

## FEDERATION NEWS

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### ***EFCA examines impact of revised EU public procurement rules***

*EFCA's Internal Market Committee identifies the industry's major issues in the proposed final texts of the reform.*

In June, the Irish Council Presidency announced agreement with European Parliament representatives on the new legislative package. This was endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) on 17 July. On 5 September, the IMCO (Internal Market and Consumer Protection) Committee in the European Parliament positively voted on the agreement. The final plenary vote is scheduled for November.

EFCA's Internal Market Committee started to outline potential implications of the new rules for the engineering consultancy industry.

The Committee will identify challenges in the national transposition of the new Directive, including options that are left to the discretion of the member states and best practices.

It will provide targeted guidance on key concepts that are relevant for the industry in order to assist the national associations in influencing the drafting of the national implementing regulations.

### ***Commission invites the industry's ideas for the practical implementation of the European professional card***

*EFCA is providing concrete input on the adaptation of the Engineering Card into the European system of recognition of professional qualifications to the Commission (DG Internal Market and Services).*

To date, 11 FEANI members introduced the Engineering Card in their country: Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Portugal, FYRO Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia, Ireland, Netherlands and Luxembourg.

In the context of the preparatory work for the implementation of the revised Professional Qualifications Directive, the Commission is now seeking proposals on how to integrate FEANI's and the engineering profession's expertise in the use of its physical tool (i.e. the Engineering Card) into the European electronic certification procedure.

The European professional card will be an electronic certificate, issued by the professional's country of departure to facilitate the automatic recognition in the host country. The card will accelerate the recognition procedure and reduce the administrative burden for professionals.

The matter was also discussed in the Working Group on the Internal Market, in which EFCA is represented. The Working Group is established by the Commission in the framework of the High Level Group on Business Services, which is to provide a new impetus to policy development.

Meanwhile the Commission is inviting member states to review their restrictions on the access to professions and to assess their proportionality.

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/qualification\\_s/policy\\_developments/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualification_s/policy_developments/index_en.htm)

### ***EFCA and FIDIC consolidate and reinforce close cooperation***

*FIDIC President Geoff French and EFCA President Jan Bosschem signed the revised cooperation agreement to enhance mutual effectiveness for both federations' distinctive missions.*

The new agreement defines EFCA's primary and only focus, namely the EU and all its supra-national powers, rules and regulations.



Jan Bosschem – Geoff French

In order to provide maximum value for the associations that are member of both federations, FIDIC and EFCA revised their May 2010 agreement.

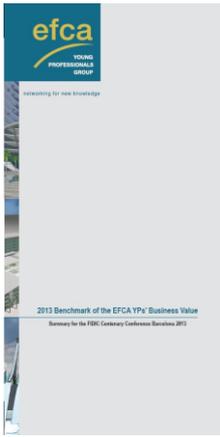
EFCA's fundamental roles are:

- (1) enhancing the business conditions, regulations and the image of the engineering industry within Europe and the European institutions and
- (2) representing FIDIC in Europe whenever and wherever possible.

In accordance with the agreement, anything with a wider remit is the responsibility of FIDIC.

Acknowledging this division of labour, the respective EFCA and FIDIC Sustainable Development and 'Risk Management & Liability' committees were merged.

## **EFCA YPs launch key findings from the 2013 Benchmark 'YP Business Value'**



*At the FIDIC Centenary Conference in Barcelona, the EFCA Young Professionals (YPs) presented and discussed their current and future professional position, behaviour, and performances.*

The EFCA YPs conducted a survey in June-July 2013 to identify their current and future distinctive values at the project and organizational level and to compare with fellow YPs throughout Europe.

The EFCA YP survey and report were received with great enthusiasm. Both the national associations and firms requested to deliver a more customised analysis and report. This request is incorporated in the planned activities of the YP Steering Committee.

The summary results are available [here](#).

### **New Sustainability Pack launched**

*FIDIC, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers and EFCA publish a set of complementary practical guides.*



The pack comprises:

- PSM, a Project Sustainability Management manual for consulting engineers implementing major sustainability issues in projects;
- PSL, a Project Sustainability Logbook to support owners and their partners with collaborative work on sustainability (see also <http://www.ppsl.org/> and <http://www.cbdd.eu> for the French version);
- Rethink Cities, a white paper on societal challenges.

<http://fidic.org/sustainabilitypack>

### **2013 EFCA YP competition winner 'works with passion and conviction, and capitalises on knowledge sharing with the project team and client'**

*At the FIDIC Centenary Conference, 2013 YP competition winner Julien Dupont (France) explained the relevance of innovative solutions for the Niroth project (Phnom Penh, Cambodia).*



Jan Bosschem – Julien Dupont

EFCA President Jan Bosschem presented the winning certificate. He congratulated runners up Gonçalo Rocheta Mateus (Portugal) and Anne Rosborg (Denmark) for demonstrating their achievements and showcasing their contribution to successful projects.

On behalf of the jury, Jan Bosschem praised all 28 candidates for their excellent work and their enthusiasm for engineering consultancy.

During the congress, the EFCA YPs and the FIDIC YP Forum deepened their cooperation.

The EFCA YPs will as from now represent the European YPs within the FIDIC YP Network alongside other regional groups (Africa-GAMA, Asia-Pacific - ASPAC and America-FEPAC).

For the EFCA YPs this means direct access to all FIDIC activities (webinars, events) as well as global coverage of their network. Furthermore European issues will be incorporated in FIDIC's future YP activities.

In the European network, a Polish delegation visited the Dutch Infrastructure Expertise Centre in order to share knowledge and best practice as regards value driven procurement and risk allocation. A strategy for future business implementation is being prepared.

***'Engineering consultants are to become leaders, visionaries and changers of paradigm', says Professor Dean Kashiwagi at inspiring workshop***

*Against the background of changes in regulation and market conditions, EFCA and NL ingenieurs organised a workshop, addressing the fundamentals on Best Value Procurement.*

The new EU public procurement rules are seeking to balance a number of objectives: short and long-term value, up-front purchase costs, innovation, social and environmental goals, and they abolish lowest cost as award criterion.

Clients, business representatives and directors of EFCA's national associations looked more closely at the Best Value Procurement (BVP) principles and best practices, in particular the factors that turn clients away from traditional price-based selection practices.

Professor Dean Kashiwagi (Arizona State University, USA) presented the Best Value approach whilst a major Dutch client (Rijkswaterstaat, part of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, involved in the construction and maintenance of waterways and roads, and flood protection and prevention) and a Dutch consultant shared experiences with Best Value in real projects.

Both the client and the firm underlined that BVP is about *'choosing distinctive quality experts who will direct, manage and control the project'*.



Professor Dean Kashiwagi

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

|  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| D&S meeting                                  | Brussels   | 22.11.2013 |
| FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Development Committee | Brussels   | 26.11.2013 |
| Board of Directors meeting                   | Luxembourg | 29.11.2013 |
| European External Aid Committee              | Brussels   | 04.02.2014 |
| Board of Directors meeting                   | Ankara     | 07.02.2014 |
| Internal Market Committee                    | Brussels   | 13.02.2014 |
| Board of Directors meeting                   | Warsaw     | 22.05.2014 |
| General Assembly Meeting 2014                | Warsaw     | 23.05.2014 |

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## INTERNAL MARKET

### ***E-invoicing in public procurement***

*The Commission proposed a draft directive on e-invoicing in public procurement, accompanied by a communication setting out its vision for the full digitisation of the public procurement process.*

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/payments/einvoicing/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/payments/einvoicing/index_en.htm)

### ***Relevant and easily accessible information on EU businesses' rights in the single market***

*Firms turning to 'Your Europe' are interested in very concrete information on how they can use their EU rights in a specific situation. They also want to know and understand national requirements they should comply with in a particular country.*

'Your Europe' (<http://europa.eu/youreurope>) offers practical and user-friendly information in 23 languages.



The Commission plans to develop the 'Your Europe' portal into a genuine digital 'one-stop shop' and

improve the interplay between EU- and national-level content.

At the same time, measures will be taken to further reinforce SOLVIT

(<http://www.solvit.eu>), the cross-border problem-solving mechanism for citizens and businesses who suspect their EU rights have been breached by a public authority.

### ***EU proposal: long-term investment funds***

*The new European Long-Term Investment Fund (ELTIF) is an investment vehicle that will allow professional investors and individuals to invest long-term in European non-listed companies and in long-term assets such as real estate and infrastructure projects.*

Under the proposal, ELTIFs would have to meet a set of common rules designed to protect both investors and the companies and projects they invest in.

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/investment/long-term/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/investment/long-term/index_en.htm)

### **Key principles for financing poverty eradication and sustainable development after 2015**

*In a communication the Commission turns the attention to the 'how' to finance poverty eradication and achieve sustainable development.*

The communication is an overview of all the financing sources that are currently available.

It reaffirms the principle that the key to progress is national action in each country, based on good use of all available resources. Another key principle is that a global approach to financing should leave countries to decide their own resource prioritisation between different policy goals as long as these are transparent, responsible and coherent.

The Commission also published the annual EU Accountability Report on Financing for Development. For the first time, the report assesses work on science, technology and innovation.

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/financing\\_for\\_development/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/financing_for_development/index_en.htm)

[Annual Report 2013 on the European Community's Development and External Assistance Policies and their Implementation in 2012](#)

### **Infrastructure Investment Programme for South Africa**

*The EU approved a €100 million programme to support infrastructure development in South Africa and the region through an innovative grant-loan blending mechanism.*

The Infrastructure Investment Programme for South Africa will involve close cooperation between the Development Bank of Southern Africa and European

development finance institutions; namely, the European Investment Bank (EIB), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

EU grants will support a range of activities, including technical assistance for the preparation, management and implementation of projects, as well as direct grants to co-finance capital expenditure of infrastructure projects.

The programme is expected to contribute to increased infrastructure investments in South Africa and the region, notably in transportation and logistics, energy, water/environment, information, communication and technology (ICT) and social infrastructure.

### **EU initiative to support river transport**

*The NAIADES II programme will facilitate long-term structural changes in the inland waterway transport sector.*



Internal navigation will benefit from EU co-financing for projects linked to the quality of infrastructures and development of intermodality.

The Commission will also provide support for greening and innovation from the Horizon 2020 and the Connecting Europe Facility programmes.

[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/inland/promotion/naiades\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/inland/promotion/naiades_en.htm)



River Information Services (RIS) and its related projects involve traffic management infrastructure on the inland waterway network: <http://www.ris.eu>

## **€281.4 million funding for new environment and climate projects**

*The Commission approved funding for 248 new projects under the LIFE+ programme, the European Union's environment fund.*

The projects cover actions in the fields of nature conservation, climate change, environmental policy and information and communication on environmental issues across all member states.

Overall, they represent a total investment of some €556.4 million, of which the EU will provide €281.4 million.

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

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **European engineering consultancy makes large contribution to employment**

*The main results of the study 'Intellectual Property Rights intensive industries: contribution to economic performance and employment in Europe' – made by the European Patent Office and the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market - are impressive: IPR-intensive industries generate more than a quarter of employment and more than a third of economic activity in the EU.*

Among other findings the study shows that 'engineering activities and related consultancy' (NACE code 71.12) is ranked on the top of the 20 IPR-intensive industries making the largest contribution to employment, and second according to their contribution to GDP.

[http://oami.europa.eu/ows/rw/resource/documents/observatory/IPR/joint\\_report\\_epo\\_ohim.pdf](http://oami.europa.eu/ows/rw/resource/documents/observatory/IPR/joint_report_epo_ohim.pdf)

Study on business-related services (including technical consulting sector) and analysis of strategic issues

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/documents/files/sector-studies-business-services\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/documents/files/sector-studies-business-services_en.pdf)

## **Indications from the property market that energy efficiency is rewarded**

*In the study 'Energy performance certificates in buildings and their impact on transaction prices and rents in selected EU countries', it was found that higher energy ratings result in substantially higher sales or rental values of buildings on average.*

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/buildings\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/buildings_en.htm)

## **Towards a green economy in Europe**

*The report presents a detailed overview of the key objectives and targets in EU environmental policy and legislation for the period 2010-2050.*

The review is based on a broad analysis of the EU legislation in force and the main political and strategic documents of the last decade.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/towards-a-green-economy-in-europe>

## **New EU Forest Strategy**

*The new Strategy 'goes out of the forest' and addresses aspects of the value chain (i.e. the way forest resources are used to generate goods and services) that strongly influence forest management.*

Stressing the need to adopt a holistic approach, the Strategy also emphasizes that the impacts of other policies on forests and developments taking place beyond forest boundaries should be taken into account.

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/forest/strategy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/forest/strategy/index_en.htm)

## **New indicator of innovation output**

*The 'Indicator of Innovation Output' measures the extent to which ideas from innovative sectors are able to reach the market, providing better jobs and making Europe more competitive.*

The proposed indicator complements the Commission's Innovation Union Scoreboard (IUS) and Summary Innovation Index (SII).

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-13-782\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-782_en.htm)



**Practical Guide to EU Funding Opportunities for Research and Innovation (updated)**

### **'Single market' for research closer, not yet a reality**

*The first comprehensive analysis of the state of the European Research Area (ERA) shows that there is still a lot of work to do to open up and connect EU research systems.*



The European Research Area is about enabling researchers, research institutions and businesses to better move, compete and co-operate across borders.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm)

<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/>

### **€100 million funding for Future Internet Public-Private-Partnership**

*Around 1000 start-ups and other highly innovative companies will receive grants to develop new Internet applications and services for a wide range of areas.*

Funding for this third and final stage of the Future Internet PPP will be channelled through 20 consortia, which include web business accelerators, crowd-funding platforms, venture capitalists, co-working spaces, regional funding organisations, technology companies and SME associations.

The successful consortia will be selected according to how they plan to maximise the economic impact of their funding across the Internet eco-system.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation;efp7\\_SESSION\\_ID=7cxSSKGCQmyPYGTD86KQ7k3bYjDqQdljvxw1xnvYgYlRByh9v7hH!1216744746?callIdentifier=FP7-2013-ICT-FI#wlp\\_call\\_FP7](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation;efp7_SESSION_ID=7cxSSKGCQmyPYGTD86KQ7k3bYjDqQdljvxw1xnvYgYlRByh9v7hH!1216744746?callIdentifier=FP7-2013-ICT-FI#wlp_call_FP7)

<http://www.fi-ppp.eu/>

## **CONSULTATIONS**

### **Green Action Plan for SMEs – Enhancing their international competitiveness**

*The Commission wishes to collect stakeholders' views on the most effective support measures for SMEs to become more resource efficient and sell internationally green products and services.*

Today only few European SMEs extend their green business to foreign markets. Knowing that the EU makes up roughly one third of the world market for environmental industries this reveals a huge potential for SMEs to grow.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/public-consultation-green-action-plan/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/public-consultation-green-action-plan/index_en.htm)

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