



**UN CLIMATE
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EFCA STATEMENT ON COP26 AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY

12 November 2021

On this closing day of COP26, European engineering consultancies, represented by the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA), acknowledge directions drawn and decisions made at COP26 to tackle climate emergency and reach the 1.5°C Paris objective.

European engineering firms reaffirm their pivotal role towards effective implementation of the Paris objective, of the 2030 European Sustainable Development Agenda and more generally of all mitigation and adaptation measures of the Built Environment to climate change.

Considering the climate urgency, EFCA urges all public bodies and European financial institutions to systematically impose climate-related criteria on all procurement processes in relation with construction projects and is ready to make the commitments formulated below in this statement.

All scientific reports highlight the severity and the anticipated consequences of climate change should significant action not be implemented. EFCA acknowledges Governments' efforts towards strengthening the level of commitment to mitigation and adaptation measures whilst noting that there is much more to be done.

Considering that European consulting engineers:

- are “sustainable investments catalysts” who accelerate the achievement of the 1.5°C Paris objective, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the external dimension of the European Green Deal, and
- have a minimal carbon footprint but, together with clients and other stakeholders, a very large carbon handprint (1,300 bigger than the footprint) through their key position in the construction value chain,

EFCA commits to:

- **Continue to strongly advocate for the UN Sustainable Development Goals and European 2030 and 2050 climate objectives,**
- **Promote a dedicated “climate action and carbon reduction guidance” for European engineering firms, including putting forward science-based approaches and ISO 14064-1 standards,**
- **Encourage all major European engineering consultancies to develop a climate action plan with quantified and measurable targets when not already in place.**



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As advisors, designers and project managers on infrastructure and construction projects, European engineering consultancies strive to optimise investments to the highest environmental standards and, according to EFCA's European Green Deal Committee, are therefore vital contributors to the following items that must be on top of the climate agenda:

- **Climate adaptation:** Urgent actions are needed to improve protection of our coasts and physical assets. Europeans are at risk of suffering significant economic losses and a great many are exposed to life threatening situations.
- **Circular economy:** The demand for raw virgin materials and natural resources is unsustainable especially in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic. There is an immense need for circular solutions and regulatory bodies should be urged to address barriers hindering the implementation for circular solutions.
- **Sustainable mobility:** When building transport infrastructure, public entities should demand carbon footprint productions; similarly, when constructing EV-infrastructure, public bodies shall consider socially sustainable solutions including serving rural areas.
- **Production and use of renewable energy:** Renewable energy will play a fundamental role in the decarbonization of our energy systems in the coming decades; therefore, accelerated investments are urgently needed in offshore wind and solar energy.

About EFCA

The European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA) has member associations in 29 European countries representing over 10,000 companies.

Contact EFCA

EFCA Secretary General, Jan Van der Putten - jvanderputten@efca.be - Tel: +32 2 209 07 70 - Avenue des Arts 3/4 & 5, 1210 Brussels, Belgium - www.efcanet.org