



FEDERATION NEWS

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EFCA Board meets with Swedish association

The EFCA Board of Directors' meetings outside Brussels are a key instrument for reinforcing relations and communication with the EFCA stakeholders.

STD (Svensk Teknik och Design) Board members and firms met with the EFCA Board of Directors in Stockholm on 18 September 2008.

STD Director Lena Wästfelt provided a picture of the STD history, the STD 2010 vision and mission. The five main categories of the STD objectives and actions were summarised as follows: visibility, public procurement, recruitment and quality of engineering education, collective agreements on conditions of employment and partnering with other groups within the construction industry.

Various examples of collaboration initiatives demonstrated that the intended STD messages do reach important public sector decision makers.

STD will continue to produce the SECTOR REVIEW. This publication is well-received by the European firms and other audiences with an interest in the European and international architectural and engineering consultancy market.

On the agenda was also a presentation on EFCA's current work and objectives and an exchange of information on market tendencies.

STD and EFCA concluded to strengthen ties to give the engineering consultancy industry a strong and influential voice.



Major European engineering federations join forces to raise the profile of the engineering community

Major European engineering federations agreed on closer collaboration to enhance the voice of the engineering community.

At their 22 July 2008 informal meeting, the presidents of FEANI (European Federation of National Engineering Associations), ECEC (European Council of Engineers Chambers), ECCE (European Council of Civil Engineers, SEFI (European Society for Engineering Education) and EFCA presented their organisation, priority areas and major activities.

It was thereby aimed at identifying a set of common objectives.

In conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed to share information and experience in four areas of common interest:

- enhanced visibility of engineers
- European code of conduct
- free movement and cross border mobility and
- skills shortage

to bring a higher profile to the federations' work.



From left to right: Mr. Coackley, Mr. Van der Putten, Mr. Wauters, Mr. Panagopoulos, Dr. Fuchs, Mr. Oreskovic, Prof. Steinbach

European Young Professionals learn from interaction with peers in Brussels

Networking and exchanging experiences in connecting young professionals in their countries proved the driving force for participants from 7 countries in the event.

Highly motivated young professionals attended a two-day seminar in Brussels to learn about young professionals' groupings and activities in other countries, the European professional federation and the

European policies that matter to the business and the industry.



The visit to the European Parliament plenary was the highlight of the 'Europe' session. The young professionals were impressed to see the reality of the political discourse on the EU agenda.

A revealing session on inter-generational learning and the interactive session on the diversity of working practices in the represented countries sparked lively debates on challenges facing the young professionals in their personal career development, and for preparing the next generation of leaders in companies.

Concrete opportunities for better and renewed cooperation between younger and older staff were presented as a valuable means to ensuring corporate continuity and growth.

The Brussels visit offered a most effective platform to the young professionals to further build up their professional contacts and the chance to connect better at both national and European level.

Successful EFCA action for unambiguous clarification in EuropeAid tendering procedure

EFCA alerted EuropeAid Director General Koos Richelle to the restriction of participation of members of a same EEIG (European Economic Interest Grouping) in different joint tenders for some EuropeAid framework contracts.

The EEIG is a form of association between companies or other legal bodies, firms or individuals from different EU countries wishing to cooperate at transnational level. EEIG members remain economically and legally independent throughout their cooperation.

The Director General agreed with the EFCA view that EuropeAid's restriction was based on the assumption that the members of an EEIG structure are members of the same legal group and thus always operate in concert (which is not necessarily always the case).

EuropeAid accepted the EFCA comments and published additional clarifications to the concerned procurement notice, explaining that members of an EEIG can participate in different applications for the same lot.

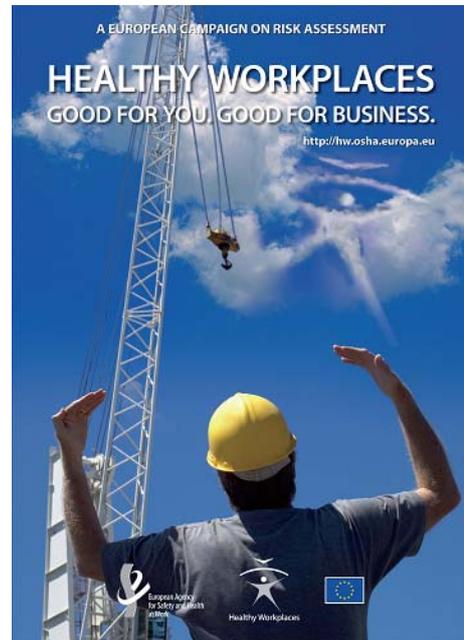
EFCA provides substantial input to EC health and safety guide

EFCA and ACE (Architects' Council of Europe) urge the European Commission to take account of the designers' valuable and specific H&S (health & safety) expertise.

The Temporary and Mobile Sites Directive (92/57/EEC) has had a significant, but uneven, effect on practice within the sector. In particular, the implementation of the European legislation resulted in very different national regulation in the member states.

In many countries, national legislation goes beyond the minimum requirements of the

Directive, obliging design firms to compile comprehensive H & S plans. Such practices cause a number of problems and difficulties to designers.



The European Commission decided to prepare practical guidance for the member states. This task is assigned to an external consultant.

Early September, the first draft guidance document was made available to the members of the advisory experts committee, in which both EFCA and ACE are represented.

In its general comments, EFCA expressed its concern about the broad use of the term 'design', and explained that this should be specifically restricted to designers acting as project supervisors with the duties as defined in Directive 92/57/EEC or acting under the direction of a project supervisor.

EFCA and ACE submitted detailed track-changes on the draft text to the external consultant and the European Commission.

EFCA invites members to cooperate in standardisation of project stages terminology



The feasibility study 'standardisation in the field of engineering consultancy services in Europe' demonstrated both the need and possibility for developing a common language in two sectors: construction and industry.

The study recommends starting the European standardisation work on engineering consultancy services with the support of the national Standards Organisations (members of CEN, the European Committee for Standardisation).

The feasibility study was made by AFNOR (French Standards Organisation), together with NEN (Dutch Standards Institution), and with the active support of EFCA and Syntec-Ingénierie.

The final report, submitted to the European Commission in July 2008, recommends developing standard definitions of the content of services within each project stage.

Such a glossary of functional project stages (i.e. key words and terms defining the activities that take place within each stage) would limit misunderstandings, facilitate cross-border activities and contribute to a clear comprehension of the obligations and responsibilities of every participant in the project.

The proposed work programme will cover the construction and industry sectors.

The 7 November 2008 D&S meeting in Brussels will provide full details on the project and its expected benefits for European industry.

Two national associations invite you to a major congress

Under the theme '**Project management to run**', IPMA (International Project Management Association) is organising its 22nd World Congress in Rome on 9-11 November 2008.

The theme represents the new and greater importance of time in the two major aspects of modern project management: the much faster pace of change in global technology, expectations and needs and the much shorter time from start to delivery of projects which our communities and businesses demand.

More information can be found at: www.ipmarome2008.it

The Austrian International Consultants (AIC) organise the **3rd European Consultants Cooperation Forum** in Vienna on 14 November 2008.

The programme is focused on the international cooperation and interplay between consultants, scientists and researchers. It will demonstrate the central role of consultancy firms in linking science and consulting by facilitating communication in both ways, thus functioning as transmitters and catalysts.

The programme and registration form can be found at <http://www.eccf.at>.

Seminar to address practical concerns about the implementation of EU external services contracts

The 30 October 2008 seminar in Brussels will bring together policy-makers and representatives from industry, financing and insurance organisations to discuss experiences and best practice in the financial management of development assistance.

Whilst officials from EuropeAid and financing institutions will explain current procedures, speakers from the industry will focus on alternative approaches and offer best practices for discussion.

The full programme and registration form can be downloaded at <http://www.efcanet.org/pages/eventdetail.aspx?id=76024>

SEMINAR



THE ROLE, QUALITY & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

**30 October 2008
10:00 – 16:00
Renaissance Brussels Hotel
Rue du Parnasse 19
1050 Brussels**



Implementation of development assistance can take various forms, such as public contracts, award of grants or implementation by (externalised) direct labour.

To ensure the execution of development programmes and projects, financial management tasks and responsibilities may be transferred to public bodies or firms in accordance with certain rules and procedures. Consultancy firms involved in such decentralised implementation of projects are responsible for the project budget and the implementing arrangements for the execution of the project.

However, in practice they are faced with excessive guarantee requirements and acquire responsibility for (financial) risks that they cannot control.

E F C A A G E N D A

Joint meeting EFCA-ACE (Architects' Council of Europe) H&S Working Groups	Brussels (ACE offices)	16.10.2008
EFCA-FEACO seminar Financial management of EU external contracts	Brussels	30.10.2008
D&S meeting	Brussels	07.11.2008
Board of Directors meeting	Vienna	14-15.11.2008
Professional Liability Working Group	Brussels	05.12.2008
Partnership for Development Committee	Brussels	16.12.2008
Public European Market Committee	Brussels	12.01.2009
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	06.02.2009
Public European Market Committee	Paris	03.04.2009

THE ROLE, QUALITY & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE



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INTERNAL MARKET

Ministers accept 50% target for green public procurement

On 25 September, the Competitiveness Council welcomed the overall indicative target of 50% per member state for green public procurement (GPP).

By the year 2010, 50 % of all tendering procedures should be green, i.e. compliant with common core GPP criteria. The percentage would be expressed in both number and value of green contracts as compared to the overall number and value of contracts concluded in the 10 priority sectors, as identified by the Commission. These include construction, food and catering services, transport and transport services, energy, office machinery and computers, clothing, uniforms and other textiles, paper and printing services, furniture, cleaning products and services, and health sector equipment.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm

Breaches of public procurement rules

The Commission sent a reasoned opinion to Spain and a letter of formal notice to Luxembourg.

IVSSA (Instituto Valenciano de Vivienda, S.A.) and AUMSA (Actuaciones Urbanas de Valencia, S.A) are limited companies, wholly owned by the regional government of Valencia and the city of Valencia respectively. They do urban planning studies and carry out infrastructure and management activities in the field of urban planning, including the renovation and promotion of social housing.

IVVSA and AUMSA have set up joint ventures with private shareholders to perform similar tasks. The Commission is of the opinion that, when awarding contracts, IVVSA and AUMSA did not comply with the Public Procurement Directives, particularly as regards advertising and the principle of equal treatment.

The Commission decided to send a letter of formal notice to Luxembourg requesting information on its national transposition of Directive 2004/17/EC on public procurement, and had therefore failed to comply with its obligations under EC law. The deadline for transposition of the Directive was 31 January 2006. To date, the Commission has still not received any implementing measures from the Luxembourg authorities.

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/index_en.htm

EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

Strategic planning of support to Western Balkans and Turkey completed

For 2008-2010, the overall indicative amount of EU financial assistance under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) is 4.471 billion euro.

The financial assistance aims at enhancing political and economic reform and development of the candidate countries and potential candidates: Croatia, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo.

The strategic planning sets out the priorities for EU financial assistance for the period 2008-2010. The next step is to prepare, with the beneficiaries, programmes to implement the assistance.

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/financial-assistance/planning-ipa_en.htm

Practical Guide to EU funding opportunities for Research and Innovation

The Commission guide helps all stakeholders to find their way into the different existing EU funding for research, technological development and innovation (RTDI).



EU support for RTDI is provided mainly through the Seventh Research Framework Programme, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the Structural Funds.

When operating individually, these three funding sources already act as effective

tools in support of RTDI. However, their value can be further enhanced by combining them. How can this be done?

The answer to this question is provided by the 'Practical Guide to EU funding opportunities for Research and Innovation'.

In addition to practical information on combining the different funding sources, the guide includes a description of each fund, advice for policy makers and an innovative Checklist and Scorecard. These allow potential beneficiaries to quickly identify exactly how they can access European funding at every stage of a project.

ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/practical-guide-eufunding_en.pdf

MISCELLANEOUS

European PPP Expertise Centre launched

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission launched the European Public Private Partnership Expertise Centre (EPEC).

The EPEC will advise policy makers and provide guidance on programmes in the member states and applicant countries. It will provide good practice guidelines to EPEC members with the specific aim of improving public sector management, reducing costs and increasing the number of public private partnership (PPP) programmes.

<http://www.bei.org/about/press/2008/2008-078-european-institutions-take-lead-on-ppp-expertise.htm?lang=en>



DOCUMENTS & WEB SITES OF INTEREST

REPORTS

Towards an Energy Efficient European Building Stock

A RICS Status Report on the Implementation of Directive 2002/91 on the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD) in the EU Member States

In a significant number of countries, certification of buildings is now up and running, training schemes are beginning to take shape and an increasing number of inspectors are operating in the market. However, some of the new Member States are still facing substantial problems largely due to their past which has left them with a legacy of a highly inefficient prefabricated building stock. Most of these countries are making use of an additional three year derogation period and are not going to fully implement before 4 January 2009.

http://www.rics.org/NR/rdonlyres/78EAD2F3-7822-44C2-8933-467FD3648DDA/0/EPBD2online_web.pdf

Impacts of Europe's changing climate - 2008 indicator-based assessment

The report, released by the European Environment Agency, the World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, stresses the consequences of both observed and projected changes, including an increased risk of floods and droughts, losses of biodiversity, threats to human health and damage to economic sectors such as energy, transport, forestry, agriculture, and tourism.

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2008_4/en/

Entrepreneurship in higher education, especially within non-business studies

The report provides a preliminary overview of the teaching of entrepreneurship in higher education institutes in Europe, with particular attention to entrepreneurship training in non-business studies. It attempts to identify obstacles to the provision of teaching in this area and highlight examples of good practice, while examining the potential role of public policy in improving the current situation.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/training_education/entr_highed.pdf

European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 7/2008 - Intelligent Energy 2003-2006

The IEE programme was aimed at promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. For 2003-2006 it had a budget of 250 million euro and supported almost 450 projects with over 1,700 participants.

The report examines the use made of EU funds, as well as the success and limitations of monitoring and evaluation of the programme, and the overhead costs for both the Commission and participants of the EU scheme.

<http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/1375520.PDF>

Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament - Annual Report 2008 on **the European Community's Development and External Assistance Policies and their Implementation in 2007**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0379:FIN:EN:PDF>

Millennium Development Goals at Midpoint: Where do we stand and where do we need to go?

The paper suggests that reform of global economic institutions and regulation of the financial system, more effective aid, investments in infrastructure to sustain growth, and social protection in each country are keys to meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals.

http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/mdg_paper_final_20080916_en.pdf

CONSULTATIONS

Shaping the ICT research and innovation agenda for the next decade

The purpose of this consultation is to gather input from ICT R&D and innovation suppliers, users and policy makers on shaping a cross-cutting ICT R&D and innovation strategy for Europe. The questionnaire is set-up in three main sections - the trends and changes in ICT, the challenges on demand and supply side and finally the solutions public policies can offer.

Deadline: 7 November 2008

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=ICTRDI>

Strategic choices for young Europeans - An EU-wide public consultation on the future of youth policy

The Commission wishes to hear about the issues that have the most direct impact on young people in the member states as well as in Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and the candidate countries

Deadline: 25 November 2008

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-policies/doc1220_en.htm

MISCELLANEOUS

Construction output up by 0.1% in the euro area

July 2008 compared with June 2008

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_PRD_CAT_PREREL/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008_MONTH_09/4-17092008-EN-BP.PDF

Euro area labour costs rose by 2.7%

Second quarter 2008 compared with second quarter 2007

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_PRD_CAT_PREREL/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008_MONTH_09/3-15092008-EN-AP.PDF

Europarltv

The European Parliament's online channel is made up of a set of four channels that are aimed at different audiences.

www.europarltv.europa.eu

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