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**EFCA advocates practical approach to MEAT**

*A proven Finnish standardisation approach is a simple technique that helps moving towards the evaluation on appropriate weightings for quality and price.*

At a meeting with European Commission officials in the context of the High Level Group 'Construction 2020', Aslak Liimatainen (architect, Finland) explained a practical approach to enhance the use of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) criterion.

One way of promoting MEAT in public procurement would be to introduce a standardized price/quality ratio assessment. By applying a statistical approach, variations in price and quality could be taken into

account as to reach an unbiased evaluation of the price to the quality ratio.

The [Finnish standardisation approach](#) is a straightforward instrument that allows awarding authorities to account for their decision (transparency). Moreover, it is limiting the preponderance of the price in the evaluation.

**DG DEVCO invites EFCA views on possible revisions of the PRAG**

*The Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) submitted a few proposed changes in the 2016 (Practical Guide on the contracting procedures applying to all EU external actions financed from the EU general budget and the European Development Fund).*

Early October, DG DEVCO notified four possible changes in the 2016 PRAG and requested the industry's feedback and opinion.

The Chair of the European External Aid Committee, Ines Ferguson, accommodated the views that the Committee members expressed, and submitted EFCA comments on four critical issues: advance information, permanent/project employment of key experts and freelance experts, the 80/20 quality price weighting, and the reference period for selection criteria.

DG DEVCO has duly taken into account the EFCA proposals for the 2015 PRAG: the liquidity ratio is clarified and softened, only reference to profile of experts hired in

previous projects is to be provided and not also their names, the liability is capped to the contract value (contracts under € 1 million), and under the 'youth for development' initiative, firms can employ a young person and invoice costs under incidentals.

### ***EFCA Task Force on Building Information Modelling to 'mirror' European BIM standardisation work***

*As liaison organisation in the new CEN Technical Committee (TC) 442 (BIM-Building Information Modelling), EFCA is contributing to the work to achieving a common data environment, enabling information exchange and use.*

The EFCA Board of Directors approved the set-up of the temporary EFCA task force to report on CEN/TC 442 and get feedback/recommendations from the membership.

Christophe Castaing (Syntec-Ingénierie, EFCA representative in CEN/TC 442) developed a proposal for Terms of Reference.

The Task Force will draw up an action plan at its first meeting in January 2016.

### ***National Directors engage in full and frank discussions***

*The half-yearly D&S meetings provide the forum to exchange information on market and business developments and national association best practices, and review the federation's activities and policy wins.*

At the invitation of Maurizio Boi, member of the Board of Directors, the Directors and Secretaries General held their autumn meeting in Sardinia.

The participants looked at the national use of the EFCA Barometer report and offered feedback on this year's EFCA conference in Oslo and the FIDIC D&S meeting in Dubai.

It was reported on the planned 2016 Regional Conference in Krakow, the 2016 EFCA YP Competition and EFCA's external communications.

The Directors discussed on how to promote the award of engineering consultancy services on the basis of the economically most advantageous tender.

The meeting concluded with three thought-provoking presentations: clients' engagement of brokers, digitalization, and globalization - working beyond national boundaries.

### ***EFCA and FIDIC profile the industry's role in the climate change debate***

*The joint EFCA-FIDIC Sustainable Development Committee is taking initiatives to highlight our industry's role in enhancing sustainability and to advocate a systemic approach to cities.*

The UNEP publication '[ABC for Sustainable Cities](#)', prepared with the support of FIDIC and Stellan Fryxell (STD) is due to be launched shortly. UNEP is currently exploring possible options for promoting the publication at COP21, and the preparatory sessions for HABITAT III. The ABC for Sustainable Cities is a compilation of relevant terms and definitions and will support the dialogue among stakeholders.

In the build-up to HABITAT III, FIDIC joined the [World Urban Campaign](#) (WUC), an initiative of UN-Habitat designed to increase public awareness and address the social, economic and environmental challenges of urbanization. Also, FIDIC issued a [statement](#) in support of COP 21 to position our industry in the climate change debate.

Within ISO/TC 268 (Sustainable development in communities), EFCA and FIDIC are closely following up the work on ISO 37101 (Sustainable development of communities – Management systems – Requirements with guidance for resilience

and smartness). In this context, they highlight that sustainable development is the overarching goal, while smartness is one of the means to achieve it, and they promote a conceptual approach to the city as depicted in the White Paper 'Rethink Cities'.

### **EFCA follows Fitness Check on the Construction Sector**

*The Commission is undertaking the 'Fitness Check' on the construction sector (buildings) to identify costs and benefits of EU rules, as well as overlaps, gaps and inconsistencies.*

At a meeting, in which EFCA participated, the Commission reported the results from a first study in the areas of Internal Market and energy efficiency.

The following relevant legal acts were selected for further analysis: Construction Products Regulation, Professional Qualifications Directive, Services Directive, Late Payment Directive, Energy Efficiency Directive, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, Ecodesign & Energy Labelling Directive.

The Commission will continue collecting factual evidence for the 'Fitness Check' and organise consultations with stakeholders.

### **2016 edition of the EFCA Young Professionals (YP) competition launched**



networking for new knowledge

*For six years, the EFCA YP competition has been highlighting the talent of Europe's next generation of leaders, and showcasing the diversity and attractiveness of a career in the engineering consultancy*

*industry.*

The competition is open to all professionals aged 35 and under, and working for firms in the membership of the national associations.

Entries are to be submitted through the national associations.

The prize winners will be officially announced at the award ceremony during the EFCA conference in Sofia on 3 June 2016.

The Sofia event will offer a special package for Young Professionals, with dedicated YP meetings as well as social and networking events.

Details can be found at <http://www.efca.be/YPs.aspx> and the LinkedIn group 'Young Professionals within EFCA'.

## E F C A A G E N D A

Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	27.11.2015
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	28.01.2016
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	09.02.2016
Board of Directors meeting	Dublin	19.02.2016
D&S meeting	Brussels	31.03.2016
Board of Directors meeting	Helsinki	22.04.2016
<b>2016 GAM &amp; Conference</b>	<b>Sofia</b>	<b>2-3.06.2016</b>



Directors and Secretaries General - autumn 2015 meeting - Sardinia



## EUROPEAN BRIEFING

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CE marking for construction products 'step-by-step' guide

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## INVESTMENT PLAN FOR EUROPE

### **Over €1 billion of equity investments for SMEs and start-ups**

*Since the start of 2015, the European Investment Fund (EIF) and equity funds across Europe have signed investment agreements worth over €1 billion which will provide equity financing for businesses.*

These agreements, which enable fund managers to invest in promising start-ups, SMEs and midcaps, have the full support of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the heart of the Investment Plan for Europe.

[http://www.eif.org/what\\_we\\_do/equity/index.htm](http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/equity/index.htm)

### **China contribution to #investEU**

*China is the first non-EU country to announce its contribution to the Investment Plan for Europe.*

The European Commission and the Chinese government agreed to set up a joint working group to increase cooperation between the EU and China on all aspects of investment.

Also they agreed on the establishment of the EU-China Connectivity Platform to explore synergies between respective infrastructure and investments plans and policies.

Finally, the EU encouraged deepened collaboration between China and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), including the examination of a possible membership in the EBRD in line with its rules.

[http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/jobs-growth-investment/plan/docs/factsheet-eu-china-investment-cooperation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/jobs-growth-investment/plan/docs/factsheet-eu-china-investment-cooperation_en.pdf)

## INTERNAL MARKET

### ***New boost to the Single Market***

*The Strategy's focus is on practical measures, helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups to grow and expand, promoting innovation, unlocking investments and empowering consumers.*

It is focusing on services and product markets and includes ambitious and targeted actions in three main areas:

- creating additional opportunities for consumers, professionals and businesses
- encouraging the modernisation and innovation that Europe needs
- ensuring practical benefits for people in their daily lives.

### ***Capital Markets Union Action Plan to boost business funding and investment financing***

*The Commission wants to remove obstacles to investment by deepening the single market.*

The **Capital Markets Union** (CMU) is a key pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe. It is a medium-term project with some important early initiatives.

One of the goals of the CMU is to help mobilise capital and channel it to the infrastructure and long term sustainable projects that Europe needs to create jobs.

Through amending the rules on how much capital insurance companies need to hold (Solvency II Delegated Regulation), it is aimed at creating better incentives for insurers to invest in infrastructure projects, in particular by reducing the amount of capital which insurers must hold against the debt and equity of qualifying infrastructure projects.

## EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

### ***Research and innovation: €16 billion investment over next two years***

*Almost €16 billion in research and innovation will be invested in the next two years under Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation funding scheme.*

The **2016-17 work programme** will support a range of cross-cutting initiatives: the modernisation of Europe's manufacturing industry (€1 billion); technologies and standards for automatic driving (over €100 million); the Internet of Things (€139 million) to address digitalisation of EU industries; Industry 2020 in the Circular Economy (€670 million) to develop strong and sustainable economies; and Smart and Sustainable Cities (€232 million) to better integrate environmental, transport, energy and digital networks in EU's urban environments.

All the calls and related information are published on a single portal (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>). See also: <http://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/horizon-2020>

### ***Various new ('Interreg') cross-border cooperation programmes adopted***

*The fifth programming period of Interreg for 2014-2020 has a budget of €10.1 billion, invested in over 100 cooperation programmes.*

The total value of a cross-border cooperation programme for Slovenia and Hungary is €18.6 million.

The cross border cooperation programme for Greece and Bulgaria is worth €129 million; the programme for Hungary and Croatia has a total budget of €73.9 million.

The new cross border cooperation programme 'Germany/Mecklenburg-

Vorpommern/Brandenburg/Poland' is worth €157.6 million.

The EU will invest nearly €118 million in the third Interreg programme for the German State of Brandenburg and Poland.

The "Manche-Channel" programme between France and the United Kingdom, worth over €223 million, will support innovation and the low carbon economy in regions bordering the Channel.

The descriptions of the 2014-2020 programmes are available at [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index.cfm/en/atlas/programmes?search=1&keywords=&periodId=3&countryCode=ALL&regionId=ALL&objectiveld=13&tObjectiveld=ALL](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/atlas/programmes?search=1&keywords=&periodId=3&countryCode=ALL&regionId=ALL&objectiveld=13&tObjectiveld=ALL)

The [public consultation](#) on the remaining obstacles to cross-border cooperation is open until 21 December 2015.

### **€135 million for smart growth in the Balearic Islands**

*The Commission adopted the 2014-2020 Operational Programme for the Balearic Islands, worth around €270 million, with nearly €135 million coming from the European Regional Development Fund.*

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/atlas/programmes/2014-2020/spain/2014es16fop006](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/2014-2020/spain/2014es16fop006)

### **First transnational cooperation programme for the Balkan-Mediterranean area**

*The Balkan-Mediterranean programme covers three EU countries (Greece, Bulgaria and Cyprus) and two candidate countries (Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).*

With national co-financing included, the total budget of the programme amounts to almost €40 million.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/trans-national/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/trans-national/)

### **€100 million transnational cooperation programme for the Adriatic-Ionian region**

*The programme involves four EU countries (Greece, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia), with the participation of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia.*

It will support the implementation of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian region.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/trans-national/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/trans-national/)

### **€365.5 million EU support Southern Mediterranean countries**

*The assistance package of €365.5 million will support private sector development, democratic reforms and better living conditions in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco.*

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/southern-neighbourhood/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/southern-neighbourhood/index_en.htm)

### **New EIB (European Investment Bank) climate lending strategy**

*The EIB Climate Action strategy consolidates the target of ensuring that at least 25% of its lending supports climate related investment.*

<http://www.eib.europa.eu/projects/priorities/climate-action/index.htm>

### **Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE) initiative ready to support projects**

*PF4EE is managed by the EIB and funded by the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE programme).*

The [PF4EE instrument](#) combines three elements:

- an EIB loan to support eligible energy efficiency projects to be managed by local banks;

- a risk mitigation mechanism covering up potential losses;
- dedicated advisory support.

**Second phase of Global Climate Change Alliance launched**

*The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) is the EU's principal means of delivering climate-related support to developing countries.*

GCCA+ serves as a platform for dialogue and exchange of experience between the EU and developing countries. It also acts as a source of technical and financial support for the world's most climate-vulnerable countries.

**European Investment Bank (EIB) supports African Renewable Energy Fund (AREF)**

*AREF is the first dedicated sub-Saharan African renewable energy fund and is managed by Berkeley Energy.*

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is the fund's lead sponsor. Besides the EIB, the investor group includes a mixture of DFI (development finance institution) investors and private capital.

<http://geeref.com/>

The current EU - ACP Partnership Agreement (Cotonou Agreement) will expire on 29 February 2020.

In addition to its political dimension and economic and trade cooperation dimension, the framework provides for development finance cooperation, attached to which is the European Development Fund (EDF). The EDF is a multiannual intergovernmental fund composed of direct contributions from EU member states. EDF is the only external aid instrument that does not fall directly under the EU budget.

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/public-consultation-eu-acp-new-partnership\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/public-consultation-eu-acp-new-partnership_en)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**New Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan**

The upgraded SET Plan proposes ten focused research and innovation actions.

**CE marking for construction products 'step-by-step' guide**

The [guide](#), available in all EU languages, is a useful new tool for manufacturers of construction products who are planning to CE-mark their products.

**Global megatrends assessment**

The [report](#) complements [The European environment — state and outlook 2015 \(SOER 2015\)](#) by providing substantially more in-depth information and data on global megatrends.

**CONSULTATIONS**

**The future of the EU's partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries**

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