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Basilica provides perfect and exceptional setting for EFCA-OICE dialogue on the future of the industry

OICE Board members, firms' representatives and members of the [Ordine degli Ingegneri della provincia di Napoli](#) engaged in a lively discussion on the engineering consulting firms' business models, cooperation models and strategic planning horizons.

Following a mutual introduction, Italian EFCA Board member Maurizio Boi set out the need to consider not only the past and present, but to look also at the future and new developments.



He explained how blockchain technology can help restore trust, and how smart contracts work.

Maurizio Boi called on his Italian and European colleagues to explore all transformative technologies and take a hard look at a truly innovative path.

Napoli - Basilica S. Giovanni Maggiore

Shortlist for 2017 YP Competition Award finalised

Entries for the 8th edition of EFCA's Young Professional competition came in from all parts of Europe: Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Romania.

The jury, Maurizio Boi (Italy), Kari Harsunen (Finland) and Nikola Matic (Serbia) particularly welcomed the five female participants, seeing women as an important and integral part of the engineering consultancy business community.



networking for new knowledge

This year's shortlist was an arduous decision for the jury, with the winners to be announced at the award ceremony in [Copenhagen](#) (1-2 June 2017).

The awards are part of the 2017 EFCA Conference "Global challenges – sustainable solutions: the role of cities, companies and consultants".

The jury's congratulations to all who have taken part for their imagination, motivation and determination in their daily work!

EFCA comments on current and future external financing instruments

In its response to the public consultation on EU external action, EFCA strongly advocates the disclosure of full procurement plans, harmonization of procurement procedures at European level and a single information source for calls for tenders (TED).

The Commission invited feedback on its external action, which is mainly composed of the External Financing Instruments (EFI) that provide support to third countries and people abroad. The consultation invited also ideas on the future external financing instruments after the expiry date of 31 December 2020.

EFCA highlights that the Commission needs to ensure that developing markets remain attractive to European engineering consultancy firms to work in.

FIDIC-EFCA task group to launch ISO 9001:2015 guidance

The 'Guide to the Interpretation and Application of ISO 9001:2015 in the Consulting Engineering Industry' will give practical and useful information not only on how to comply with the ISO 9001:2015 standard, but on how to do so in a value-adding manner.

It will help quality management professionals interpret the application of the standard.

The task group under the joint FIDIC-EFCA Risk, Liability and Quality Committee is finalising the publication later this month.

E F C A A G E N D A

BIM Task Force	Brussels	11.05.2017
Barometer Task Group	Brussels	15.05.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Copenhagen	01.06.2017
2017 EFCA GAM & CONFERENCE	Copenhagen	1-2.06.2017
BIM Task Force	Luxembourg	12.06.2017
Sustainable Development Committee	Brussels	14.06.2017



European External Aid Committee	Brussels	26.06.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Budapest (tbc)	7-8.09.2017 (tbc)
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	14.09.2017
FIDIC International Infrastructure Conference	Jakarta	1-3.10.2017
D&S meeting	Zürich	17.11.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	24.11.2017



University Gardens - Copenhagen



E U R O P E A N B R I E F I N G

€22.1 million to support synergies between transport and energy sectors

€800 million EU funding for cross-border energy infrastructure

€30 million for project development assistance

EU Official Development Assistance reaches highest level ever

EU Trust Fund for Africa

Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation develops 'Source' software

European Pillar of Social Rights

Urban Water Atlas for Europe

Good practice in energy efficiency

€22.1 million to support synergies between transport and energy sectors

Member states will receive funding from the [Connecting Europe Facility](#) (CEF) to invest in [seven actions](#) to speed up the deployment of alternative energy sources, with a special focus on electrification and multimodal transport.

Four of the selected actions refer to the transport priorities 'motorways of the sea', 'maritime ports' and 'multimodal transport modes' with emphasis on the gas sector (EU funding of €8.8 million). Two actions in the electricity sector address roads and multimodal transport modes (EU funding of €12.3 million). One action relates to smart grids, focusing on railway transport (EU funding of €1 million).

€800 million EU funding for cross-border energy infrastructure

The 2017 [call for proposals](#) under the [Connecting Europe Facility](#) (CEF) Energy will be open until 12 October.

Proposed projects, which can be either studies or construction works, will be evaluated against several criteria: state of maturity, cross-border dimension, extent to which they will remove bottlenecks to energy flow and end energy isolation of EU countries.

To be eligible, projects must be designated [Projects of Common Interest \(PCIs\)](#).

€30 million for project development assistance

[ELENA](#) (European Local Energy Assistance) is managed by the [European Investment Bank](#) (EIB) and financed by [Horizon 2020](#), the EU research and innovation funding programme.

The facility will provide €20 million to support the preparation of energy efficiency and distributed renewable energy projects. €10 million will be dedicated to sustainable urban transport and mobility projects.

ELENA funding can cover up to 90% of eligible project development costs, which may include expenses related to feasibility and market studies; programme structuring; energy audits; financial structuring and/or preparation of tendering procedures and contractual arrangements.

EU Official Development Assistance reaches highest level ever

OECD figures show that Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by the EU and its member states has reached €75.5 billion in 2016.

The EU's assistance has increased for the fourth year in a row and reached its highest level to date.

EU Trust Fund for Africa

The [Trust Fund](#) is a development tool that pools together money from different European Commission financial instruments, resources from the EU member states, Norway and Switzerland.

As of 10 April 2017, a total of 106 projects, worth approximately €1,6 billion, have been approved under the Sahel/Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa and the North of Africa regions.

Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation develops 'Source' software

Source, first developed by the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) and since 2013 managed and further developed by the Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation ([SIF](#)), is a project preparation tool. **FIDIC** is working in association with SIF.

It aims at supporting governments in the very early stages of the development of infrastructure projects as well as to inform contractors, investors and lenders on technical, economic, financial, etc. aspects of infrastructure projects before the tendering process begins.

European Pillar of Social Rights

The [Pillar](#) sets out 20 key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems.

The Commission supplements the Pillar with concrete legislative and non-legislative [initiatives](#) related to work-life balance, the information of workers, access to social protection and working time.

Urban Water Atlas for Europe

The [publication](#) gathers best practices of urban water management.

Good practice in energy efficiency

The Commission [guide](#) highlights results on issues like market uptake, energy performance, compliance, policy optimisation, reliable data and the upskilling of the construction workforce.

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