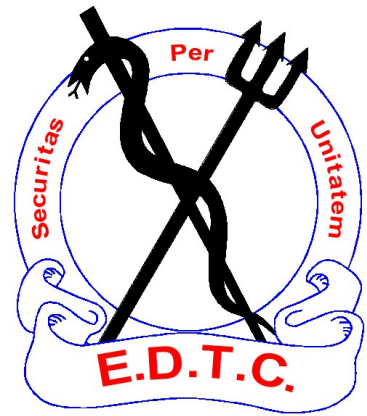


European Diving Technology Committee



Member Countries and Groups Represented

				
Austria	Belgium	Croatia	Czech Republic	Denmark
				
Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Italy
				
Latvia	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Portugal
				
Spain	Slovak Republic	Sweden	Switzerland	Turkey
			International Diving Regula- tors Forum IDRF	
United Kingdom	IMCA	IDSA		ADC

NEWSLETTER

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Diving operations per- 3
formed by international-
ly mobile companies and
employees, both in- and
offshore, often in dan-
gerous conditions

www.edtc.org

Commission of the European Communities—Euroforum—Luxembourg

EDTC was invited by the by Unit of Health, Safety and Hygiene at Work (HSHW) in Luxembourg 2015-03-02. The invitation was from Mrs Maria-Teresa Moitinho De Almeida who is head of unit with a special interest for the topic:

Diving operations performed by internationally mobile companies and employees, both in- and offshore, often in dangerous conditions.

HSHW has responsibility for more than 24 Directives related to HSE work and has 28 employees in Luxembourg. It is common that the Unit operates through different organizations and stakeholders.

Unfortunately EDTC is not known previously to the HSHW and this meeting was therefore most welcome.

Dr. Roland Vanden Eede, who is an esteemed member of the EDTC has been very helpful in this matter.

Further the work that EDTC has done through the document; *Guidance for Diving on Renewable Energy Projects* has been noticed by HSHW and attracted interest.

During the meeting introduction and background on the EDTC was given by Roland vanden Eede, medical subcommittee and Jörn Ryberg, Chairman.

Pro-active approach

During the meeting it was discussed that EDTC, through its democratic principles, has been working towards spreading knowledge and guidance amongst all the different members and countries.

This has been achieved by having workgroups where every country has been participating. This creates great commitment and enables a positive reaction within all the member countries.

Since every member country has representation from the different sectors, the impact and force this has all over Europe gives a very fast implementation into the different legislations.

Why is this important?

Although we are united within Europe, we have a vast variety within the standard and knowledge amongst the different countries.

By being active within the forum EDTC gives, guidance can be spread in a very fast way even if these differences exist. The implementation within the different member countries is addressed to also in very fast way.

Since 2011 EDTC has released 1 specific document:

Guidance for Diving on Renewable Energy Projects

Further a document is in its final draft:

Guidance for Goal-setting Principles for Harmonized Diving Standards in Europe

These documents have been showed great attention not only within Europe but also abroad.

Through the fact that the “force” of EDTC is something that is from “grassroot” level and that it involves everyone in a very active way, EDTC has been able to provide guidance for safer professional diving in a very broad perspective.



**Jörn Ryberg
Chairman of EDTC**

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Diving operations performed by internationally mobile companies and employees, both in- and offshore, often in dangerous conditions

The topic above was discussed and it was obvious that there are differences within Europe and much more work has to be done within this sector.

It was highlighted that changes grow out of commitment from many individuals and the “power of freewill”. EDTC sees its task as providing “help to help themselves”.

Further it was discussed that through a combination between the forces of EU and EDTC, much would be gained in the overall goal to provide the free movement of labor within Europe and to enable this to be done in a safe and similar way wherever it’s done.

EDTC can by being the forum it is, bridge over the existing gap between authorities, organizations and individuals.

Some questions therefore occurred during the meeting:

1) How does HSHW look upon the concerns about the difficulties that encounters?

HSHW co-operates with the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health (ACSH) and the Senior Labor Inspectors Committee (SLIC). They organise meetings for specific HSE (Health & Safety) questions. Diving works has been on the SLIC MACHEx (Machinery and equipment) agenda. It has raised as an issue, that the Labour inspectors should have a “question set” to use when they are visiting different diving work sites to enable an effective inspection to be performed.

During the meeting it was suggested that EDTC perhaps could provide input or help on this by organizing a workgroup ending with such a document.

Further it was mentioned that SLIC also had indicated that a guideline for employers/contractors to use, when they are in the situation of ordering specialist works such as diving, was of importance so that the correct and safe service was provided.

It was mentioned by HSHW, Mrs Maria-Teresa Moitinho De Almeida, that contractors (the party that orders diving works) could have in certain Member States a responsibility for these activities within the building industry.

2) How can we commonly co-operate to improve the situation?

It was reflected during the meeting, that a common goal was to provide documents with guidance of “good practice”. HSHW, stated that they see good possibilities for co-operation and proposed that EDTC could bring forward a “package” for the next steps.

The following was mentioned as different milestones:

- A) EDTC to be invited participate during an SLIC Machex meeting in March 2016,
- B) EDTC to organize its documents in the OIRA format (Online interactive Risk Assessment),
- C) EDTC to approach the Bilbao Agency, (Ms. Brenda O’Brien) HSHW is prepared to co-operate with EDTC towards the common goal of diving as a safe profession.

Prior to above mentioned milestones, EDTC can do the following:

- A) Invite HSHW to the annual meeting in Poland,
- B) Take the initiative, through EDTC workgroups, to provide the guidance documents of good practice to act as template for both inspectors and contractors.

Both parties to work towards—the road forwards

At a future EDTC meeting, have a combined workshop with members of SLIC, HSHW and other interested participants to take place possibly in Brussels in 2016.