

FEDERATION NEWS

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New public procurement directives to ensure that our industry's independent role is safeguarded

At the same time that the Commission launched the proposed revised directives, EFCA voiced its opinion in a press release.

EFCA welcomed several draft amended rules, in particular those directed towards greater transparency in the competition for service concessions, stronger support for innovation, the new emphasis on sustainable development in procedures and award criteria and improved access for SMEs to public markets.

EFCA voiced concerns about in-house contracts of public authorities, as a result of which a considerable portion of public sector services is withdrawn from the market.

Moreover, when the in-house status is abusively used, the testing of value for money through a competitive process does not take place.

It is therefore essential that the role of consulting engineers as independent advisors is preserved, so that they can be powerful vectors in fostering fair competition, throughout the project lifecycle.

<http://www.efca.be/News/Detail.aspx?id=277>

EFCA welcomes proposed European Professional Card

The modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive responds to the need to have a smooth system of recognition of qualifications, enhancing the mobility of highly qualified personnel across Europe.

In the context of the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive, EFCA and a number of national associations expressed support to the introduction of the 'engineering card'.

The card facilitates the mobility of engineers across Europe and raises the distinctive identity and value of the engineering profession.

<https://www.engineering-card.nl/cms/>



1. Surname	8.		
2. Given Name			
3. Date and Place of Birth		Academic Studies	Date
4a. Date of Issue	A1	Bachelor	
4b. Date of Expiry	A2	Master	13.08.2008
5. Member of Association/ Organisation	A3	PhD	
6. Registration Number		Professional Experience	
7. Signature	B1	Employed in private/public companies	
8. Key for Qualifications	B2	Employed in public service	X
	B3	Self-employed	
		Further Education	Number
	C1	Training/seminar with attendance certificate	1
	C2	Training with final examination	1
	C3	Programmes with examination and degree	

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The proposed revised Professional Qualifications Directive will set the framework of the European professional mobility card.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualification/policy_developments/index_en.htm

Barometer to provide a snapshot of where the European industry is going

At their autumn 2011 meeting, the directors of EFCA member associations decided to develop a simple and internet based survey to have an overall reflection of short-term business developments.

A first exercise proved to reveal valuable information on turnover and profit trends over the past half-year and the industry's future outlook in 6 months' time.

A small working party now started the design of a standard survey and the planning of the analysis and format for reporting.

The national directors engaged to participate in the half-yearly e-survey on the current business situation and expected business activity. They will share the results at their meetings.

The information will also be reported on the EFCA website as from mid 2012.

EFCA-FIDIC closer cooperation emphasised

Jan Van der Putten and Enrico Vink as well as both federations' boards regularly review ongoing joint advocacy and actions.

Major common activities cover the following areas:

- **liability & insurance**: the co-branded FIDIC-EFCA policy statement on Limitations of Liability is finalised; a policy statement on joint and several liability will be jointly drafted;
- **industry survey**: the preliminary draft of the European section of the joint FIDIC-EFCA sector review, based on an analysis of national macro-economic data and sectorial reports is expected by March;
- **industrial engineering industry**: Enrico Vink is sitting on the task force, which will among other things, develop a standard agreement for the appointment of industrial engineering firms;
- **sustainable development**: the EFCA Board agreed to the potential merger of the FIDIC Sustainable Development committee, the FIDIC Climate Change task group and the FIDIC-EFCA Innovation and Engineering task group in the EFCA Sustainable Development task force. FIDIC is invited to appoint representatives from other regions. FIDIC and EFCA will provide support to the English translation of the Carnet de Bord Développement Durable (CBDD®) and be member of the consultative committee for the development of PSLB® (Project Sustainability Logbook), coordinated by Syntec-Ingénierie. The consultative committee's aim is to create a platform for the use of PSLB® and related database on standards, tools, indicators, best practices and regulation at international, European, and national level (i.e. CEN/ISO information respectively);
- **Young Professionals**: the respective YP groups will examine how to better work together and integrate activities.

AHCEA reports on Hungarian business trends and presents AHCEA agenda

At a joint meeting in Budapest, the AHCEA (Association of Hungarian Consulting Engineers and Architects) board and EFCA board members discussed major issues that have an impact on the firms.

AHCEA President Gyula Bretz reported on market developments and changes in business conditions.

József Éhn set out the major issues in the ongoing review of both the Hungarian and European public procurement law and highlighted the need for professionalising the procurement process to ensure long-term quality results.

Károly Lèderer explained the increasing activity of the AHCEA Dispute Adjudication Board and its internal collaboration to improve the process of resolving a dispute. The EFCA Board heard from József Visontai about problems in the translation of the Eurocodes in the national language.

Finally, four AHCEA Young Professionals presented their views on their professional future and the challenges to the European engineering consultancy industry.

EFCA President Jan Bosschem then explained EFCA's priorities. He expressed appreciation for AHCEA's effective communications on EFCA activities and policy wins with its membership and colleagues in the central and eastern European region.



2012 EFCA Young Professionals competition running

The deadline for submissions, on 16 March 2012, is only 8 weeks away.



The entries will be judged on 23 March, and the award ceremony will take place during the 25 May 2012 Lisbon conference.

networking for new knowledge

Details can be found at <http://www.efca.be/YPs.aspx>

and the LinkedIn group 'Young Professionals within EFCA'.

The **YP Forum** in Lisbon will take place the day prior to the conference.

The programme, being prepared by the YP steering committee, will be announced in February.

The **EFCA YP News**, containing reports and information on activities at both national and European level, is available at:

<http://www.efcanet.org/Portals/EFCA/EFCA%20files/YP/YP%20News%202011%20Autumn.pdf>

2011 STD Sector Review

STD, the Swedish Federation of Consulting Engineers and Architects, published its annual sector survey and market review.



The Sector Review presents economic and market developments in Sweden and the Nordic countries along with an international outlook.

A printed copy can be ordered at: http://www.std.se/in_english_1/the_sector_review

E F C A A G E N D A

Working Party 'Report Sustainable cities'	Brussels	26.01.2012
Board of Directors meeting	Bern	09&10.02.2012
D&S meeting	Belgrade	02.03.2012
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	08.03.2012
Sustainable Development Task Force	Brussels	22.03.2012
European Consulting Future Committee	Lisbon	30.03.2012
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	27.04.2012
Board of Directors meeting	Lisbon	24.05.2012
EFCA 2012 Conference & GAM & YP Forum	Lisbon	24-25.05.2012
D&S meeting	Luxembourg	16 or 23.11.2012 (tbc)



*Happy New Year 2012
from the EFCA Secretariat*



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Public procurement: revised thresholds from 1 January 2012

Revised Government Procurement Agreement

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New ePRAG tool

Commission earmarks €96 billion for external instruments (2014-202)

€62.5 million allocated to Eastern Partnership countries

Plan for green growth and eco-innovation

€80 billion programme for investment in research and innovation (2014-2020)

€2.5 billion Business Competitiveness and SME programme (2014-2020)

Encouraging funding of business

€3.2. billion budget for LIFE (2014-2020)

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INTERNAL MARKET

Directive on concessions: completing the European legal public procurement framework

The purpose of a new directive on concessions is to propose a comprehensive, clear and unambiguous set of provisions in the area which so far has been characterized by a continuous uncertainty and erroneous interpretation.

The draft directive encompasses concessions in both the classic and the utilities sector.

The Commission considers a legislative proposal in the field of concessions as one of the key measures that will facilitate the setting up of PPPs, and as such considers it as a means of stimulating economic recovery in the context of the current economic downturn.

The Commission's proposals are transmitted to the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament with a view to launching the legislative procedure for their adoption, scheduled by the Single Market Act to take place before the end of 2012.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/modernising_rules/reform_proposals_en.htm

Public procurement: revised thresholds from 1 January 2012

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/rules/current/index_en.htm

Revised Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

According to the European Commission, the main gains of the revised GPA are 'more transparent rules for international public procurement, new market access opportunities and, accession and benefits for developing countries'.

The GPA governs the procurement activities of its parties and is the only legally binding agreement in the WTO on the subject of government procurement.

It is a multilateral treaty with 15 parties: Armenia, Canada, EU, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands with respect to Aruba, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei and the United States.

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/creating-opportunities/trade-topics/public-procurement/>

New ePRAG Tool



A new online application is available, putting The Practical Guide to

Contract Procedures for European Union External Actions (PRAG) online in an easy to use format.

The PRAG contains all rules and templates that must be applied by the Commission and decentralised contracting authorities as well as those submitting tenders under contract award procedures for EU external actions. This makes it a very comprehensive, but increasingly hefty, set of documents.

With ePRAG, EuropeAid developed a more user-friendly application to enable users to search and access the guide and associated annexes.

The ePRAG application allows enhanced navigation through the ePRAG texts, leading users through sections, links and hyperlinks. Users also have the option to view the site and its contents in one of a number of languages.

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/eprag/document.do>

Instructional video:

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/article/introduction-new-eprag-tool>

Commission earmarks €96 billion for external instruments (2014-2020)

The range of instruments will support developing countries as well as countries in the European neighbourhood and those that are preparing accession into the EU.

This budget will also enable the EU to further reinforce its role on the global stage and promote its interests and values.

One of the major innovations and a key external policy tool is the new Partnership Instrument.

It will aim to advance and promote EU interests and to address major global challenges. It will also allow the EU to pursue agendas beyond development cooperation with industrialised countries, emerging economies, and countries where the EU has significant interests.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/mff/eu-budget_en.htm

€62.5 million allocated to Eastern Partnership countries

The second part of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) for 2011 will address challenges in a wide range of sectors relevant for the whole region, such as integrated border management, territorial cooperation, youth, climate change and transport.

The EU supports the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) with a budget of €350 million over the period of 2010-13.

<http://www.enpi-info.eu/eastportal/content//361/EuroEast%20Projects>

Plan for green growth and eco-innovation

Eco-innovation is crucial to delivering the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The new Eco-Innovation Action Plan is one of the commitments of the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative.

The Action Plan will accelerate eco-innovation across all sectors of the economy with well targeted actions.

Main lines of actions are in the areas of regulatory incentives, private and public

procurement and standards. It will mobilise support for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to improve investment readiness and networking opportunities.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/index_en.html

The Action Plan also provides for the 'Environmental technology verification' (ETV) pilot programme.



Independent verification of the performance of new environmental technologies will

help manufacturers demonstrate the reliability of performance claims, with the aim of reducing risks and help investors 'make the right choice'.

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

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

€80 billion programme for investment in research and innovation (2014-2020)



Horizon 2020 will bring together all EU research and innovation funding under a single programme.

Horizon 2020 is a key component of the Innovation Union flagship under the 'Europe 2020' strategy.

The programme will implement a number of Innovation Union action points, namely focus on societal challenges, simplify access and involve SMEs, support public procurement of innovation, facilitate collaboration, and support research on public and social innovation.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=home

€2.5 billion Business Competitiveness and SME programme (2014-2020)



The proposed programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) is a funding instrument that is largely continuing the activities under the current Competitiveness and Innovation programme (CIP).

It will focus on three general objectives:

- improve access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt;
- improve access to markets inside the Union and globally;
- promote entrepreneurship.

The programme is expected to assist 39,000 firms, helping them create or save 29,500 jobs and launch 900 new business products, services or processes, yearly.

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

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/cosme/index_en.htm

Encouraging funding of business

The Action Plan to improve access to finance for SMEs presents the various EU policies and measures to make access to finance easier for Europe's 23 million SMEs.

To encourage private investment, the Commission proposes two new regulations. The first will allow venture capital funds to raise funds across Europe for the benefit of start-ups, while the second will help investors to identify funds that focus on investing in European social businesses.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/finance/index_en.htm

€3.2 billion budget for LIFE (2014-2020)

The Commission proposed to address environment and climate action as an integral part of all main EU instruments and interventions.

LIFE will coordinate the various sources of financing, will fill potential gaps and support 'integrated' projects.

In addition, the LIFE Programme, currently regulated by the LIFE+, will be continued.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/beyond2013.htm#proposal>

MISCELLANEOUS

Europe's Buildings under the Microscope

The Building Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) analysed Europe's building stock (EU 27 as well as Switzerland and Norway) including building characteristics, building codes and other regulatory measures.

The survey provides an EU-wide picture of the energy performance of the building stock and how existing policies influence the situation.

http://www.bpie.eu/eu_buildings_under_microscope.html

The data was used to develop scenarios that show pathways to making the building stock much more energy efficient, in line with the energy 2050 roadmap.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy2020/roadmap/index_en.htm

Eye on Earth: global mapping and information service

The new Eye on Earth global public information service brings together vast amounts of data about the environment in a powerful, visual format.

The web service takes the form of online maps, which can be manipulated by users. They can choose to add a huge variety of layers to the map – for example showing pollution, social development, economic factors, land use, transport – to create new insights.

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

Proposed reformed VAT system

The current EU VAT system no longer fits with a service-driven, technology-based economy.

The Communication on the future of VAT sets out the fundamental characteristics that must underlie the new VAT regime.

Objectives of the proposed changes are:

- VAT must be made more workable for businesses
- VAT must be made more efficient in supporting Member States' fiscal consolidation efforts and sustainable economic growth
- a more robust, fraud-proof system.

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/vat/key_documents/communications/index_en.htm

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