

## FEDERATION NEWS

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### ***EFCA seminar on new public procurement Directive: Brussels, 14 May 2014***

*The seminar will concentrate on the possibilities and limitations of the formally adopted Directive for a best value procurement of intellectual services.*

The seminar will help authorities to consider the use of purchasing rules that are relevant and appropriate for intellectual services, and firms to assess potential changes to tendering strategy.

A broad range of experts will address the audience: EC officials, national authorities involved in the transposition and clients will see effective procurement from different perspectives.

The programme and registration form are available at

<http://www.efca.be/Home.aspx> (SPOTLIGHT)

EFCA will publicise transposition guidance, focusing on the rules that impact on the services that engineering consultants may provide and their work in different areas of the value chain.

### ***EFCA YPs: 'Let's learn and join together in Warsaw on 21-23 May!'***

*The EFCA YP Steering Committee takes up the challenge to help young colleagues with their career development and future.*

This year's YP events start two weeks before the Conference programme in the virtual world: registered YPs will be invited to risk thwarting plans of a 'secret organisation'. The decision game will be continued in Warsaw as from Wednesday, 21 May.

The Conference programme includes a series of interesting presentations on risk taking, personal web branding and networking, and practical workshops.

Finally, the EFCA president will present the results of the fifth edition of the EFCA Young Professionals competition and present the certificates.

<http://sidir100.eu/information/>

The EFCA YP newsletter is available at:  
<http://www.efcanet.org/Portals/EFCA/EFCA%20files/YP/YP%20News%202014%20Winter.pdf>

## ***EFCA meetings in conjunction with SIDiR Centenary: Warsaw, 21-23 May 2014***

*EFCA representatives will meet in Warsaw on 21-23 May 2014 to celebrate the Polish engineering consultancy industry's centenary year.*

The conference website provides information on the schedule of all events, the YP meetings and accompanying persons' programme, accommodation and online registration.



<http://sidir100.eu/information/>

## ***Exchange of views on PRAG, blending and the use of country systems with DG DEVCO***

*At its February meeting, EFCA's European External Aid Committee presented the industry's feedback on the PRAG 2013 (Practical Guide, explaining the contracting procedures applying to all EU external aid contracts) to EC officials (EuropeAid Development & Cooperation).*

The industry's main comments pertain to the lack of clarity concerning taxation on EU funded projects (corporate and income taxes), prescriptive and detailed technical requirements, limitation to the 3-years reference period, unlimited bank guarantees for advance payment, lack of uniformity in the PRAG application, use of the negotiated procedure, lack of responsiveness of the Delegations, and the high percentage of the 'reimbursables' component (incidental expenditures) in service contracts.

Mr Sarazin (DG DEVCO) informed about the development in the preparation of the PRAG 2014.

The meeting concluded with a fruitful discussion on the lack of transparency and the proliferation of procurement portals and the ensuing obstacles for business when the EC and the member states jointly program and implement development aid and the current EC view on the use of country systems.

## ***EFCA invited to present 'FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Pack' to EC departments***

*DG Environment is working together with other EC services on a set of criteria to assess the environmental performance of cities, taking into account economic, social and territorial impacts.*

The 27 January 2014 follow-up meeting that Jean Félix, Chair of the FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Development Committee and Jan Van der Putten, EFCA Secretary General, had with Robert Flies, Adviser DG Environment, Directorate F, focused on the integration of environmental concerns into other policy areas and the implementation of policies for sustainable urban planning and design.

A major challenge for DG Environment is the definition of an integrated set of criteria to assess progress towards sustainability of the EU's cities.

Mr Flies invited EFCA to present the principles and structure of the Project Sustainability Logbook (and related tools) at a meeting with all EC services that are working on an indicator set for sustainable cities.

On 17-18 February 2014, Jan Van der Putten attended the 'Cities of Tomorrow: Investing in Europe' forum. The meeting explored and debated ways to give cities a greater prominence when it comes to European policy, to make sure the needs of cities are better understood, and policies are

more coordinated. The conference concluded that an EU urban agenda is desirable and needed.

### **EFCA Board meets with Turkish association ATCEA**

*At a joint ATCEA-EFCA Board meeting in Ankara, EFCA president Jan Bosschem emphasised that the industry is an important contributor to economic growth and a sustainable future. Considering the ongoing transformations in the marketplace, the industry needs to reflect on business models.*

ATCEA representatives showed a lively interest in the new EU public procurement rules, and in particular the evaluation of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT), the competitive procedure with negotiation, and Life-cycle costing (LCC).

Other issues raised were the minimum levels of financial criteria required to qualify for each projects, the 3-year restriction on the reference period for relevant projects, too long evaluation periods, extensive CV and technical requirements, and mixed shortlists.



In ATCEA's view, EFCA is effectively communicating the industry's concerns to the European institutions and promoting the business interests.

The Turkish association assured EFCA of its support to the Federation's committees.

### **Current status and future position of designers: Czech round table discussion**

*Together with awarding authorities and firms' representatives, EFCA and FIDIC participated in the debate in Prague on Czech business conditions.*

The major topic of the discussion was the reform of the EU public procurement law, and the ensuing challenges, in particular the possibility of increased recourse to negotiation, the consideration for quality criteria and life-cycle costs, measures in favour of innovation and the possible move away from 'lowest price wins' in Czech procurement policies.

Enrico Vink, FIDIC Managing Director, made a presentation on the benefits of using standard FIDIC forms of contract, and the dis-benefits of modifying such documents without careful consideration.

### **Forecast of the 2014 demand for consulting engineering services in the EU**

*The forecast uses the investment approach for estimating demand, which proves consistent with national accounts' and turnover data.*

<http://www.efca.be/AboutEFCA/Whoarewe.aspx>

### **2013 STD Sector Review**

*The Swedish Association of Architects and Consulting Engineers published the detailed 2013 sector survey and market review of the consulting engineering, and architectural groups in Sweden and the Nordic countries, along with an international outlook.*

The report is published yearly in December, in cooperation with STD's Nordic colleagues in FRI (Denmark), FRV (Iceland), RIF (Norway) and Skol (Finland).

Copies can be requested at <http://www.std.se/in-english/sector-review/order-the-sector-review-2013>

# E F C A A G E N D A

FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Development Committee	Geneva	17.03.2014
D&S meeting	Stockholm	21.03.2014
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	15.05.2014
Board of Directors meeting	Warsaw	22.05.2014
General Assembly Meeting 2014	Warsaw	23.05.2014



<http://sidir100.eu/en/>

2014 FIDIC - MDB Conference: Harmonising International Procurement	Brussels	02-03.06.2014
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<http://fidic.org/events/2014-fidic-mdb-conference-harmonising-international-procurement>

European External Aid Committee	Brussels	19.06.2014
Board of Directors meeting	Rome (tbc)	11-12.09.2014
FIDIC 2014 Conference	Rio de Janeiro	28.09-01.10.2014
<a href="http://fidic.org/node/970">http://fidic.org/node/970</a>		
Board of Directors meeting	Madrid (tbc)	27-28.11.2014



## EUROPEAN BRIEFING

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## INTERNAL MARKET

### ***E-invoicing in public procurement: European Parliament and Council agreement***

*The adoption of e-invoicing in public procurement alone across the EU could generate savings of up to €2.3 billion.*

The new rules will greatly simplify the processing of e-invoices for both governments and businesses, including SMEs.

The agreement on the establishment of a common EU standard for e-invoicing in public procurement, interoperable with existing national standards and ensuring acceptance of e-invoices sent in this standard, will contribute to eliminating barriers to cross-border public procurement.

The European Parliament will vote on the draft Directive in the April 2014 plenary session and the Council will have to formally adopt it afterwards.

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/publicprocurement/e-procurement/e-invoicing/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/e-procurement/e-invoicing/index_en.htm)

### ***Less red tape for citizens and firms moving to another EU country***

*The European Parliament voted a legislative project that would simplify procedures for proving the authenticity of certain public documents.*

To avoid the need to translate public documents and to help public authorities, the law would introduce new multilingual EU forms which citizens could use instead of national ones to prove birth, death, marriage, registered partnership or the legal status and representation of a company.

The proposed regulation still needs to be approved by the Council.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/fiche\\_procedure.do?reference=2013/0119\(COD\)&l=en](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/fiche_procedure.do?reference=2013/0119(COD)&l=en)

### **Single Market Scoreboard: transposition deficit increases**

*After having fallen steadily, the EU's average transposition deficit – the percentage of Single Market directives that have not been transposed into national law in time – has gone up slightly to 0.7%.*

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/scoreboard/](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/scoreboard/)

### **Obstacles to EU insurance market: report**

*Differences in contract laws impede the cross-border supply of insurance products by increasing costs, creating legal uncertainty and making it hard for consumers and businesses to take out insurance in other EU member states.*

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/contract/insurance/expert-group/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/contract/insurance/expert-group/index_en.htm)

### **International public procurement**

*The European Parliament voted a legislative proposal that could bar non-EU firms from bidding for public procurement contracts worth €5 million or more unless their home countries reciprocate by allowing EU firms to do likewise.*

The proposed tool will apply to those countries which do not currently have an international agreement covering public procurement with the EU but exclude Least-Developed Countries.

The (partly) approved text will now serve as a basis for the Parliament to negotiate with the Council.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/fiche\\_procedure.do?reference=2012/0060\(COD\)&l=en](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/fiche_procedure.do?reference=2012/0060(COD)&l=en)

### **New CEN website**

*The CEN website gives access to up-to-date information about standards, the work of specific Technical Committees, as well as*

*recent, ongoing and upcoming developments.*

<http://www.cen.eu>

## **EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES**

### **Horizon 2020 is Open for Business**

*Innovative small and medium-sized companies in Europe can apply for grants to help get their brightest ideas from the lab to the market.*

Around €3 billion in funding will be available under the SME Instrument over the next seven years as part of Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme.

In 2014, some €250 million of funding will be available under the SME Instrument's permanently open call.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/ftags/sme\\_instrument.html#c.topics=flags/s/SME/1/1&+callIdentifier/desc](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/ftags/sme_instrument.html#c.topics=flags/s/SME/1/1&+callIdentifier/desc)

### **Core Network of transport infrastructure: details on 2014-2020 financing priorities**

*In order to give member states and private investors a better long-term view, the Commission clarified its priorities.*

Broad outlines were drawn in the new Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) regulation and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

In its Communication, the Commission provides information on the potential budget and instruments available, guides possible applicants with regard to direct management of funds, and explains how they intend to support the creation and the functioning of the Core Network Corridors.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0940:FIN:EN:PDF>

### **€45 million EU aid in Southern neighbourhood countries**

*The €45 million assistance package will address socioeconomic priorities of Jordan (€20 million), Libya (€10 million) and Tunisia (€15 million) in the fields of agriculture, environment, migration and education.*

In Jordan, the support will also aim to mitigate the consequences of the Syrian refugee crisis in the country.

<http://www.enpi-info.eu/index.php>

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/index_en.htm)

### **EU support for Central Africa**

*EU Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs announced close to €3 billion in grants for ten Central African countries and organisations for the period 2014-2020.*

The new funding, still subject to confirmation by the member states, is expected to support investments that generate growth, improve access to basic social services, reduce food insecurity, and promote peace and stability.

Under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will receive €620 million. €460 million will be provided to Rwanda.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/africa/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/africa/index_en.htm)

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

### **€6.4 billion for the region of West Africa**

*The 2014-2020 funding is expected to support investments that generate growth and job creation for the 300 million citizens of West Africa.*

The region of West Africa includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Mauritania.

### **€55 million EU support for Cape Verde**

*The EU's Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy for All will support the Cape Verdean authorities in identifying new and innovative project proposals in the energy sector.*

The EU will provide the expertise (sharing best practice and providing training, for example) required to achieve Cape Verde's ambitious energy target of providing 50% renewable energy in the electricity mix by 2020.

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/energy/sustainable/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/energy/sustainable/index_en.htm)

### **€347 million EU support for Senegal**

*The new financial support will be mobilised as part of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).*

In partnership with the government of Senegal, the EU will work to strengthen democratic governance, foster sustainable agricultural development and food security and invest in improved water and sanitation.

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

### **€195 million EU support for Mauritania**

*The funding for the years 2014-2020 will focus on the areas of food security, rule of law and healthcare.*

### **€140 million support for development in Guinea**

*The balance of the 10th EDF National Indicative Programme (€139.9 million), frozen for several years following the coup in December 2008, was released after the legislative elections.*

The funds will be used to support the Government's efforts in improving mobility

and road infrastructure, promoting good governance, and protecting human rights.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/guinea/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/guinea/index_en.htm)

### ***EU development support to Iraq***

*Around €75 million of development support will be made available to Iraq during the period 2014 – 2020.*

The main areas of cooperation are coherent with the Iraqi National Development Plan 2013-2017.

The EU will support the Iraqi government reforms on rule of law and human rights, capacity building in primary and secondary education and sustainable energy for all.

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/gulf-region/country-cooperation/iraq/iraq\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/gulf-region/country-cooperation/iraq/iraq_en.htm)

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### ***Energy and climate goals for 2030***

*The Commission decided to give precedence to climate strategy in its 2030 climate and energy policy framework.*

The 2030 targets are:

- 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 1990 levels);
- to achieve at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption, with flexibility for member states to set national objectives;
- energy efficiency to play a vital role, but no specific target at this point.

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/2030\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/2030_en.htm)

### ***For a European Industrial Renaissance***

*Although industrial policy is a member state competence, the Commission is urging member states to ensure that their policies are better anchored in the EU's economic agenda.*

The communication 'For a European Industrial Renaissance' calls for the adoption of legislative proposals on energy, transport, space and digital communications networks, as well as the implementation and enforcement of internal market rules.

Furthermore, industrial modernisation must be pursued by investing in innovation, resource efficiency, new technologies, skills and access to finance, accelerated by the use of dedicated EU funds.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/mission-growth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/mission-growth/index_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/competitiveness-analysis/eu-industrial-structure/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/competitiveness-analysis/eu-industrial-structure/index_en.htm)

### ***Infrastructure is key for EIB***

*The Operational Plan 2014-2016 of the European Investment Bank (EIB) focuses on four priority areas: innovation and skills; access to finance for smaller businesses; climate action and strategic infrastructure.*

<http://www.eib.org/infocentre/publications/all/operational-plan-2014-2016.htm>

### ***First ever EU Anti-Corruption Report***

*The EU Anti-Corruption Report explains the situation in each member state: what anti-corruption measures are in place, which ones are working well, what could be improved and how.*

The report includes a special chapter on public procurement. It calls for stronger integrity standards and suggests improvements in control mechanisms in a number of member states.

<http://ec.europa.eu/anti-corruption-report>

### ***Worrying picture of Europe's seas***

*Two reports offer the first comprehensive overview of the state of EU seas and oceans by region and by seas – based on member state reports on the state of their marine waters.*

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/implementation/reports\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/implementation/reports_en.htm)

[www.eea.europa.eu/publications/marine-messages](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/marine-messages)

### ***Europe more innovative but regional differences persist***

*Europe is closing its innovation gap with the United States and Japan but differences in performance between EU Member States are still high.*

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/innovation-scoreboard/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/innovation-scoreboard/index_en.htm)

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/regional-innovation/>

### ***High-tech sector is important contributor to income generation and economic development***

*A new study analyses high-tech employment and wage trends in the EU between 2000 and 2011.*

<http://www.econ.kuleuven.be/VIVES/publicaties/discussionpapers/DP/dp2013/final-20131223-3rd.pdf>

### ***Economic benefits of flood protection and environmental fiscal reform***

*Two studies published by the EC strengthen the case for boosting flood protection and making more of a shift to greener taxation.*

The first study shows that investing in measures to reduce flooding on average costs some 6-8 times less than the damage caused by flooding.

Moving taxes away from labour and towards pollution have the potential to almost double the revenues they currently bring to national treasuries.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/green\\_semester/network\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/green_semester/network_en.htm)

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