

FEDERATION NEWS

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It is not the time for business as usual or for routine

New EFCA President Jan Bosschem sets the federation's 2011-2014 mission and key priorities.

Looking at the nature and scope of the challenges as well as the changing business environment and framework conditions, Jan Bosschem (Belgium) underlined the necessity to act collectively to succeed.

EFCA's 2011-2014 remit is to

- improve the market conditions for our industry in Europe,
- improve the value for money for our member associations,
- strengthen the cooperation between FIDIC and EFCA.

Strategic policies and concrete initiatives translate the mission.

Jan Bosschem explained his passion: *'I am convinced that stark choices are to be made and that the federation has the critical mass to provide the European industry with the leadership it needs to succeed in an increasingly competitive world'.*



Jan Bosschem

At the General Assembly meeting, both outgoing President Panos Panagopoulos and FIDIC President Gregs Thomopoulos welcomed the progress of implementation and the work done in delivering on the FIDIC-EFCA Agreement.

The most important thing for a young engineering consultant is to network

16 enthusiastic Young Professionals (YPs) from seven countries showed commitment to enhancing the value of their Europe-wide network and enjoyed the challenge of displaying their effective leadership in Berlin.

The 2011 EFCA YP competition and the conference created the opportunity for European YPs to demonstrate the broad range of their professional qualities beyond their technical competence.

The 2011 EFCA YP competition award was presented to Peter Bønløkke Adamsen (Denmark) during the conference. Peter had an interview on his input to the engineering consultancy, his ambitions in creating sustainable solutions to today's environmental problems and his innovative approach to nature restoration with 10 newspapers and showcased his project in the TV2 Fyn television news (http://www.tv2fyn.dk/article/302903?autoplay=1&video_id=41307).



The EFCA YPs showed further enthusiasm to engage with peers in the industry. They discussed both short- and long-term goals, communications and future activities, and elected their first steering committee.

The EFCA YPs are eager and excited to foster their networking and invite YPs Europe-wide to build their online and in-person community.

<http://www.efca.be/YoungProfessionals.aspx>.

Public procurement: EFCA promotes position of intellectual and creative services and value for money approach

EFCA submitted its policy paper and in-depth response to the Commission's Green Paper on the modernisation of public procurement.

To ensure a sound decision-making and investment of public funds, EFCA calls for changes in public procurement in two main areas:

- the procurement approach and procedure must be relevant and appropriate for what is being purchased. In the context of intellectual creative services, it means that the tender procedure and criteria should (a) lead to the selection of the best qualified consultant and (b) ensure meaningful negotiations on the client's needs and project issues that could add long-term benefits;
- selection based on short-term costs does not mean that the project is delivered with the least financial impact in the long-term. Consequently, appropriate level of attention should be given to quality issues such as lifecycle cost and all costs and benefits to society as a whole (sustainability, environmental impact etc.).

EFCA is now advocating these changes to the European Commission departments and, in cooperation with its member associations, to the Members of European Parliament.

At the occasion of a major Commission Conference on possible ways forward to a modernised EU public procurement policy, EFCA will issue a press release together with ACE (Architects' Council of Europe).

http://www.efca.be/Portals/EFCA/ELOKET/1934/EFCA%20reply%20to%20Green%20Paper_2011-04-18.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/modernising_rules/consultations/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/modernising_rules/evaluation/index_en.htm

Partnership and trust: fundamentals and foundation of winning business strategies

From new business models for staying ahead, improved human resources structures to strengthening innovation, the 2011 EFCA Conference addressed the way forward to a dynamic industry for the future.

A range of speakers looked at the industry's challenges and explored how to move these up to opportunities for leadership.

The conference made clear that engineering consultancy firms need to:

- provide evidence of the added value of their services - maximise clients' economic, social and environmental benefits and optimise performance;
- develop the necessary breadth of skills and expertise to manage complexity;
- establish a collaborative partnership with all project stakeholders, including an equitable risk and reward sharing;
- develop a human resource management strategy that supports the creativity and well-being of the staff;
- pursue and encourage innovation across all aspects of the business organisation and processes;
- bring in a holistic approach to design through matching planning and management capabilities.

The President concluded EFCA's 2011 Conference with a positive and hopeful message: 'engineer' is the most attractive profession according to a Belgian HR survey that was just published.

<http://www.efca.be/MeetingsEvents/Detail.aspx?detailid=1262>

Proposed European standard 'Engineering consultancy services – Terminology' launched

The European Committee for Standardization of terminology of engineering services (CEN/TC 395) adopted the proposals of the expert committees relating to the construction of buildings, infrastructure and industrial facilities on the one hand and industrial products on the other.

The proposed standards contain a glossary of key words and are to lower or remove barriers that engineering consultancy firms are confronted with in cross border operations and co-operations.

The reference vocabulary is intended to facilitate the dialogue between partners of different countries and areas of expertise.

The standards include a common reference framework (stages in the life cycle of built assets and industrial products) to which end users and engineering consultancy firms can 'map' their project specific scope of work in cross border projects, specifying what is included and explicitly excluded in their contracts.

The consultation round with the 31 CEN national members, who constitute the final decision-makers within CEN, will start shortly.

When adopted with the support of all EFCA member associations, the European standard will eventually raise our industry's visibility and recognisable identity.

State of the Nation report to stimulate debate on priority infrastructure investments

At their spring meeting, national directors and secretaries general exchanged best practices on how to challenge politicians, policymakers and the media to take a reality check on the need for improving the state of the nation's infrastructure and associated services.

Liv Kari Hansteen presented the 2010 RIF (Norway) State of the Nation report and explained its format and how it was compiled. The report was based on the FRI (Denmark) exercise and models.

The RIF report provides an assessment of the condition and performance of infrastructure in 11 sectors over a 10-year time span in order to demonstrate that the planning of infrastructure programmes should not be wholly driven by short-term political agendas.

Well-informed State of Nation reports prove relevant and effective reference points for compelling infrastructure reform and increase awareness of the need for investment in quality in design, which eventually is the major plank for long-term value.

However, more is needed than only hard evidence of the state of the nation's infrastructure to ensure that governments and local authorities act as intelligent clients.

VBI (Verband Beratender Ingenieure) calls for European actions to promote the industry's competitiveness

At the occasion of a joint VBI-EFCA Board meeting, VBI President Volker Cornelius highlighted concerns about joint and several liability under German laws and also insurance coverage and unlimited liability.

He emphasised that the diversity of liability and insurance conditions in the EU are important obstacles to cross-border trade and distort the level playing field for European businesses.

In a pragmatic way, EFCA supports the national associations by sharing knowledge about 'best practices' (including so-called soft law and standard conditions) as explained in the EFCA booklet 'Comparative study about consulting engineers' liability and insurance requirements across Europe'.

At a political level, EFCA supports the development of standardised European general conditions of contract (cf. EFCA response to the EC consultation on the modernisation of EU public procurement policy).

The meeting also discussed other critical issues for German engineering consultancies such as the practical use and need for updating and developing the Eurocodes, the mandatory use of statutory fee scales for German engineers only and the need to include a 'design quality' element in the engineering consultants' remuneration and reward for the costs to produce design quality.

Finally, VBI stressed the need for EFCA to effectively communicate about its output and policy wins.

E F C A A G E N D A

European External Aid Committee	Brussels	28.06.2011
Task Force on Sustainable Development	Paris	06.09.2011
European Public Market Committee	Brussels	08.09.2011
Board of Directors meeting	Santorini	23.09.2011
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	27.10.2011
D&S meeting	Brussels	18.11.2011
Board of Directors meeting	Budapest	09.12.2011
Board of Directors meeting	Geneva (tbc)	10.02.2012
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	20.04.2012
Board of Directors meeting	Lisbon	24.05.2012
EFCA 2012 Conference & GAM	Lisbon	24-25.05.2012



EUROPEAN BRIEFING

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More standards for Europe and faster

Construction Products Regulation published in Official Journal

Twelve levers to boost European competitiveness and to unlock economic growth and jobs by the end of 2012

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EU's innovation performance needs urgent and major improvements in many areas

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INTERNAL MARKET

More standards for Europe and faster

Standards are a decisive tool to promote sustainability, enhance European competitiveness and technological leadership in global markets.

European standards are sets of voluntary technical and quality criteria for products, services and production processes.

The Commission proposes a series of legislative and non-legislative measures to strengthen the system of standard-setting in Europe and to implement the commitments of the Europe 2020 flagships, Industrial policy, Innovation Union, Digital Agenda and Internal market Act.

The most important steps proposed are:

- push for more international standards
- develop more market-driven European standards for services
- propose a light and fast way to recognise the increasingly important ICT standards
- enhance its cooperation with the leading standardisation organisations in Europe
- involve organisations representing consumers, small businesses, environmental and social organisations in the drafting of standards.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/standardisation-policy/index_en.htm

Construction Products Regulation published in Official Journal

Compared to the 1989 Construction Directive, the new Construction Products Regulation (CPR) includes additional specifications for harmonized declaration of construction product properties, among others requiring declarations for sustainability (re-use, recyclability, durability and more) where applicable.

While the earlier Directive had to be adopted by each member state with the

option of national modifications, this new regulation will become law in all EU member states directly.

The CPR was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 4 April 2011 and entered into force on 24 April 2011.

On July 1st 2013 the CPD will be officially repealed and the new Regulation will come into full effect.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:088:SON:EN:HTML>

Twelve levers to boost European competitiveness and to unlock economic growth and jobs by the end of 2012

The Single Market Act sets out twelve priority actions, covering a wide array of sectors and ranging from access to finance for SMEs to strengthening services standardisation and high-performance European network infrastructures.

In the Commission's view, 'the single market is still the nucleus and the core economic driving force of the European Union, yet its growth potential has not yet been fully exploited, despite the progress made since it was created in 1992'.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/smact/index_en.htm

Do you need help to start a business in another EU country?

Thanks to the Services Directive, 'points of single contact' have been set up in each member state through which you can get all relevant information and complete all administrative procedures through one entry point.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/eu-go/

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Service innovation can give Europe a cutting edge

The report 'Meeting the challenge of Europe 2020 - The transformative power of service innovation' addresses the potential of services to transform whole sectors of the EU economy and demonstrates how service innovations can address global challenges.

The report stresses that building a competitive economy is not just about delivering technological innovation.

Companies must exploit those technologies, not only in terms of developing new products and services, but also in the way they cultivate new channels to market, new business processes, new organisational structures and new business models.

<http://www.europe-innova.eu/web/guest/innovation-in-services/expert-panel/publications>

EU's innovation performance needs urgent and major improvements in many areas

If the Europe 2020 strategy is to deliver smart sustainable growth Europe needs to close the innovation gap, i.e. the gap between the current research and innovation performance and the Innovation Union targets.

The 2011 Innovation Union Competitiveness Report provides a comprehensive analysis of recent trends and long-term evolution in research and innovation performance in all 27 EU member states and six associated countries.

It provides solid facts on which to base European and national policy choices to build efficient research and innovation systems and turn the EU into a true Innovation Union.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=competitiveness-report&year=2011

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm

Future of EU research and innovation funding

The Commission will use the outcome of the consultation on future EU research and innovation funding to develop its legislative proposals by the end of 2011.

The responses show a strong support for a greater involvement of industry and more coherence in the set of rules and procedures which govern EU research and innovation funding.

Generally, the European Technology Platforms (e.g. the European Construction Technology Platform (<http://www.ectp.org/>)) are seen as a valuable tool in ensuring that industrial priorities are well reflected in EU funding programmes.

At the same time respondents stressed the need to maintain flexibility and to tailor rules to specific groups of beneficiaries, such as SMEs.

EFCA contributed to the ECCREDI (European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation) submission.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index_en.cfm

EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

European Smart Cities and Communities Initiative launched

The EU's programme for the energy efficient cities of tomorrow has an initial funding of €80 million to support innovative model projects in selected European cities.

In an FP7 call to be opened on 19 July, teams of cities and industry partners can apply for EU funding in the fields of integrative management of urban energy

flows that also include transport, water and waste solutions.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/initiatives/20110621_smart_cities_conference_en.htm

Marco Polo 2011: €67.5 million euro of co-financing foreseen

This budget will allow the programme to finance around 36 projects whose aim is to shift the balance between transport modes and lean towards other less polluting modes.

The call for proposals, however, is only scheduled for the autumn of 2011. Formal proposals cannot be submitted until then, but in the meantime companies can start preparing proposals.

A Marco Polo help desk is at hand to assist companies (eaci-marco-polo-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu).

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/getting-funds/index_en.htm

€600 million public-private partnership on the Internet of the Future (FI-PPP)

The partnership will explore eight areas where this data revolution could spur innovation and jobs in the mobile, software and service industries.

The Commission has made available €300 million in funding over 5 years, with Europe's research organisations, public sector and industry committing an equal amount to this PPP.

Organisations from 23 EU member states or countries associated with the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) are participating.

Boosting and focussing the EU's research, development and innovation efforts is a key element of the Digital Agenda for Europe.

The Commission has set up jointly with industry a series of other innovation and

research related PPPs, notably the Green Car initiative, Factories of the Future and Energy Efficient Building.

www.fi-ppp.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/research/industrial_technologies/fp7-information-day-for-ppp-2011_en.html

More funds for European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

The revitalised ENP strategy seeks to strengthen individual and regional relationships between the EU and countries in its neighbourhood through a 'more funds for more reform' approach - making more additional funds available, but with more mutual accountability.

The EU decided to add €1,242 billion to the €5.7 billion allocated to the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) for the 2011-2013 period.

Additional finance from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will be secured.

The increased EU support is conditional: it will depend on progress in building and consolidating democracy and respect for the rule of law.

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/com_11_303_en.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

MISCELLANEOUS

Strong impetus to energy savings and energy efficiency

The European Commission proposed a new set of measures for increased energy efficiency.

This proposal for this new directive brings forward measures to step up member states' efforts to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain – from the transformation of energy and its distribution to its final consumption.

The Commission proposes simple but ambitious measures:

- legal obligation to establish energy saving schemes in all member states
- public sector to lead by example
- major energy savings for consumers.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/eed_en.htm

Implementing the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)

The EPBD is the main legislative instrument for improving the energy performance of the European building stock.

The 2010 report presents a broad series of practical implementation issues as well as details on the situation in all countries in the final quarter of 2010.

<http://www.epbd-ca.eu/>

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

Chinese procurement rules exclude European firms

A report from the EU Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) offers a detailed analysis of the typical bidding process and common challenges encountered by European companies competing for public contracts in China.

Currently, European companies are barred from much of the estimated US\$1 trillion Chinese public procurement market through poor implementation of overlapping regulations. This leads to substantial missed opportunities for European business in China.

The study is based on feedback from 74 European firms operating in China, which have competed for public tenders.

http://www.eurochamber.com.cn/images/documents/marketing_department/beijing/publications/2011/PP%20Study%20EN%20Final_0421.pdf

EIB proposes technical assistance to develop PPPs in the Mediterranean

With more than €300 billion of investment required to modernise public infrastructure and utilities in the southern and eastern parts of the Mediterranean by 2030, it is urgent for these countries to develop the private sector and to draw foreign direct investment (FDI).

The four pilot countries to which the EIB proposed to provide technical assistance for PPPs are Jordan, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia.

<http://www.eib.org/projects/events/9th-femip-conference-casablanca.htm>

Towards a European Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) system

The EU Environmental Technology Verification pre-programme (ETV) – operating on a voluntary basis as part of a build-up towards a formalised system – aims to generate independent and highly credible information about new environmental technologies.

ETV is open to all technologies ready for the market, presenting a potential for innovation and environmental benefit, in three initial areas:

- Water treatment and monitoring
- Energy technologies
- Materials, waste and resources.

<http://www.eu-etv-strategy.eu/index.htm>

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etv/index.htm>

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