of social partners in the EU semester - joint statement ETUC, SGI Europe and SMEunited Internal Market Board	

	- June: Opinion on SGIs for a Sustainable EU Competitiveness - October: Fit for Future Platform Opinion on Actions & Methodology to Avoid the Build-up of Unnecessary Reporting Obligations Sustainability Board - September: Position paper: SGI Europe feedback to the mid-term evaluation on the Connecting Europe Facility Fund for Energy, Transport and Digitalisation - October: Joint statement on the key role of distribution grids for a competitive, green and resilient Europe Sustainable Finance - October: Joint call for an EU Social Investment Framework to define and facilitate social investments	
OTHER BUSINESS AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS		
15. Miscellaneous		
16. Dates of future meetings		Further to the decisions taken at item 5 of the agenda, the date of the

		June statutory meeting of 2025 will be fixed on 23 June, or the nearest possible date. In any case by end of June 2025 latest in order to respect legal financial reporting requirements.
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