

EU ELECTIONS 2024

SUPPLEMENT TO EFCA MANIFESTO

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Introduction

This document updates [EFCA's Manifesto](#), originally published in November 2022.

With the new European Parliament and European Commission due to start work following elections and the appointment of new European Commissioners in 2024, existing policies will be updated and emerging problems tackled with new measures. The risk that important flagship policies will be sidelined in the event of a hard swing to political extremes in the European elections, means that the focus on, amongst other things, the climate emergency, skills and material shortages, EU autonomy, further digitalisation and renovation and maintenance of the built environment could be lost. Consulting engineers, through their national associations and through EFCA at EU level call for a doubling down on policy that has already started to deliver for society and the environment, an acceleration of efforts to reach zero-carbon and new packages to ensure that emerging crises are resolved before they too turn into emergencies.



Inés Ferguson
EFCA President



Overall approach to the new political term

Keep it simple and keep the big picture in sight!

- Avoid massive and disruptive changes in the existing EU governance structures unless there is clear added value in doing so. That said, we support the proposed reforms in the European Parliament.
- Continue in the same direction on important key policy areas:
 - Green Deal
 - Digitalisation
- Place much more emphasis on infrastructure, especially on the following aspects:
 - Maintenance
 - Renovation
 - Climate and conflict resilience
- Keep working for greater autonomy of the EU in terms of capacity: available skills and education, industrial capacity – semi-conductors, raw materials, quantum computers and cloud, energy supply, etc.

New for 2024

- A Blue Deal: [Click to read EFCA's position paper on an EU Blue Deal](#)
- **Urgently invest in and improve energy infrastructure**
Massively improve maintenance, sustainable investment and decarbonisation. This can only be achieved with the expertise of the consulting engineering sector. Build on the use of industry expert groups, that allow dialogue between the sector and EU policy makers. These fora are an agile way of fast-tracking solutions and building effective policy round solutions instead of problems. **The climate goals cannot be achieved without infrastructure.**

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE: BRIDGE TO A GREENER EUROPE

Ensuring the availability and preparation of future engineers

- Give the New European Bauhaus (NEB) Academies a greater focus on engineering; and provide more and better training on data engineering, in partnership with relevant industry professionals.
- Require the NEB Academies to facilitate collaborative learning between architects and engineers to improve understanding and collaboration between the two professions, for the benefit of the EU built environment and the citizens that use it every day.

Responding to the climate emergency

- Match the already extensive legislative and non-legislative initiatives for buildings with more attention to climate resilience, climate mitigation and climate adaptation in infrastructure. In particular, technical “climate design” solutions for infrastructure, could be integrated more effectively with Horizon Europe.
- Stop the obsession with specific materials e.g. wood. A more holistic approach is required which must be technology and material neutral. Leave it to the experts to decide which material is the most suitable for each individual technical design and the structural, sustainability and functional requirements of the project, as well as the available budget. These cannot be determined in legislation

Completing the digital transformation

- Support the further development of digital skills for the EU’s existing workforce and nurture the digital competence inherent in children so that our future workforce is ready to use emerging technologies. Work in partnership with the sector, to underwrite its investment in lifelong learning, with pro-digital policies and education and training initiatives; and use the New European Bauhaus Academies, making these accessible for engineers and architects to improve their digital output.
- Continue to solve the data sharing challenges, partially addressed in the Data Act.
- Accelerate regulatory solutions for facilitating uptake of AI in engineering.

Ensuring the success of sustainable development projects

- Develop common procurement approaches from the Multilateral Development Banks. Better co-ordination amongst these investors is essential, in order to “Make it Easy” for consulting engineers. Arduous processes and bureaucracy will only continue to deter European firms from contributing their essential engineering expertise. The result will be lower quality, lower return on investment, missed sustainability objectives and even abandoned development projects in third countries that really need this essential infrastructure for transport, energy and digital networks.
- Replace SOURCE with a better database of available consulting engineers, because the current system is not quality controlled, with submissions not validated.
- Sustainable procurement needs minimum criteria. The EFCA-EIC Standard Operating Procedure provides a solution and could be adopted as the minimum requirement for procurement professionals.

Achieving the highest quality result in procurement

- Move towards full, mandatory digitalisation of the procurement process. Encourage stronger partnership between the sector and the EU BIM Task Group to ensure that this does not leave smaller firms behind. Use this partnership to improve existing and future regulation, aimed at clearing the roadblocks to full digitalisation and cushioning the risks posed by rapid innovation and the deployment of relatively untested software and hardware, including next generation intelligent machines.
- Allow digital innovation in tenders for technical design and construction.