



FEDERATION NEWS

Budapest conference connects firms and delegates	p1
General Assembly welcomes Siri Legernes to EFCA board	p2
EFCA highlights Committees' efforts and achievements	p2
EFCA strengthens links with Permanent Representations	p3
EFCA promotes design for safety in construction	p4
14 December EIB-EFCA-FEACO seminar in Brussels	p4
EFCA agenda	p5

Budapest Conference connects firms and delegates

By continuously improving their mutual relations and communication, the European federation EFCA and the international federation FIDIC are achieving an effective synergy to the benefit of the industry.

The 24 - 27 September 2006 FIDIC-EFCA-AHCEA Conference in Budapest brought together over 600 participants from the engineering consultancy industry and clients from 64 countries. It proved a perfect platform for the federations to raise the sector's profile, and for the firms to take part in debates and workshops.

Four keynote speakers, Endre Dudich, László Somlyódy, Roger Flanagan and Dominique Louis, gave all the incentive to participate in large numbers in the various forums.

Participants from different cultural backgrounds and countries actively exchanged views and experiences in the workshops. They intensely discussed the vital roles of engineering consultants, who deliver quality and expert services in an ever-changing world. Therefore they should increasingly step into the limelight.

Presentations are available at:

<http://www1.fidic.org/conference/2006/>

© 2006 FIDIC and EFCA. All rights reserved. This document is the property of FIDIC and EFCA. It is to be used for the purposes of the 24-27 September 2006 FIDIC-EFCA-AHCEA Conference in Budapest. It is not to be distributed, copied, or reproduced in any form without the prior written permission of FIDIC and EFCA. The information contained herein is for general information only and does not constitute an offer or a contract. FIDIC and EFCA accept no liability for any loss or damage arising from the use of this document. FIDIC is a member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). EFCA is a member of the European Association of Engineering and Construction Firms (EAECF).



PARTICIPANTS from FIDIC and EFCA EVENTS between 1996-2006, as seen by MÁTYÁS Borostyánkői Budapest, Hungary AHCEA
24-27 September Budapest, Hungary FIDIC-EFCA-GAM
Mátyás Borostyánkői Budapest, Hungary AHCEA
www.borostyankoi.fidic.hu

By courtesy of Mátyás Borostyánkői

General assembly welcomes Siri Legernes to EFCA board

The 27 September 2006 general assembly meeting elected Siri Legernes (Norway) as director for a three-year term.

At the general assembly meeting in Budapest, EFCA president Yann Leblais reported on the federation's achievements. He reviewed the main areas of activity and recent progress on the 2005-2008 forward plan.

Only a few months after the re-entry of the Norwegian association (RIF), the general assembly meeting has appointed RIF's managing director as director to the EFCA board to represent the Scandinavian region.

The composition of the EFCA board of directors observes the equilibrium between directors of firms and secretaries general of national associations as well as the reasonable representation of small, medium and large Full members, originating from the north/south-mid and east countries.



Siri Legernes

EFCA highlights Committees' efforts and achievements

All Committee Chairs demonstrated EFCA's added value to the European engineering consultancy industry at the 2006 meeting in Budapest.

The four EFCA Committees and the ad hoc working parties are hard working, and achieved a series of good successes over the past year.

EFCA's core areas, or so-called pillars, are covered by four relevant EFCA Committees.

The Partnership for Development Committee is advocating transparent and acceptable procedures in EU external assistance projects. It submits concrete recommendations to the European Commission to ensure the best possible business conditions and to raise the industry's image in the implementation of result and output oriented aid.

The Terms of Reference of the Professional Liability Committee are covering a wide remit. Over the past year, it convincingly demonstrated to the European Commission and Parliament the negative impact of the initial provisions on professional indemnity insurance of the proposed Services Directive.

EFCA set up a working party on the EU Directive 92/57/EC (minimum safety and health requirements at temporary or mobile construction sites) subsequent to the report on excessive responsibilities that are imposed on designers by national law in the implementation of the Directive. The working party is developing the designers' views to ensure a fair distribution of responsibilities in the chain of actors involved in construction.

In its dialogue with the European Commission, the Project Financing Committee actively promotes the role of engineering consultancies in public private partnership projects, and it highlights the importance of an adequate remuneration for

innovative solutions and the added value brought to clients' projects.

The Committee will shortly issue its report and recommendations on 'Award Procedures for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for project delivery'.

It is currently focusing its activities on possible EU regulation on concessions and the forthcoming Commission interpretative document on IPPPs (institutionalised Public Private Partnerships).

For further information, read 'European Parliament calls for legislative initiative in the area of concessions' on page 6.

The Public Procurement Committee developed guidance on the national transposition of the Public Procurement Directive, containing a series of recommendations with regard to conflict of interest, unfair competition, abnormally low financial proposals, and corruption. At several meetings with EC officials the Committee debated the use of CVs as selection criterion (assessment of the firm's economic and financial standing and technical ability), and the required separation between selection and award criteria.

It is now developing basic principles and recommendations for the use of the competitive dialogue.

The Standardisation Working Party is aiming at developing a common terminology (definitions) and scope of works, which is of direct relevance to the firms. Such initiative ties in with the general objective to reduce regulatory and administrative barriers to cross-border service provision (e.g. insurance coverage).

The Qualifications Working Party is focusing on the mobility of engineers in the Internal Market, whilst ensuring an adequate (and comparable) level of qualifications and competences.

Finally, the Communications Working Party is aiming at ensuring that EFCA's stakeholders are better informed about the federation's representational activities to

deliver the best possible business conditions for the engineering consultancy industry.

In conclusion, the Committee Chairs and the board of directors encourage all associations and firms to contribute actively to the federation's work.

This is indeed the sole way forward to promote the development of practical and workable EU policies and regulations for the industry.

To notify your interest in taking part in the activities of the EFCA Committees and Working Parties, please contact Jan Van der Putten or Anne Croisiau at efca@efca.be

EFCA strengthens links with Permanent Representations

At the 12 October meeting, the Permanent Representations and the professional consultancy federations decided to address in parallel a range of mutual concerns related to EuropeAid.

In the first part of the meeting, EFCA and FEACO (management consultancies) reported progress on the agenda items, in continuation of the previous half-yearly meeting.

The discussion thereafter focused on possible parallel actions to strengthen the consultancy industry's stand on a series of issues. These include the lack of clear complaints and recourse procedures to challenge award decisions, EuropeAid's refusal to permit the use of electronic means for the submission of tenders, and the unrealistic and excessive guarantee requirements that are currently put on the industry.

In its upcoming approaches to the Commission, EFCA and FEACO will focus on these priority issues. At the same time, the Permanent Representations will address

the industry's major concerns in their links with both European and national officials.

EFCA promotes designing for safety in construction

On 21 September 2006, EFCA and the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) reported on the actions undertaken on behalf of the European design community to improve safety on construction sites. The event was the culmination of 2 years of actions following the European Construction Safety summit of 2004.

Subsequent to the signing of the Bilbao Declaration, EFCA and its construction industry partners worked in the European Construction Safety Forum to implement actions to achieve permanent improvements.

At the September 2006 follow-up event, EFCA representative, Kevin Rudden (ACEI), delivered a speech to 75 representatives of the European institutions and the industry on designing for safety and general principles of prevention. In particular, he presented the EFCA-ACE guidance document 'Designing for Safety in Construction'.

The manual provides advice to designers in compliance with Directive 92/57, which places responsibilities on various partners involved in the construction process. The document will be published shortly.

<http://ew2004.osha.europa.eu/closingevent/september.2006>

14 December EIB-EFCA-FEACO seminar

The second joint EIB-EFCA-FEACO seminar will be held in Brussels on Thursday 14 December 2006.

You will learn from EIB and European Commission experts the details about funding programmes and policies for research and development.

Registration is free.

The final programme and practical details will be available shortly at:

<http://www.efcanet.org/>



DESIGNING FOR SAFETY IN CONSTRUCTION



September 2006

E F C A A G E N D A

Partnership for Development Committee	Brussels	27.11.2006
Professional Liability Committee	Brussels	29.11.2006
BoD meeting	London	06.12.2006
EIB – EFCA – FEACO SEMINAR	Brussels	14.12.2006
Standardisation Working Party	Brussels	15.12.2006
Public Procurement Committee	Brussels	11.01.2007
Project Financing Committee	Brussels	12.01.2007
2007 EFCA GAM & Conference	Greece (Rhodes)	06-10.06.2007

C o n f e r e n c e s , s e m i n a r s

2 nd ECTP Conference New Research and Innovation Strategy for Construction in Europe – Building up together towards FP7 and trans-national programmes www.ectp.org/plenary.asp	Versailles (F)	21-22.11.2006
--	----------------	---------------



EUROPEAN BRIEFING

INTERNAL MARKET p6

European Parliament calls for legislative initiative in the area of concessions
EP Internal Market Committee endorses Council's compromise text of Services Directive
Public procurement infringement proceedings

EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES p7

Political agreement on overall architecture of the external action instruments
Commission proposes 100 million euro risk capital fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in developing countries
Over 11 billion euro for EU neighbours in 2007-2013
Closer relations with South Caucasus
EU delivers aid to the Turkish Cypriot community
Informal compromise on the 7th Framework Research Programme

MISCELLANEOUS p10

Commission discloses beneficiaries of funding Bulgaria and Romania to join EU in 2007 under 'close surveillance'
Europeans need to save energy: Commission proposes Action Plan
EU underlines 'holistic approach' to governance

INTERNAL MARKET

European Parliament calls for legislative initiative in the area of concessions

The European Parliament is urging the Commission to clarify the existing legal framework on concessions and institutionalised public private partnerships.

The Commission is currently undertaking an impact assessment that should lead to a decision in spring 2007 as to whether to legislate on concessions or update the interpretative communication from 2000.

For the Parliament, any future EU legislation should clearly define concessions as distinct from public contracts. Also, the Commission should clarify the open legal questions on institutionalised public private partnerships (PPPs).

EFCA is advocating the application of the EU Public Procurement Directive on contractual PPPs and concessions.

In the case of institutional PPPs (IPPPs) for the construction and operation of a project, **EFCA** considers that the selection of the private partner should follow the principles of non-discrimination, equality of treatment, transparency, mutual recognition and proportionality of the E.U. Treaty.

EFCA calls for more clarification as to the distortion of competition arising from mixed companies, operating on preferential terms outside their initial tasks.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/omk/sipade3?PU BREF=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A6-2006-0363+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=S&LSTDOC=Y>

EP Internal Market Committee endorses Council's compromise text of Services Directive

The European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) rejected all 42 amendments to the Services Directive.

The Council text, i.e. the Common Position dated 17 July 2006, will be submitted for the vote (second reading) in plenary on 15 November.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/omk/sipade3?PU BREF=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A6-2006-0375+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=S&LSTDOC=Y>

Public procurement infringement proceedings

The Commission decided to send reasoned opinions to Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden for the continued non-communication of national measures transposing one or more of the public procurement Directives (2004/18/EC 2004/17/EC and 2005/51/EC). The deadline for complying with the provisions of these directives expired on 31 January 2006.

Germany will receive a formal request concerning a contract for the construction of four trade fair halls, concluded between Cologne city and a private investment company. Under the contract, the investment company is to construct the trade premises. The city will rent the buildings for 30 years and then sub-lease the premises to the trade fair company Koelnmesse. According to the Commission, this is a public works contract and subject to EU-wide contract award procedures. Germany insists the deal is a simple rental contract. Another point of contention with Germany is a contract awarding security control services at Frankfurt airport. The contract was directly awarded to Fraport AG, the company operating the airport, without publishing an advertisement or organising a competitive tendering procedure.

The Commission is also sending a reasoned opinion to the Slovak Republic regarding the use of the selection criterion of 'previous experience' as one of the award criteria in a tender for construction of the Motorway D 3. The contracting authority listed in its tender 'previous experience with works of similar nature' as one of its award criteria. A bidder's previous experience reflects its capacity to perform the contract and as such is a selection criterion. EU public procurement legislation does not allow for the use of selection criteria at the award stage of a tender procedure, where only the quality of the offer should be evaluated.

Also at stage two of the infringement procedure is Spain. The Commission is requesting that Spain change its law on land-and-town planning in Valencia - the so-called Ley Urbanística Valenciana (LUV).

The Commission holds the view that the integrated action programmes (*Programas de Actuación Integrada - PAI*) constitute public works and/or service contracts that should be awarded in accordance with the public procurement Directives. PAI are contracts awarded by local authorities that include the provision of services and performance of public infrastructure works by property developers selected by the local authority.

The Commission closed infringement cases on public procurement against Austria (public private partnership - waste disposal services in the city of Mödling), Czech Republic (electronic toll system for motorways), Denmark (implementation of the Remedies Directive) and UK (design and construction of the Scottish Parliament building).

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/eulaw/index_en.htm

EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

Political agreement on overall architecture of the external action instruments

The creation of the development cooperation instrument (DCI) will allow renewal of one of the EC's most important tools for funding its development cooperation activities, with almost 17 billion euro for the 2007 - 13 period.

The Regulation provides for geographic and thematic programmes. The first programmes should support the development of, and reinforce the cooperation with, countries and regions in Latin America, Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and South Africa. Thematic programmes will complement programmes of a geographic nature.

The DCI is part of a new framework for planning and delivering assistance in order to make EU's external assistance more effective.

It also includes:

- an instrument for pre-accession assistance to candidate countries and countries that are potential candidates for membership of the EU;
- a European neighbourhood and partnership instrument;
- an instrument for industrialised and other high-income countries and territories;
- a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide;
- an instrument for stability.

The common position on the draft Regulation will be adopted by the Council without delay, and forwarded to the European Parliament for second reading. The aim is to ensure that the Regulation is signed in December and can enter into force on 1 January 2007, at the start of the new financing period.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/commonpositions/2006/pdf/c6-0357-06_en.pdf

Commission proposes 100 million euro global risk capital fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in developing countries

The Commission has proposed a specific Public-Private Partnership, 'Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund' to accelerate the transfer, development and deployment of environmentally sound technologies and help to bring secure energy supplies to people in poorer regions of the world.

The fund will offer new risk-sharing and co-funding options for various commercial and non-commercial investors with a global investment mandate. It will support renewable energy and energy efficiency project developers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The focus will be on projects below 10 million euro. In addition to utility-based

projects (mainly small hydro, biomass and on-shore wind), investments will include manufacturing and assembly businesses, consumer, SME, and micro-finance intermediaries.

The new Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) will provide the legal basis and the fund will be incorporated into the Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including energy.

The Commission proposes to contribute up to 80 million euro to be paid for the period 2007-2010. A first contribution of 15 million euro is proposed for 2007.

It is envisaged that up to 50 million euro co-financing may be obtained from the Investment Facility under the 9th European Development Fund, managed by the EIB, to develop activities in ACP regions.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/jrec/index_en.htm

Over 11 billion euro for EU neighbours in 2007 – 2013

A total of 11.18 billion euro over seven years will be provided from the EU's budget for implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). At least 95% will be allocated to country and multi-country programmes, and up to five per cent to cross-border cooperation programmes.

The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument will cover non-EU countries participating in the ENP, i.e. the countries of the south and eastern Mediterranean; Ukraine; Moldova and Belarus; and the countries of the southern Caucasus. The instrument will also support the EU's strategic partnership with Russia.

The ENPI will replace MEDA and TACIS and other existing instruments. A specific and innovative feature of the instrument is its cross border co-operation component. Under this component, the ENPI will finance joint programmes bringing together regions

of member states and partner countries sharing a common border.

The instrument is intended to simplify procedures considerably and achieve substantial gains in efficiency. It will use a Structural Funds approach, based on multi-annual programming, partnership and co-financing. The cross border co-operation component of the ENPI will be co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The Regulation will apply as from 1 January 2007.

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

Closer relations with South Caucasus

The EU is to formally endorse European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans with three South Caucasian countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The Commission tabled its proposals for the action plans for the three South Caucasus countries in March 2005, but formal endorsement of the plans has been postponed several times.

Before doing so, the EU and all three countries had to tackle particular issues, such as the Azerbaijani-Cypriot argument over northern Cyprus, the financial EU support for the decommissioning of the Medzamor nuclear plant and alternative energy supplies (Armenia), and the EU involvement in conflict resolution (Georgia).

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/documents_en.htm#2

EU delivers aid to the Turkish Cypriot community

At the end of October, the Commission adopted a financing decision for a total of 38.1 million euro to encourage the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community.

The financial assistance will focus on three objectives: developing physical infrastructure, promoting economic and social development and bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the European Union.

From the 38.1 million euro the following six projects will be supported:

- Solid waste sector programme for the Turkish Cypriot community;
- Feasibility study for the rehabilitation of the Lefke/Lefka mining area;
- Upgrading the management of the energy sector;
- Upgrading of urban and local infrastructure;
- Supporting private sector development within the Turkish Cypriot community;
- Information on the European Union political and legal order.

For the implementation of the assistance, the Commission has put in place a Programme Team composed of Commission officials and contract agents working both in Brussels and in Cyprus. The Team will be using a Programme Support Office in the northern part of Cyprus to facilitate contacts with the beneficiary community, with a view to ensuring cost-effective coordination, preparation and implementation of the assistance, whilst also providing a venue for meetings and seminars.

The Programme Support Office has been undertaking preparatory activities since mid-September.

<http://www.delcyp.cec.eu.int/en/index.html>

Informal compromise deal on the 7th Framework Research Programme (FP7)

The Finnish Presidency and the European Parliament (EP) have reached an informal 2nd reading agreement on the FP7.

One of the main areas where a compromise had to be reached was on the issue of how much of the FP7 budget (50.5 billion euro for seven years) should be directed at research into renewable energies and energy efficiency. The text now states that renewables and end use energy efficiency will account for the 'major part' of the budget of FP7's energy theme.

There is one issue that the compromise does not fully address, namely the proposed Risk Sharing Finance Facility, designed to encourage bank lending to research projects.

The EP will adopt the compromise amendments to its 2nd Reading report at a meeting of its Industry and Research Committee on 13 November, prior to a plenary vote on 29 - 30 November. The Council will then adopt the EP's text without alteration.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/home_en.html

MISCELLANEOUS

Commission discloses beneficiaries of funding

As part of the European Transparency Initiative, two websites containing information on EU grants and public contracts will be available to the public.

There are two main types of EU-funding, funds which are managed centrally and directly by the Commission (e.g. research) and funds for which the management is shared between the EU and the member states (e.g. common agricultural and fisheries policies).

In the latter case, the EU entrusts management to the member states. The

bulk of EU spending, 76%, is spent on funds which are under EU Member States' shared management. The availability of beneficiaries' data depends on each member state.

Beneficiaries of Grants:

http://ec.europa.eu/grants/beneficiaries_en.htm

Beneficiaries of Public Contracts:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_contracts/beneficiaries_en.htm

European Transparency Initiative:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/eti/index_en.htm

Bulgaria and Romania to join EU in 2007 under 'close surveillance'

Eleven years after they submitted their applications for membership of the European Union, the European Commission and Council confirmed that both countries are ready to join the Community on 1 January 2007.

The Commission strongly emphasised that it will, if necessary, impose certain 'accompanying measures' on both countries after the accession to 'prevent or remedy any persisting shortcomings' in the implementation of certain EU policies. These include infringement procedures, competition policy measures, and (transitional) measures for the management of EU funds, and monitoring mechanisms for example in the areas of the Internal Market and justice, liberty and security.

The progress of the candidate countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey) and potential candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244) on their road towards the EU is assessed in the Commission progress reports, published on 8 November 2006.

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/key_documents/reports_nov_2006_en.htm

Europeans need to save energy: Commission proposes Action Plan

The Energy Efficiency Plan contains a package of priority measures covering a wide range of initiatives, which aim at saving 390 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) and 780 Mt of CO2 emissions by 2020.

The Action Plan will be implemented over the next six years. It underlines the importance of minimum energy performance standards for a wide range of appliances and equipment, and buildings and energy services.

Minimum performance requirements for products and for new and renovated buildings will be developed. Very low energy consumption buildings (or passive houses) will also be promoted.

The Action Plan proposes targeted instruments to improve the efficiency of both new and existing generation capacity and to reduce transmission and distribution losses. It puts forward a comprehensive set of measures for improving energy efficiency in the area of transport.

The Plan also contains a number of additional proposals to raise energy efficiency awareness. Finally, the Plan emphasises the urgent need for energy efficiency issues to be addressed on a global level through international partnerships.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/action_plan_energy_efficiency/index_en.htm

EU underlines 'holistic approach' to governance

The EU Council emphasised its approach of respecting national ownership, dialogue and focusing on results and incentives for reform. It stresses that democratic governance related reforms cannot be imposed.

In the Council's view, support to democratic governance is more than tackling corruption.

However, the Council stressed the importance of transparency in managing public finance and the use of the new envelope (3 billion euro of the next European Development Fund) allocated to governance.

http://www.europe-cares.org/africa/governance_en.html



DOCUMENTS & WEB SITES OF INTEREST

EU LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Proposals & Regulation

Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions – version 22.08.2006

Revised PRAG (following the entry into force of the revised Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/tender/practical_guide_august2006/index_en.htm

MARCO POLO II

The Council of EU Ministers adopted the regulation for the awarding of Community aid under the Marco Polo II framework.

The programme is intended to reduce congestion, improve the environmental performance of the transport system and enhance intermodal transport.

It will cover the 2007 - 2013 period and be given a budget of 400 million euro.

The first call for proposals for Marco Polo II is expected to be launched at the beginning of 2007.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2007/osc/index_en.htm

Competitiveness and innovation framework programme (CIP)

The CIP is designed to contribute to the enhancement of competitiveness and innovation capacity in the EU and advancement of the knowledge society and sustainable development based on economic growth, in line with the EU strategy for growth and jobs.

The total budgetary envelope amounts to 3.2 billion euro for 2007 - 2013.

It will be complementary to the Community framework programme for research and technological development (7FP).

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

Community Strategic Guidelines for 2007 - 2013 Cohesion policy

The Guidelines contain the principles and priorities of cohesion policy and suggest ways the European regions can take full advantage of the 308 billion euro that has been made available for national and regional aid programmes (2007 – 2013). National authorities will use the Guidelines as the basis for drafting their national strategic priorities and planning, the so-called National Strategic Reference Frameworks (NSRFs).

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2007/osc/index_en.htm

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_291/l_29120061021en00110032.pdf

National fact sheets on eligible regions and financial allocations for 2007-2013

The 25 fact sheets, one for each member state, are accessible via an interactive map by clicking on the country of your choice. They contain a map of the EU with an overview of cohesion policy 2007 - 2013 and focus on the member state's eligible regions and financial allocations. A comparison with the 2000 - 2006 programming period is also provided.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/fiche_index_en.htm

REPORTS

European Court of Auditors: 2005 Annual Report

The Court of Auditors found weak internal controls for the majority of EU expenditure, both within member states and at the Commission, and a high incidence of errors in the underlying transactions. The report will be presented to the EcoFin Council in Brussels on 7 November and to the EP's plenary assembly in Strasbourg on 14 November.

http://www.eca.eu.int/audit_reports/annual_reports/annual_reports_index_en.htm

EU financial report 2005

The Financial Report is the publication presenting an overview of the use made of E.U. funds to finance E.U. policies.

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/publications/fin_reports_en.htm

2005 report on the allocation of EU expenditure by Member State

This annual report presents data, for the period 1992 - 2005, on the allocation of expenditure broken down by member state and by the expenditure headings established in the financial framework.

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/documents/revenue_expenditure_en.htm

17th Annual Report on Implementation of Structural Funds (2005)

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0638en01.pdf

Future Single Market policy

EC report, summarising the responses to the Commission's consultation.

Five specific areas identified in the consultation are market entry and innovation, regulation, implementation and enforcement, taking account of the global context, as well as information and communication.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/strategy/index_en.htm

EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard

The study indicates that the 1,000 EU companies which spend the most on R&D increased their investment in this area by an average of 5.3% in 2005.

<http://iri.jrc.es/do/home/portal/articuloview;jsessionid=0FA3F5394E24BCF76C11786356BD14EB?IDARTICULO=32&IDIDIOMA=1&IDSECCION=15>

Annual Survey on the implementation and enforcement of Community environmental law 2005

Member states have been working together to speed up the implementation of the EU's environmental legislation. The number of open infringement cases (i.e. in which a first written warning has been sent) went down by 14% in 2005, from 570 in 2004 to 489.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/law/as05.htm>

Measurement of impact of Structural actions on employment, quality of life and infrastructure – Relevant indicators

This study – conducted at the request of the European Parliament's Committee on Budgets – concludes that it is still difficult to assess the overall impact of the EU Structural Funds on European regions owing to a lack of analysis mechanisms.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/dv/614/614056/614056en.pdf

The Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T): First annual activity reports of the European coordinators

The coordinators evaluate progress on certain TEN-T projects and make recommendations about the effective implementation of these priority projects. They recommend that the Commission focus available funding on the cross-border sections of the projects and on a number of major bottlenecks. They emphasise that levels of Community funding should provide a sufficient incentive to encourage member states - and even private investors - to channel funding towards these projects.

http://ec.europa.eu/ten/transport/coordinators/index_en.htm

MISCELLANEOUS

Putting knowledge into practice: A broad-based innovation strategy for the EU

The ten priority actions for innovation (including 'stimulate innovation through procurement') are intended to give new life to the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs. Primary targets are areas that respond to societal demands (e.g. areas such as transport or health, internal security, eco-innovation). The Commission calls upon member states to make the structural reforms necessary to deliver the results required.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0502en01.pdf

More information: www.europe-innova.org

An innovation-friendly, modern Europe

The Communication sets out priorities for innovation policy in Europe. It calls on the member states to show the political leadership necessary for boosting innovation in Europe, thus contributing to the goals set by the renewed Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0589en01.pdf

EU - China: Closer partners, growing responsibilities

In the EU's new strategy towards China, the European Commission aims at guaranteeing better conditions for European businesses in China and defusing mounting protectionism in Europe. The Commission announces a new strategy for market access for 2007 and intends to strengthen its collaboration with businesses and member states and to promote exports to China.

The access to public procurement contracts from which foreign companies are often excluded, remains a central priority for the EU in the years to come. Other sensitive dossiers are the transparency of China's subsidy regimes and intellectual property rights (IPR)

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/china/docs/06-10-24_final_com.pdf

Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

The EU environment ministers endorsed the Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of natural resources, proposed by the European Commission. The Council calls on the Commission and the member states to set ecological impact and eco-efficiency targets for different types of resources in order to complete this strategy by 2010.

The environment ministers invite the Commission to bring forward a European action plan on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in 2007.

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

External energy relations – from principles to action

The Commission stresses consistency between energy and related policies.

It proposes action in key areas: the energy internal market, interconnections and creation of an environment conducive to investment, energy efficiency and the transition to a low carbon economy.

Due to its geography, Turkey is mentioned as a country of strategic importance for EU energy security. The Commission recommends the conclusion of a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Russia that would include an energy chapter.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0590en01.pdf

Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection

The Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection consists of a Communication from the Commission to the other European Institutions, a proposal for a framework Directive (legal instrument that is both sufficiently binding and flexible to enable member states to adopt measures adapted to their own local circumstances), and an Impact Assessment.

The strategy proposes a framework for joint action based on four pillars: framework legislation focusing primarily on the protection and use of soil, the integration of soil protection in the drafting and implementation of national and Community policies, improving knowledge (specific research programmes) and actions to raise public awareness of the need to protect soil.

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

Second report of the High Level Group (HLG) on Competitiveness, Energy and the Environment

The report looks at the long term energy future for Europe and investment in power generation and energy efficiency. It includes a number of concrete recommendations on how policy options can be developed to deliver a sustainable, low carbon, and competitive energy system for Europe's future.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/environment/hlg/hlg_en.htm

EU25 energy consumption equivalent to more than three and a half tonnes of oil per capita - EU25 energy dependence rate was 56%

Overall **consumption** of energy in the EU25 remained unchanged in 2005 compared to 2004, falling in ten member states and growing in 14. EU **production** of all energy types fell in 2005, with production of crude oil decreasing by 9% compared to 2004, natural gas by 5.8%, coal by 5.7% and nuclear energy by 1.3%. Energy **imports** were dominated by oil and gas, accounting for around 60% and 25%, respectively, of the EU25's net imports. Net imports of crude oil and oil products to the EU25 rose by 2.9% in 2005 compared to 2004, while net imports of gas rose by 9.2%.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_PRD_CAT_PREREL/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2006/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2006_MONTH_09/8-21092006-EN-AP1.PDF

2006 Corruption Perceptions Index

The Transparency International index ranks 163 countries by their perceived levels of domestic corruption in the public sector.

http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2006

EDITORIAL OFFICE: Yann Leblais, Neil Sandberg, Andy Walker, 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
<http://www.efcanet.org/>