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A milestone in the FIDIC - EFCA cooperation

The FIDIC and EFCA Presidents signed an important and comprehensive agreement for the cooperation between the federations.



EFCA President
Panos Panagopoulos

FIDIC President
Gregs Thomopoulos

The agreement marks a crucial step forward to greater recognition and quality outputs of EFCA and FIDIC in the interests of the industry.

It clarifies the focus of both federations and ensures that no overlap of activities will exist.

EFCA will provide a structured European input into FIDIC and European policies will be consistent and complementary with FIDIC policies. Also, EFCA will represent FIDIC in Europe.

Several issues for shared efforts are identified and have started: the international recast of the Syntec-Ingénierie - EFCA White paper on engineering consultancy and innovation, and the FIDIC-EFCA coordination with regard to the 'sector review' and sustainability.

Jan Bosschem elected EFCA President-Elect

The 2010 General Assembly elected Jan Bosschem, Managing Director Grontmij Belgium and Board member of ORI, as President-Elect.

Jan Bosschem has been involved in the federation for many years.

In 2005 he was appointed Treasurer; in the period 2007 – 2008 he has been very active in EFCA's Project Financing Committee. Since 2008 Jan Bosschem has served as Vice-President.

Jan Bosschem said: *'I am looking forward to working alongside and under the leadership of President Panos Panagopoulos the coming year. Given the current crisis and the emergence of new business models on the market, and the fading role of Europe at the global geopolitical and economic level, the area of particular focus will be the FIDIC-EFCA cooperation. Today's signature of the FIDIC-EFCA Agreement is an achievement to build on added value for the member associations and the industry.'*



President-Elect
Jan Bosschem

The 2010 General Assembly also elected José Luis González Vallvé, President of Tecniberia (Spain), Paul Oortwijn, Managing Director of NLEngineers (Netherlands) and Victor Carneiro, President of APPC (Portugal) and Executive President of COBA as Directors.

Committees and task forces crucial for EFCA

Annually, the Chairs explain the difference their Committee or Task Force aims to make for the benefit of the European firms to the EFCA representatives in the General Assembly.

Jean Félix, chair of the European Public Market committee, highlighted the major 2010 – 2011 challenge, namely to provide input into the European Commission

evaluation of EU public procurement legislation and policies, that will improve the conditions for the award of consulting services and increase the value of our sector to society. Also, to contribute to EU strategies for the promotion of sustainable economic growth.

The committee will define the industry's proactive proposals and discuss these with the European Commission after the summer recess.

In the absence of committee chair Martin Güldner, Jan Van der Putten explained that the European External Aid committee broadened its focus from EC contract procedures to EC development policies, in order to become a recognised interlocutor in the external aid policy reform dialogue. The Committee will draft a number of position papers reflecting the consulting engineers' views on the topics that have a direct impact on the way they deliver services.

Ulla Sassarsson reported on the 2009-2010 key activities in the area of liability and insurance. The EFCA fact-finding report on liability and insurance regimes, covering 13 countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and UK) will be published shortly. It is based on the input of the member associations and will provide useful information for the associations and the firms.

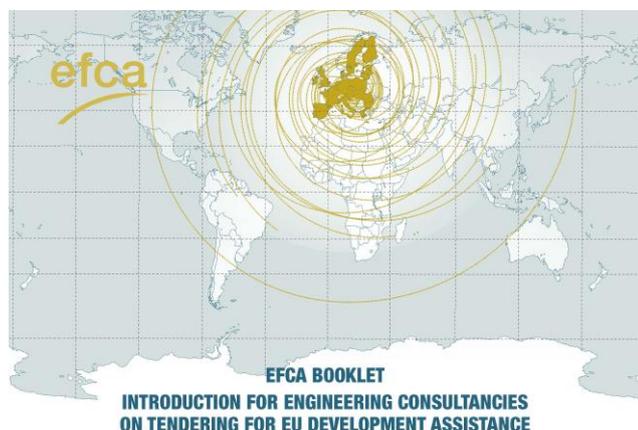
Lena Wästfelt presented the provisional results of the European Consulting Future committee. Eventually, the committee's presentation and report will assist the firms in preparing for, and dealing with, the key issues that impact their future.

Karine Leverger, chair of the Communications Advisory Group, set out the aims of EFCA's communications strategy and presented the coordinated 2010 communications activities of the federation. She underlined the need for proactive and timely initiatives to help fulfil the EFCA mission.

She touched on the recent establishment of the Sustainable Development Task Force that will play an important role in monitoring and identifying challenges and opportunities.

EFCA guidance to firms wishing to move into development cooperation

The EFCA Booklet ‘Introduction for engineering consultancies on tendering for EU development assistance’ is written by practitioners for (future) practitioners.



The booklet explains the way the European Commission implements development assistance and shows the priority areas of EU development funding and the processes by which projects are identified.

It sets out key steps in the process from the identification of tender opportunities over the development of tenders to evaluation. In each of these steps, it brings practical advice to engineering consultancies.

Moreover, it complements existing guidance as the industry itself highlights points for consideration by firms wishing to move into development cooperation.

The booklet, which was entirely reviewed by the EuropeAid Cooperation Office, is fully consistent with the relevant EU legal provisions. Furthermore, Director General Koos Richelle welcomed the EFCA initiative and signed the foreword.

<http://www.efcanet.org/pages/news.aspx?item=13406>

Excellent networking of European Young Professionals in Rome

The EFCA General Assembly congratulated the winner of the first EFCA Young Professionals competition on his award and all his enthusiastic competitors on the quality of their entries.

The jury was impressed by the outstanding quality of the 23 entries, which came in from all parts of Europe. The winners were selected on the basis of achievements to date, innovative capabilities, presentation, education and references.

The winner, Thomas Jensen, 31 years and employed by Orbicon | Leif Hansen, won the first prize for his project on innovative forms of cooperation in energy and process optimization.

Tamás Farago, Hungary and Yakup Engin Kahveci, Turkey, were selected as runners-up in the 2010 competition for engineering excellence among Young Professionals.



EFCA President Panos Panagopoulos	Thomas Jensen
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Many of the Young Professionals travelled to Rome to participate in the special programme, offered by OICE and coordinated by their Italian colleague Dino Altieri.

After the meeting, discussions were continued through the EFCA YP group 'Young Professionals within EFCA' on LinkedIn. A dynamic forum for exchanging ideas and network will be given to them on the EFCA website shortly.

EFCA will build on this success, with an even more outstanding occasion next year!

Active EFCA voice in European press

EFCA continuously increases its efforts to raise its profile and Europe-wide awareness of its activities amongst the media.

At the occasion of the 28 May 2010 Annual Conference in Rome, a journalist of Le Bulletin européen du Moniteur (France) interviewed EFCA President Panos Panagopoulos on key issues in European policies and EFCA's involvement with these issues.

The July issue of Construction Europe will carry an interview with ORI President Bernard Gilliot (Belgium) under the provoking title 'Engineering consultancy – Unlocking the potential of innovation'.

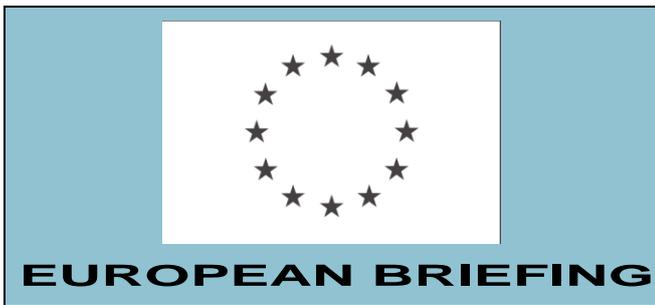
<http://www.khl.com/magazines/construction-europe/>

E F C A A G E N D A

European Public Market Committee	Brussels	24.06.2010
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	25.06.2010
European Consulting Future Committee	Brussels	30.06.2010
European Consulting Future Committee	Brussels	01.09.2010
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	07.09.2010
Board of Directors meeting	The Hague	09-10.09.2010
Task Force on Sustainable Development	Stockholm	08.10.2010 (09:00-15:00)
D&S meeting	Brussels	12.11.2010
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	25.11.2010
Task Force on Sustainable Development	Brussels	10.12.2010
Board of Directors meeting	Innsbruck	28.01.2011



The reports and presentations of the EFCA-OICE conference in Rome are available at <http://www.oice.it/adon.pl?act=doc&doc=316851>



ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Energy Efficiency in Buildings

The European Parliament adopted the recast of the 2002 Directive on energy performance of buildings in order to strengthen the energy performance requirements and to clarify and streamline some of its provisions.

Energy performance of buildings is key to achieve the EU Climate & Energy objectives, namely the reduction of 20% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and a 20% energy savings by 2020. Improving the energy performance of buildings is a cost-effective way of fighting against climate change and improving energy security, while also creating job opportunities, particularly in the building sector.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/buildings_en.htm

European portal for Energy Efficiency in Buildings: <http://www.buildup.eu/>

The Parliament also adopted the Energy Labelling Directive. Based on the Directive, the Commission will identify a number of products in the commercial and industrial sector with energy-saving potential which will also fall under the new labelling system. Additionally, the energy label obligation will apply to energy-related products, including construction products, which do not consume energy but "have a significant direct or indirect impact" on energy savings such as window glazing and frames or outer doors, says the final text.

Once published in the EU Official Journal, Member States will have one year to adapt their national laws to the new rules on energy labelling.

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Challenging Europe's technological leadership in deployment of energy efficient vehicles

The European strategy on clean and energy efficient vehicles aims to move on from short-term recovery measures to a medium-term orientation that strengthens the competitiveness of the European automotive industry by linking it to clean and energy-efficient technologies.

The new strategy will provide a supportive framework based on a twin-track approach: improving the efficiency of conventional engines and making ultra low-carbon mobility a reality.

The flagship initiative of 'Resource-efficient Europe' spelt out in the 'Europe 2020' strategy aims, among other things, to decouple economic growth from the use of resources and to modernise and strengthen the European transport sector.

The EU's global competitors on both the American and Asian continents are investing in research in low-carbon technologies and launching targeted programmes to shift to low-carbon road transport.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/automotive/competitiveness-cars21/energy-efficient/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/index_en.htm

Costs, benefits and options of moving to 30% EU greenhouse gas emissions cut

A European Commission analysis sets out the efforts required in the different key sectors to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions beyond 20%, up to 30%, and looks at the impacts of these efforts and the potential policy options to achieve them. The current context of constrained public finances and economic contraction is fully taken into account when assessing possible alternatives.

The Communication and analysis is to provide input for a fact-based discussion on the way forward in the European institutions and the Member States.

The reports examine costs and benefits of stepping up the level to 30% in 2020. The costs of meeting the 20% GHG reduction target have fallen by one-third. In 2008 the costs in 2020 were estimated at €70 billion (a year minimum). Now, they are estimated at €48 billion. However, not only costs decreased - so has the short term capacity of economic operators to invest in low-carbon technologies because of the crisis.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/future_action_com.htm

Improving bio-waste management in the EU

The European Commission lays out recommendations to reap environmental and economic benefits from improved bio-waste management in full.

Full implementation of existing EU policies and legislation supported by improved bio-waste management should deliver environmental and economic benefits estimated at between €1.5 and €7 billion, depending on the ambition of recycling and prevention policies.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/compost/developments.htm>

Two new European tools to combat biodiversity loss

Europe has set itself an ambitious target: halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Recent assessments concluded that the 2010 target will not be met.

To step up the fight against biodiversity loss and in connection with the targets set by the forthcoming revised EU Biodiversity Policy, two new tools were launched:

- BISE, the Biodiversity Information System for Europe, is a new web portal centralising information about European biodiversity in a single location.

<http://biodiversity.europa.eu/>

- The 'biodiversity baseline' is developed as a snapshot of the current state of biodiversity to establish the evidence base necessary for stepping up the EU action to address the European and global biodiversity crisis now. It will be used to monitor progress in the renewed efforts to halt biodiversity loss, and will allow trends beyond 2010 to be clearly established and measured.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eu-2010-biodiversity-baseline/>

INTERNAL MARKET

EU-wide harmonised conditions for construction products

The proposed regulation updates and clarifies the existing legislative framework and eliminates the remaining regulatory and technical obstacles to free movement of construction products. Once adopted, it will replace Directive 89/106/EEC.

The aim is to clarify the basic concepts and use of 'CE marking', to introduce simplified procedures to reduce costs incurred by enterprises and to improve the credibility of the system by imposing new and stricter designation criteria to bodies in charge of assessing the constancy of performance of construction products.

The text will be forwarded to the European Parliament for a second reading, anticipated to start in October/November 2010.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/construction-products/index_en.htm

State of play on the implementation of the Services Directive

Most member states opted for the adoption of one horizontal law to implement the Directive. In addition all member states needed to modify or abolish existing laws and regulations to ensure their conformity with the Directive.

'Points of Single Contact', which are to provide businesses with information on procedures and requirements through a single access point, do not yet exist or remain insufficient (Greece, Italy, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia).

A specific application of the Internal Market Information (IMI) system has been developed in order to allow member states to better organise the administrative cooperation to which 4,600 authorities are currently registered.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st09/st09475.en10.pdf>

Relaunch the Single Market before 2012

Mario Monti, former European Commissioner, proposes a new strategy to preserve the single market from economic nationalism and to extend it to new key sectors for European growth and to forge a consensus.

The former commissioner starts from the basis of a triple challenge: the loss of political and social confidence in European integration, the unequal attention given to components of the single market for it to be efficient and sustainable – in particular the new economic sectors that accompany an economy that is changing fast – and, finally, the feeling that the single market is an achievement of the past that does not require active promotion.

A White Paper, presenting concrete proposals for the relaunch of the single market, will be issued in 2011.

http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/pdf/monti_report_final_10_05_2010_en.pdf

EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

€172 million in funding available for Trans-European Transport Network infrastructure projects

The European Commission launched three new calls for proposals, making an additional €172 million of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) budget available to finance European transport infrastructure projects.

€8 billion has been attributed by the EU to the TEN-T programme for 2007-2013, in order to support studies or works which contribute to the TEN-T programme objectives.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is 31 August 2010. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of their relevance to TEN-T priorities and policy objectives, their maturity, their impact – particularly socio-economic and environmental – and their quality in terms of completeness, clarity, soundness and coherence.

For more information:

http://tentea.ec.europa.eu/en/apply_for_funding/follow_the_funding_process/follow_the_funding_process.htm

FP7 Energy Research Information Day - 2011 calls

In order to support the preparation of proposals for the new Calls for Proposals on Energy under the FP7, the Directorates-General for Energy and for Research are organising an Information Day in Brussels on 8 July 2010.

The aim of this event is to inform multipliers and potential applicants about the content and main legal as well as procedural conditions of the energy-related calls for proposals under FP7.

The calls for proposals are planned to be published on 30 July 2010.

For more information please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2010/energy_infoday/infoday_energy_en.htm

Extra €1 billion from Structural Funds for Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia

Poland will receive an extra €633 million, the Czech Republic €237 million and Slovakia €138 million in structural funds.

The extra funding over the next three years is a direct consequence of stronger economic growth than forecast in these countries.

The Inter-institutional Agreement on the 2007-2013 financial framework between Parliament, Council and Commission foresaw automatic adjustments for countries whose GDP had varied by more than 5% cumulatively over 2007-2009 compared to the forecasts when drawing up the framework.

The economic growth of Poland over that period was 8% higher than forecast, whereas Slovakia's and the Czech Republic's were respectively 10.8% and 7.5% higher than expected.

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

European Development Finance Institutions to establish joint climate change fund

Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Development Finance Institutions (EDFI) will establish a joint climate change fund to invest in private sector climate change projects in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, Asia and Latin America before the end of 2010.

The initiative has the twin aim of promoting sustainable development of private sector

climate change projects and strengthening meaningful co-operation between European Development Finance Institutions, AFD and the European Investment Bank.

Funding is expected to be provided by Agence Française de Développement, the European Investment Bank through the Cotonou Investment Facility and 12 EDFI members: BIO (Belgium), CDC (United Kingdom), COFIDES (Spain), DEG (Germany), FINNFUND (Finland), FMO (the Netherlands), IFU (Denmark), NORFUND (Norway), OeEB (Austria), PROPARCO (France), Sifem (Switzerland) and SWEDFUND (Sweden).

<http://www.edfi.eu/>

The Investment Facility for Latin America officially launched

The Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF) is established by the European Commission to mobilise additional financing in Latin America to support investment projects by bringing together EC grants with loans from European development finance institutions.

The LAIF will focus on interconnectivity and energy infrastructure, including energy efficiency and renewable energy systems, transport, environment, social services infrastructure and support for private sector development, in particular SMEs.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/latin-america/regional-cooperation/laif/index_en.htm

African Financing Partnership launched by leading Development Financial Institutions

The African Financing Partnership (AFP) is a co-financing platform amongst Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) active in private sector project financing in Africa. It aims to attract greater private sector investment for private sector projects in Africa with strong development outcomes.

The eight participating institutions are the African Development Bank (AfDB),

Deutsche Investitions-Und Entwicklungsgesellschaft MBH (DEG), Development Bank of Southern Africa Limited (DBSA), European Investment Bank (EIB), Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa LTD (DBSA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Nederlandse Financierings-Maatschappij Voor Ontwikkelingslanden N.V (FMO) and Société de promotion et de participation pour la coopération économique S.A. (PROPARCO).

The partnership will target financing of large-scale projects in infrastructure and industrial sectors leading to economic growth and job creation. Smaller innovative projects as well as investments in financial services, including SME and microfinance projects may also be considered. In practice the African Financing Partnership will enable one institution to coordinate on behalf of the others, as Lead Promoting Partner, and propose involvement of other institutions, thus minimizing duplication of efforts.

<http://www.afdb.org/en/topics-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/african-financing-partnership/>

Second revision of Cotonou agreement concluded

The ACP (Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific) - EU cooperation will be adapted to today's challenges, such as climate change, food security, regional integration, state fragility and aid effectiveness.

The Cotonou Agreement is the most comprehensive partnership agreement between developing countries and the EU. Since 2000, it has been the framework for the EU's relations with 79 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP).

The new Agreement aims to foster regional integration, to address global challenges and supports ACP countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It also focuses on the importance of regional

integration for ACP countries' economic and sustainable growth.

http://ec.europa.eu/development/geographical/otonouintro_en.cfm

EU action to speed up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

The European Commission calls member states to get back on track for more and better aid.

The EU Action Plan proposes ways to ensure increase of the aid by Member States and supports the need for innovative sources of financing. It also addresses the quality of aid: the Commission wants to make aid more effective, by sharing labour and responsibilities within the EU.

In 2009, the EU aid level has slightly decreased and amounted to €49bn. The EU donors, who are OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members, account for 56% of worldwide aid.

http://ec.europa.eu/development/services/dev-policy-proposals_en.cfm

http://www.oecd.org/document/11/0,3343,en_2649_34487_44981579_1_1_1_1,00.html

MISCELLANEOUS

Commission reviews rules for access to EU funds

The current reform of the Financial Regulation and the Implementing Rules includes proposals that will simplify procedural and documentary requirements for contractors and provide more scope for combining public and private funding.

The Financial Regulation contains all principles and rules which govern the implementation of the EU budget.

The reform of budget delivery mechanisms is necessary to adapt to new requirements:

- the revision strives to keep the balance between simplifying measures and

ensuring effective control of taxpayers' money (reduction of administrative burden for contractors);

- a flexible approach to public-private partnerships (PPPs). Currently, such partnerships have to adhere to all EU's budgetary and financial rules. In future, PPPs could apply the national legislation of the country where they are based;
- in the area of external actions (co-financing with other donors), it is aimed at streamlining relations with implementing partners (member state agencies, EIB, public and private operators). Also the EU will be able to create its own multi-donor trust funds.

The European Parliament and the Council will now examine the proposal. The Commission announced that the new Financial Regulation should be operational by 2012.

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/documents/financial_regulation_en.htm?go=t2_2#table-2_2

More innovation needed in Europe

The latest statistics show that the EU is having difficulty in catching up with the US in innovation performance, although it maintains a clear lead over the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China, despite rapid improvements in China.

The European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) is complemented by the European Innovation Progress Report, an analysis of innovation policy developments and governance in the EU 27 Member States.

<http://www.proinno-europe.eu/page/european-innovation-scoreboard-2009>

<http://www.proinno-europe.eu/page/european-innovation-progress-report>

Construction output up by 7.6% in euro area (March 2010)

In the construction sector, seasonally adjusted production rose by 7.6% in the euro area (EA16) and by 6.8% in the EU27

in March 2010, compared with the previous month.

In February, production fell by 7.2% and 5.3% respectively. Compared with March 2009, output in March 2010 dropped by 5.2% in the euro area and by 2.4% in the EU27. These first estimates are released by Eurostat.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/4-19052010-AP/EN/4-19052010-AP-EN.PDF

On the occasion of its annual Congress, FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation) presented the 2010 annual statistical report, showing a decline of 7.5% in overall EU construction activity in 2009 and a further drop of 3.7% in 2010. For further information, please contact info@fiec.eu

EU calls for exit strategy from protectionism

The Commission analysis (October 2008 - end of April 2010) shows a moderate, yet persistent, trend in the introduction of trade restrictive measures by G20 countries since the beginning of the economic crisis.

Maintenance of restrictions poses an important challenge for the EU, which is a large player in world trade, and risks the economic recovery.

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2010/may/tradoc_146198.pdf

CONSULTATIONS

Future Trans-European Transport Network

The Commission working document puts forward for consultation a possible methodology for a dual layer planning approach as well as ideas on more effective TEN-T implementation. The Commission has also further developed its reflections on financial and non-financial instruments for TEN-T implementation.

New TEN-T guidelines are expected to be presented in spring 2011, which will include the trans-European network based on the suggested methodological approach.

Deadline: 15 September 2010

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/consultations/2010_09_15_future_policy_en.htm

Towards a new Energy Strategy for Europe 2011-2020

The overall goal of European energy policy remains to ensure safe, secure, sustainable and affordable energy for all, business and consumers alike. The challenges of global energy security and energy geopolitics, slow progress in combating climate change at the global level, the urge to recover on growth and jobs in the EU and the need to invest in tomorrow's energy networks call for a new Energy Strategy to further deliver on those objectives.

Deadline: 2 July 2010

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/consultations/2010_07_02_energy_strategy_en.htm

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