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**New EFCA President elected for a three-year term**

EFCA have appointed Kevin Rudden as President for a three-year term at their 2017 General Assembly meeting and conference in Copenhagen.



Flemming Pedersen  
Outgoing President

Kevin Rudden  
President

Speaking about his new role, Kevin Rudden said, 'The European Union is a unique political phenomenon, characterised by a diverse set of languages and cultural beliefs. Significant pieces of European legislation delivered by means of directives impact significantly on the engineering consultancy and construction industry when implemented in member states. EFCA play a crucial role in sculpting such directives so that issues, which critically impact on the industry, are addressed centrally rather than leaving them to be remedied individually in 28 member states.'

Kevin's first involvement with EFCA began in 2005 as a representative at the European Construction Safety Forum. He was later a member of the EFCA Working Party on the Temporary and Mobile Sites (Health & Safety) Directive 92/57 from 2007 to 2009. Since 2014, Kevin acted as Director on the Board of EFCA.

Kevin is a past President of The Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI) in 2015/2016, the voice of Consulting Engineers in Ireland.

## EFCA welcomes Ukraine, represented by Interstate Consultants Engineers Guild (ICEG)

The 2017 General Assembly meeting approved ICEG's entrance into the federation as Observer Member.

ICEG President Oleksandr Nepomnyashchyy said that *'ICEG representation in EFCA activities will significantly simplify the process of establishing horizontal linkages between Ukrainian engineering and consulting companies and their European counterparts. It will allow gaining valuable experiences in providing engineering and consulting services and practical application of standard forms of contracts'*.



### **'Sustainable urban development is a shared responsibility'**

Speakers at the EFCA conference "Global challenges – sustainable solutions: the role of cities companies and consultants", held in Copenhagen on 2 June 2017 underlined the need for a pro-active and risk-taking industry that builds its services on a cooperative dialogue with clients.

The conference illustrated the key role that consulting engineering companies play in addressing climate change: adaptation, mitigation and sustainability. Consulting engineers have the ability and knowledge to limit the gap between citizens and local authorities and make policy visions into reality. Working in partnerships with all stakeholders, they create solutions that are beneficial to all.

The legal framework for creating the right solutions constitute a double challenge. There is a mismatch between investments in, for example, power plants and the long-term targets that have been set for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. There is also a mismatch between the ambitions of EU regulation, and the initiatives launched by the Commission and the individual member states. Addressing this issue is a task for the individual European consulting engineering associations as well as for EFCA.

EFCA will raise the industry's voice and deliver its contribution to the forthcoming consultation (October 2017 – January 2018) on the EU Adaptation Strategy.

The 2017 EFCA Conference provided also the forum for networking opportunities to the European consulting engineering professionals, suppliers and clients.

## **EFCA [workshops](#) in Copenhagen examine strategic issues and dynamics of the business environment**

- Jaap De Koning, Chair of the Internal Market Committee explained the use of the right ceiling price in procurement in the workshop *Opportunities in EU procurement rules*.  
Thue Jørse's (City of Copenhagen) statements on 'What is the right procedure' and Malcolm Costigan (Danish Building and Property Agency) discussion about 'The right form of dialogue' set the stage for the debate on the ideal client-service provider interaction.
- Ines Ferguson, Chair of the European External Aid Committee presented the industry's messages to the European and bilateral financing institutions and development agencies in the workshop *Developing projects in Low and Middle Income countries*.  
Stephen Hart set out the perspectives of the European Investment Bank in the roundtable discussion.
- In the absence of Jean Félix (Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee), Peter Boswell (Bricad Associates) explained the use of a sustainability management system for cities based on ISO 37101.  
Marie Kåstrup (City of Copenhagen) presented the municipality's holistic approach to cycling infrastructure. Her colleague, Steffen Rasmussen explained how Copenhagen Solutions Lab is working towards smart urban solutions.
- During the BIM workshop, Christophe Castaing (Chair of the BIM Task Force) indicated that digitalisation and sustainability are drivers for change. He saw BIM as instrumental in climate change actions.  
Torben Klitgaard (BLOX) touched on the impact of digitalisation and disruption on the construction industry. Stig Brinck (NIRAS) shared a series of BIM project experiences in Denmark.

## **Paul Doherty (Ireland) wins 2017 edition of the EFCA Young Professionals competition**

'[The Irish Rail Cutting and Embankment Decision Support Tool Project](#)' where Paul Doherty played a key consulting engineering role is an excellent example of technical project delivery, innovation and sustainability.

Paul has established a successful engineering business that provides leading geotechnical designs to the international market. Through the recession period from 2011 to today, Paul has managed the sustainable growth of Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions from an initial headcount comprising just the two founders to a team of over 30 highly skilled engineers. GDG is now one of the leading geotechnical consultants across Ireland and the UK, with the workload serviced from offices in Dublin, London, Belfast and Edinburgh.

The jury congratulated the two runners-up: Samuele Ambrosetti (Italy) and Ask Tonsgaard Brüel (Denmark), and recognised the talent of Europe's next generation of leaders in our sector.



Certificates have been presented during an award ceremony at the annual EFCA conference on 2 June 2017 in Copenhagen.

### **Consulting engineers see continued market stabilisation and their outlook is positive**

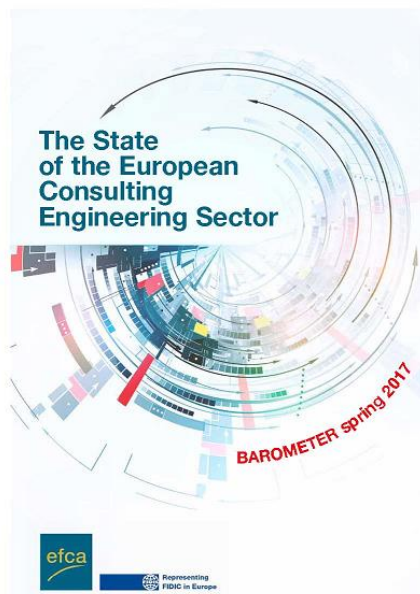
The latest [EFCA Barometer](#) shows a general improvement of the European market.

In general, the sector is reflecting the growth of European economies, particularly the level of investment in gross fixed capital formation.

Market signals are positive: thirteen out of 21 countries have seen an increase in the average order stock of the consulting engineering companies. In addition, fourteen out of 21 countries expect the total turnover of the consulting engineering industry in their country to increase, while profit-ratios are to remain stable or increasing.

Finally, there is an expectation that numbers of staff will increase in eleven out of 21 countries.

The sector is influenced by budget constraints of the governments across Europe. However, despite the retraction in the public market, order stocks of many consulting engineering companies are growing due to an increase in private sector demand. The most significant effect of this is, that across the European continent, an increasing number of companies encounter difficulties finding qualified staff.



Main challenges as perceived by the sector are low fees, lack of qualified staff, lack of investments, bidding cost and BIM. Moreover, political uncertainty is affecting the market, because some factors are not predictable such as the Brexit-related uncertainty, the general election in Germany, the geopolitical tensions and security threats in Europe.

See also: [European Commission Spring 2017 Economic Forecast](#) and latest [OECD Economic Outlook](#)



## **EFCA, ACE and OAI BIM working groups ready to position the industry and profession**

The Task Forces of EFCA, ACE (Architects' Council of Europe) and OAI (Ordre des Architectes et des Ingénieurs-Conseils) exchanged information on national initiatives and BIM standardisation.

At the invitation of OAI, the working groups met in Luxembourg to discuss business challenges regarding BIM uptake and to examine scope for possible joint action. Concern pertaining to the cloud providers' non-transparent price structures and cloud developments in terms of data ownership, transfer, location and preservation proved a subject for further debate.

The well-attended seminar 'BIM in Europe and Luxembourg – Topical events and pilot projects' concluded the constructive meetings.



## **Nordic engineers demand action on climate change**

Ilulissat, Greenland, reputed home of the iceberg that sank the Titanic, played host to the Annual RiNord Summit on 16 June 2017. The purpose of the summit was to highlight the unique contribution of Nordic consulting engineers towards reducing climate change by creating a more sustainable society.



This year's summit gathered representatives from all Nordic Countries and focused on Climate Change and Arctic Engineering. The UNESCO World Heritage site was selected to illustrate the real visual impacts of climate change. In less than a human lifetime – barely a blink of an eye in geologic time - the ice that once covered much of the sea around Ilulissat in the winter, allowing hunting, fishing and travel by dogsled is no more. A way of life millenniums old is lost here forever.

Speaking in Ilulissat, EFCA President Kevin Rudden highlighted that *'the summit was a natural progression of the theme of the recent EFCA/FRI Copenhagen conference on Global challenges – sustainable solutions: the role of cities, companies and consultants. Climate change is natural, but what is unnatural is the rapid pace of the change; a pace accelerated by a reckless disregard for the degradation of the planet.'*

The industry understands the continued development of green technology and is anxious to contribute with its know-how to attain a more climate friendly society. However, the development towards more sustainable building processes and climate friendly societies is too slow. To speed up the process better regulation and incentives are essential.

The Nordic consulting engineering industry can positively and uniquely contribute to the goals set in the UN 2030-Agenda towards a more sustainable way of living. This is not a mere aspiration; it's a necessity.

## **Sustainable Development Committee spotlights the industry at various international forums**

Aiming at maximising the visibility of the firms' solutions and contributions to smart, sustainable and resilient cities, FIDIC contributes to high-profile events organised by diverse UN partnerships and international business platforms.

Over the past weeks, FIDIC representatives attended meetings of the World Urban Campaign (WUC) Steering Committee, the UN Habitat General Assembly of Partners (GAP), Global Alliance for Building and Construction (GABC) and the International Sustainable Built Environment (SBE) Conference.

As part of its promotion activities, FIDIC is planning to showcase a series of the industry's best practices in working towards sustainability. Poignant and relevant examples can be sent to [efca@efca.be](mailto:efca@efca.be).

Furthermore, FIDIC is supporting the implementation of ISO 37101 (Management system for sustainable development in communities) through an awareness campaign.

Upcoming webinars, with the support of UNEP, ICLEI, ISOCARP and GLOBAL CITIES are scheduled in September and October 2017 [*for more information, contact [efca@efca.be](mailto:efca@efca.be)*].

Another area of Committee activity relates to international standardisation developments in the area of smart community infrastructures. Such standards will impact on the industry's scope of works and responsibilities for the whole life cycle of infrastructure eventually.

## New FIDIC suite of Agreements (Ed. 2017)

The consulting engineering industry welcomes the new editions of the White Book, the Sub-Consultancy Agreement and the Joint Venture Agreement.



The new agreements are brought up to date with current “best practice” drafting in relation to such matters as good faith and limitation of liability. They are designed to offer guidance and practical assistance to the industry on sound methods for collaboration in the provision of services to clients and communities anywhere in the world.

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

Internal Market Committee	Brussels	14.09.2017
BIM Task Force	Brussels	15.09.2017
Sustainable Development Committee	Jakarta	01.10.2017
<b>FIDIC</b> International Infrastructure Conference	Jakarta	1-3.10.2017



Board of Directors meeting	Budapest	12-13.10.2017
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	24.10.2017
D&S meeting	Zürich	17.11.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	08.12.2017



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

**Juncker Plan: more than 200 billion in investment set to be triggered**

**Single EU platform to access company information**

**European Construction Sector Observatory**

**Production in construction up by 0.3% in euro area (April 2017 compared with March 2017)**

**EU lacks market-creating innovation**

**'Europe on the move'**

**Strategy for resilience building in the EU's external action**

**Reflections on the future of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union**

**Scourge of protectionism on the rise**

**Public consultations**

## **Juncker Plan: more than €200 billion in investments set to be triggered**

With €209 billion in investments now set to be mobilised by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), an important milestone of two-thirds of the original €315 billion target is reached.

The [European Investment Project Portal](#) (EIPP) is acting as a match-making platform to connect project promoters with investors.

To make it even easier for project promoters to highlight investment opportunities, the EIPP reduced the threshold for eligible projects from €5 million to €1 million and withdrawn the registration fee required to upload projects.

**THE EU INVESTMENT PORTAL**

An **online** match-making platform to connect EU investment project promoters with investors **worldwide**

Over **160 projects listed**, 80% of which have been contacted by investors through the portal

**USING THE PORTAL IS NOW EASIER THAN EVER:**

- MINIMUM PROJECT SIZE LOWERED TO EUR 1 MILLION
- FREE SUBMISSION OF ALL PROJECTS (PUBLIC & PRIVATE)
- ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR PROMOTERS AND INVESTORS
- AUTOMATIC PROJECT NOTIFICATIONS FOR INVESTORS

#InvestEU  
#EIPP

European Commission

## **Single EU platform to access company information**

Citizens, businesses and national authorities will be able to search for information filed by companies in the national registers.

The [service](#) has been set up in close cooperation between the Commission and the Member States under the Directive on interconnection of EU business registers (BRIS).



## European Construction Sector Observatory

The [ECSO website](#) aims to inform European policymakers and industry stakeholders on the market conditions and policy developments through regular analysis and comparative assessments. It gives a wide range of industry data and analysis, from evidence on how member states are performing in relation to the five thematic objectives of the [Construction 2020 Strategy](#), to insights on national policy developments, trends and experiences.

### Production in construction up by 0.3% in euro area (April 2017 compared with March 2017)

According to [Eurostat](#), the 0.3% increase in production in construction in the euro area is due to building construction rising by 0.7%, while civil engineering fell by 1.5%. In the EU28, the stable level of production in construction is due to building construction rising by 0.2%, while civil engineering fell by 1.0%.

The 3.2% increase in production in construction in the euro area in April 2017, compared with April 2016, is due to building construction rising by 3.3% and civil engineering by 2.5%. In the EU28, the increase of 2.7% is due to building construction rising by 3.5% and civil engineering by 1.0%.

### EU lacks market-creating innovation

The [European Innovation Scoreboard](#) 2017 shows that still more can be done to improve research and innovation performance.

The Commission is taking action to improve conditions for innovation through initiatives such as the [Investment Plan for Europe](#), the [New Skills Agenda](#), the [Start-up and Scale-up Initiative](#), the [Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility](#) and the [Smart Specialisation Platform](#).

### 'Europe on the Move'

The Commission adopted a long-term [strategy](#) to deliver clean, competitive and connected mobility.

The set of initiatives includes legislative proposals to improve the functioning of the road haulage market and help improve workers' social and employment conditions.

A wide range of EU policy support measures are presented that are designed to accelerate the shift to a sustainable, digital and integrated mobility system (investment financing for infrastructure, research and innovation, collaborative platforms, etc.).

### Strategy for resilience building in the EU's external action

The aim is to identify how a [strategic approach to resilience](#) can increase the impact of EU external action and sustain progress towards EU development, humanitarian, foreign and security policy objectives.

The strategy puts a strong emphasis on anticipation, prevention and preparedness.

## Reflections on the future of EU finances

Following the [White Paper on the Future of Europe](#) presented on 1 March, the Commission looks at the options to make the EU finances a powerful tool that will help the Union to grow faster, ever closer, and leave no citizen behind in the globalised economy.

The White Paper marked the beginning of a process for the EU to decide on the future of their Union.

The fifth and final paper in the series on the [future of EU finances](#), and the ones on [deepening the Economic and Monetary Union](#), [harnessing globalisation](#), [European defence](#) and the [social dimension of Europe](#) will stimulate the debate and help build a broad consensus.

## Scourge of protectionism on the rise

According to the EC '[Report on Trade and Investment Barriers](#)', 36 more trade barriers were created in 2016.

Thanks to its effective [Market Access Strategy](#), the Commission however succeeded in 2016 to remove 20 different obstacles hindering European exports.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

### Road infrastructure and tunnel safety

The Commission launched an impact assessment process with a view to the possible revision of the EU road infrastructure safety management and road tunnel safety legislation. The [consultation](#) ends on 10 September 2017.

### 1996 database directive: application and impact

The [Directive on the legal protection of databases](#) provides for two types of protection for databases. Firstly, databases can be protected, when original, under copyright law. Secondly, databases for which a substantial investment has been made can benefit from the "sui generis" protection.

The public [consultation](#) is open from 24 May until 30 August 2017.

### Modernisation of EU company law

The consultation seeks to collect views from a broad range of stakeholders, as well as from the public on three points: 1) on the use of digital tools and processes throughout a company's lifecycle, 2) on the cross-border mobility of companies (mergers, divisions, conversions) and 3) on the conflict-of-law rules for companies.

The [consultation](#) is open until 6 August 2017.

EDITORIAL OFFICE: Kevin Rudden, Jan Van der Putten  
EDITOR: Anne Croisiau  
ADDRESS: EFCA Secretariat, Ave. des Arts, 3/4/5, B – 1210, Brussels,  
Phone: +32-2-209.07.70  
Fax: +32-2-209.07.71  
E-mail: [efca@efca.be](mailto:efca@efca.be)  
<http://www.efcanet.org/>