

FEDERATION NEWS

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European standard for engineering services: successful end of inclusive process with all stakeholders

EN 16310 and EN 16311 standards are the first formal recognition of the engineering services sector at European level.

For three years EFCA actively participated in European standardisation work that will facilitate cross-border activities.

The result of the work is a Europe-wide reference vocabulary that aims at facilitating the dialogue between partners originating from different countries and/or professions.

This standard on 'Terminology to describe the engineering services in construction of buildings, infrastructure and industrial facilities' and the second standard on 'Terminology to describe the engineering services for industrial products' were adopted early November and will be formally launched early 2013.

October 2012 Barometer sees drop in confidence about the future

Compared to the November 2011 EFCA Barometer results, business confidence is slipping away.

At their autumn meeting, Directors of the national associations looked at an analysis of 13 responses to the half-yearly e-survey on current country market trends and expected business activity.

These partial results showed lower confidence about the future than 6 months ago in most European countries.

For more information, please contact the secretariat (efca@efca.be).

2013 edition of the EFCA Young Professionals (YP) competition launched

The EFCA YP awards recognise and celebrate the talent of Europe's next generation of leaders in the engineering consultancy sector.



networking for new knowledge

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

The winner will be invited to Barcelona to participate in the EFCA/FIDIC YP meetings and the FIDIC Centenary Conference (15-18 September 2013).

Entries are to be submitted through the national associations.

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

Permanent Representations welcome added value of dialogue with EFCA

Representatives of the Permanent Representations echo the national industry's views at the half-yearly follow-up meetings on matters relating to EU external aid with the European consultancy industry federations EFCA and FEACO (management consultancy). At the same time, they take back information on Europe-wide issues of concern.

The October 2012 meeting focused on the revision of the PRAG 2013 (Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions), the foreign expenditure heading in the EU multiannual financial framework 2014-2020, and the ongoing reassessment of budget support cooperation.

The spring 2013 follow-up meeting will touch on 'blending', i.e. the complementary use of grants and loans in external assistance, and its impact in practice and on business opportunities for the European consultancy industry.

Public Procurement Directive: EFCA stresses the industry's priorities

In its latest contribution to the parliamentary debate, EFCA highlighted that the Directive must set a framework to ensure the transparency of the process, and for intellectual services, added value in the form of lifecycle analysis, sustainability and innovation.

EFCA's Internal Market Committee is moving forward the industry's key issues during the European Parliamentary considerations.

The comments that EFCA submitted are based on the principle that the procurement approach and procedure must be relevant and appropriate in relation to what is being purchased and the objective pursued.

Against this general principle and the broader sustainability objectives, EFCA commented the proposed rules on in-house activities, division of contracts into lots, the weight of price in the evaluation of the most economically advantageous tender for intellectual services, and modification of contracts (and scope of services).

Sustainable Development Committee set to advocate the industry's expertise

The committee - working on global issues with direct input from the European industry and with Jean Félix, EFCA Vice-President as chair, and Alain Bentéjac from the FIDIC Executive Committee as active participant - will release its White Paper 'Rethink Cities' at the 2013 FIDIC Conference in Barcelona.

Subsequent to the advance presentation of the FIDIC-EFCA White Paper 'Rethink Cities' at the UNEP-SBCI symposium in the run-up to Rio+20, the committee decided to review and update the document. The White Paper is to promote 'sustainable urban design', place the industry at the heart of sustainable urban planning, and demonstrate the role the industry can play in creating resilient and sustainably liveable cities.

Early November, committee chair Jean Félix made a presentation on 'The engineering consultancy industry's approach to sustainable development and climate change' at a workshop, organised by DG CLIMA (Directorate-General for Climate Action).

At this occasion he explained planned developments of the Project Sustainability Logbook (PSL).

<http://fidic.org/node/973>

E F C A A G E N D A

Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	14.12.2012
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	17.01.2013
Industrial and Private Market Task Force	Brussels	29.01.2013
FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Development Committee	Brussels	30.01.2013
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	08.02.2013
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	28.02.2013 (tbc) Alternatives: 21.03 or 25.04.2013
Board of Directors meeting	Sofia	12.04.2013
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	30.05.2013
General Assembly Meeting	Brussels	31.05.2013



EFCA D&S meeting, Luxembourg 16 November 2012
Farewell of Timo Myllys



EUROPEAN BRIEFING

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INTERNAL MARKET

Public procurement implementation review

The European Commission published the first edition of the 'Annual public procurement implementation review'.

The Review takes stock of the current state of play of the implementation of the European procurement acquis in the EU.

The Commission intends to use the review as a knowledge-sharing tool, the findings of

which will feed into and drive new policy initiatives.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/implementation/index_en.htm

EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

New spending rules for EU funds

The revised Financial Regulation, setting the principles of the EU budget, and new Rules of Application, will start to be applied as from 1 January 2013.

The new legislation increases transparency and introduces higher accountability for anyone dealing with EU finances.

The new Financial Regulation provides a solid harmonised framework for financial instruments, i.e. support measures in the form of loans, and equity participations including risk capital or guarantees.

The new rules will also facilitate partnerships with the European Investment Bank group.

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/biblio/documents/regulations/regulations_en.cfm

€158 million assistance package for Somalia

The EU will provide continued development support across Somalia through 6 new programmes in three focal sectors.

The 2012 package will target the following sectors: governance and security, education and economic development.

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/somalia/index_en.htm

EU to invest €81 million to support key reforms in Albania

The funding comes under the 2012 annual programme for Albania of the EU's

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA).

The funds will be used to address key priorities such as the reform of the judiciary, the fight against organised crime, and the reform of the public administration system. Infrastructure funding will contribute to constructing the Rogozhina bypass and rehabilitating the sewerage system in Vlora.

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/instruments/funding-by-country/albania/index_en.htm

€63 million to support Kosovo's efforts to implement EU-reform agenda

Reforms to increase the efficiency of the judicial system, improve public administration and promote a more dynamic and resilient private sector are key priorities of EU assistance in Kosovo.

The Commission will continue to consult closely with the Kosovo authorities and other donors to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of EU funding and support.

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/countries/detailed-country-information/kosovo/index_en.htm

Strong signals of strengthened EU support for Egypt's development

Through the Commission, the European Investment Bank and the EBRD, the EU-Egypt Task Force pledged to provide nearly €5 billion in loans and grants for 2012-2013.

The EU committed to provide additional funding of nearly €800 million for 2012-2013 (303 million in grants and 450 million in loans). This is on top of the €449 million already provided for the 2011-13 period.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) announced potential lending of up to €1.7 billion for 2012-13, and a new Task Force fund that can provide funds of up to €60 million for countries in transition.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) confirmed the start of

operations in Egypt and announced plans for lending of up to €1 billion per year.

http://eeas.europa.eu/egypt/index_en.htm

Initiatives to boost private investment in the Neighbourhood

The first new initiative is the Investment Security in the Mediterranean Region (ISMED) Support Programme that will be implemented together with the Organisation of Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD). A budget of €1.5 million is foreseen for the programme.

The second one is the ISMED Risk and Cost Sharing Toolkit of the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF). It will provide targeted measures like support to risk-sharing mechanisms (making funds available to help private investors by reducing their exposure to risk) and guarantee schemes addressing risk as a major obstacle for private investments. A sizeable part of the €220 million EU grants available to the Neighbourhood Investment facility until the end of 2013 will serve to underpin this initiative.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/irc/investment_en.htm

MISCELLANEOUS

Comprehensive overhaul of EIA Directive

After 25 years of application, the Directive on the assessment of the impact of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive) will be adapted to policy, legal and technical developments.

The proposal will now be considered by the European Parliament and the Council. Once the text is agreed, it will become EU law.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/home.htm>

Action plan for the EU automotive industry

The CARS 2020 Action Plan aims to help strengthen the EU's automotive industry's competitiveness and sustainability between now and 2020.

The Action Plan comprises proposals for policy initiatives to stimulate innovation.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/automotive/competitiveness-cars21/cars21/index_en.htm

Climate change evident across Europe, confirming urgent need for adaptation

The European Environment Agency (EEA) report 'Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2012' presents information on past and projected climate change and related impacts in Europe.

It assesses the vulnerability of society, human health and ecosystems and identifies those regions most at risk from climate change.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-impacts-and-vulnerability-2012>

Guidelines on the design of sustainable navigation

The guidelines 'Inland waterway transport and Natura 2000' take a holistic approach to inland waterway transport and nature protection.

The document emphasizes the benefits of integrated planning, whereby environmental requirements are taken into consideration at every stage of infrastructure development process and the participation of different stakeholders is ensured.

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Previously published guidelines concerned wind energy, non-energy mineral extraction industry and developments in ports and estuaries.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm

Access to bank loans declines

According to a study undertaken by the European Central Bank (ECB) and the European Commission, the building sector has been particularly affected by access problems (34%).

The study observes that the rate of rejection on bank loans totalled 15% (in comparison with a previous 13%), its highest level since the second half of 2009.

<http://www.ecb.int/pub/pdf/other/accesstofinancsmallmediumsizedenterprises201211en.pdf?6a12bbf670118e42c92404c2fe82e25>

Globalisation brings opportunities for EU industries

The focus of the 2012 edition of the European Competitiveness Report is on maximizing the benefits of globalization.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/_getdocument.cfm?doc_id=7657

CONSULTATIONS

Consultation on e-invoicing in public procurement

Deadline: 14.01.2013

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2012/einvoicing_en.htm

