



FEDERATION NEWS

APPC shares thoughts with EFCA Board of Directors	p1
Why it is important to attend the 30 May 2008 Conference in Prague	p2
EFCA President-Elect gives an advance preview of the 2008-2011 EFCA Forward Plan	p2
EFCA meets with the European Insurance and Reinsurance Federation	p3
Shaping better future EU public procurement law	p3
EFCA response to the EC proposal to elaborate a 'European Code of Conduct'	p4
EFCA agenda	p5

APPC shares thoughts with EFCA Board of Directors

The Portuguese Association of Engineering and Management Consultants (APPC) hosted meetings with the EFCA Board of Directors in Lisbon on 21-22 February 2008.

Following APPC's presentation on the Portuguese market and the association's representational activities, the Portuguese and European Board members debated the impact of current developments on the national and European engineering consultancy sector.

The meeting looked at the Portuguese regulatory framework and administrative/practical barriers to foreign

service providers, as well as changes in the Portuguese demand and the need for the firms to re-position themselves.

Increased responsibilities and professional liability insurance requirements are a growing concern of Portuguese engineering consultancy firms.

Other reported key trends are the shift from public to private investments, changes in project delivery and the increased use of other than traditional contract forms.



At the meeting with the Portuguese firms, participants raised a range of topical issues, including innovation, unfair competition from universities and NGOs, EFCA communications, and the relevance and benefits of Eurocodes in and outside Europe.

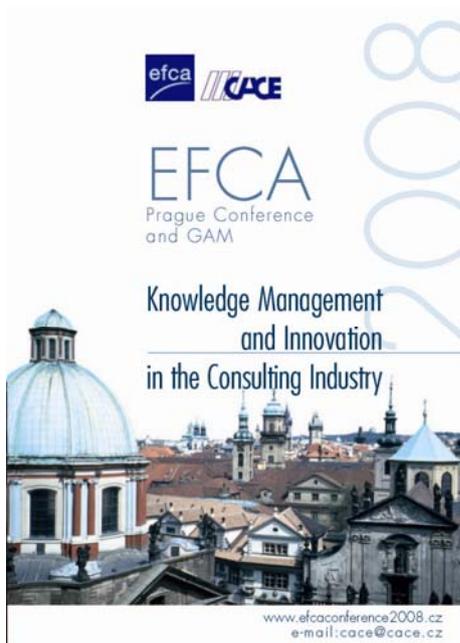
<http://eurocodes.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

Why it is important to attend the 30 May 2008 Conference in Prague

All firms are interested in effectively managing knowledge to deal with current situations and to create an advantageous future.

Leading European industry figures and policy makers play a part in the business-focused programme of this year's Conference programme and will explore a series of challenging topics under the general theme 'Knowledge management and Innovation in the Consulting Industry'.

Speakers will focus on the creation of value through knowledge management, whether at the level of corporate knowledge and information systems or business processes and networks.



The Conference speakers will also highlight the engineering consultancies' knowledge assets and the development and cultivation of the channels through which knowledge flows. From various perspectives they will explain the importance of knowledge management as a competitive asset.

Speakers will further provide an insight into knowledge management as a driver of value creation, innovation, and efficiency and will draw on case experiences of both success and failure in the development and

implementation of valuable new and creative ideas.

In order to support and stimulate the Young Professionals' interest in developing their European network, a dedicated YP session is planned on Thursday, 29 May (as from 14:00). The session will provide a forum for an active exchange of experiences and ideas about 'innovative knowledge management' and the impact of digital communications on their daily working and business practice.

Do you wish to participate in this year's Conference, please register at:
<http://www.efcaconference2008.cz/>

EFCA President-Elect gives an advance preview of the 2008-2011 EFCA Forward Plan

At the 14 March 2008 meeting of Directors and Secretaries General (D&S), Panos Panagopoulos provided an overview of key actions for the next three years.

Panos Panagopoulos will start his European mandate within the representational federation of the European engineering consultancy industry in May 2008.



The Forward Plan derives from EFCA's mission, goals and strategy. It takes into account industry's present market conditions and stakeholders' demands that determine the federation's areas of actions, and considers that this

wider context will be influenced by the European agenda and policy decisions.

The preliminary Forward Plan highlights priorities, such as how to enhance the industry's position, image and the firms' business development, and to cooperate more closely with the national associations and the international federation FIDIC. It builds on the successes of the federation's pillars (i.e. the Committees) and looks at identifying and sharing best practice in representational activities at national and European level.

The President-Elect invited all stakeholders to contribute to the further elaboration of the Forward Plan.

The 2008 – 2011 Forward Plan will be submitted for approval to the 29 May 2008 EFCA General Assembly meeting in Prague.

EFCA meets with the European Insurance and Reinsurance Federation

At the joint EFCA-CEA February 2008 meeting, both federations exchanged views and information on (barriers to) the internal market for services and the Services Directive, compulsory professional liability insurance and joint & several liability.

Early 2006, the Professional Liability Committee initiated a dialogue with CEA (European Insurance and Reinsurance Federation).



PI insurance requirements are subject to national regulation and contract law, market conditions, and business practices.

Other national divergences relate to:

- practices in contractual requirements and contract law;
- attitude towards making claims/litigation;
- awareness and demand for insurance;
- insurance tax requirements;
- national liability law and claim awareness,
- and the reticence of insurers to provide professional liability cover in another member state.

CEA explained its position on the introduction of compulsory insurance requirements.

It was underlined that such a measure would neither provide enhanced consumer protection nor stimulate the development of a single European market. Moreover, it could result in fewer insurers, who are becoming much more selective in the markets in which they wish to operate, the customers to whom they wish to offer products and the products they make available.

The meeting concluded that EU liability rules (cf. environmental liability) do not automatically bring down barriers in the internal market.

Member states can choose how to meet the goals of the directive and thus may adapt EU rules to their own institutional and administrative cultures.

<http://www.cea.eu/>

Shaping better future EU public procurement law

In the context of the industry's current experiences of procurement processes, the Public Procurement Committee set off the debate on the aims of European regulation of the public procurement market.



At the March 2008 meeting, the Committee Chair, Jean Félix, raised a series of questions on critical factors affecting the engineering consultancy industry's public market transactions.

The meeting debated wider approaches to public procurement:

- economic: the opening-up of, and integration of the procurement markets across the EU (cf. use of European design standards) versus (national) protectionism and preferential treatment;
- trade: potential savings of the public client ('lowest offer') versus return on innovative investments;
- competition: ensure transparency, non-discrimination and objectivity in the award of contracts (increased market access) versus circumvention of EU rules;
- indirect policy measures: inclusion of environmental and social considerations;
- legal: varying approaches to transposition of EU legislation into national law;
- procurement of 'innovations': verification of the professional ability of the service providers, and requirements of the interaction (negotiation and dialogue) between client and tenderers.

Other topics included public procurement under the thresholds (and the continued use of national traditional procedures), rapid and effective redress procedures, market developments (acquisitions and mergers) and costs of the tendering process (both for the evaluation and participation in the competition).

The Committee will continue its policy debate in line with the industry's observations on the current EU legislation in order to determine the main thrust of the future regulatory regime.

EFCA response to the EC proposal to elaborate a 'European Code of Conduct'

The Services Directive includes a chapter on quality of services, which aims at ensuring the high quality of services by encouraging, among other things, self-regulation, if need be through the elaboration of European codes of conduct.



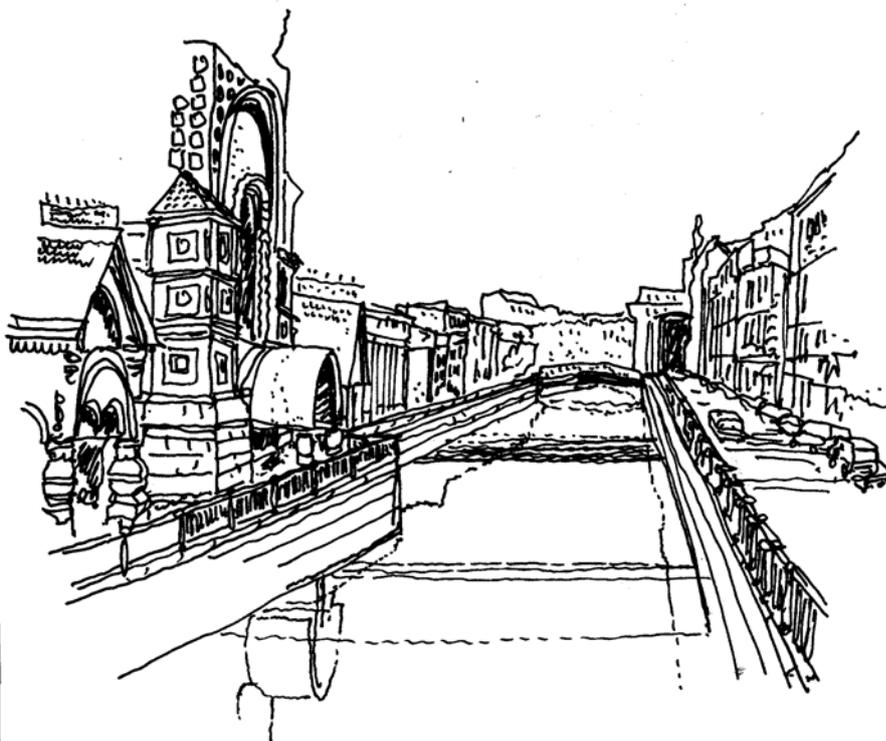
The Public Procurement Committee revised the existing EFCA Code of Conduct in the context of the Commission working document 'Quality of services - the role of European codes of conduct'.

A revised EFCA Code of Conduct could play a valuable role in the promotion of the engineering consultancy industry as it sets basic principles to ensure high quality services through self-regulation. It would set out a broad and common framework that is to be interpreted and adapted to the national context.

The EFCA Code of Conduct, which is to facilitate the free movement of services in the Internal Market, will be submitted to the membership at a later stage.

E F C A A G E N D A

Board of Directors	Brussels	18.04.2008
European CEN seminar on 'standardisation of engineering consultancy services'	Brussels	22.04.2008
Working Party on Directive 92/57 (H&S)	Brussels	21.05.2008
Project Financing Committee	Prague	28.05.2008
Public Procurement Committee	Prague	28.05.2008
Board of Directors	Prague	29.05.2008
EFCA GAM	Prague	29.05.2008 [14:30-19:00]
EFCA Conference 2008		30.05.2008 [10:00-18:00]
www.efcaconference2008.cz		
Board of Directors	Stockholm	18-19.09.2008
D&S meeting	Brussels	07.11.2008
Board of Directors	Brussels	05.12.2008



Saint Petersburg, 15 March 2008

By courtesy of Mátyás Borostyánkői



EUROPEAN BRIEFING

INTERNAL MARKET p6

Commission to enhance the European Standards-setting system

EC guidance to clarify public private partnership regime

Commission questions application of 'in-house' exception

Commission screens French law on 'project definition contracts'

EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES p8

Intelligent Energy Europe: 2008 call for proposals

Want to see your Eco-Innovation project funded?

Cairo to receive 558 million euro by 2010

63 million grant to Timor Leste

MISCELLANEOUS p9

Member states to take responsibility for sound financial management of structural funds

Infringement proceedings over energy efficiency

Promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in developing countries

EC Green Public Procurement Toolkit

European Qualifications Framework adopted to align supply and demand for knowledge, skills and competences

EIB transport policy takes full account of climate change

DOCUMENTS & WEB SITES OF INTEREST p12

INTERNAL MARKET

Commission to enhance the European standards-setting system

Standardisation can make an important contribution to the development of sustainable industrial policy, unlock the potential of innovative markets and strengthen the position of European

economy through more efficient capitalising of its knowledge basis.

In its communication 'Towards an increased contribution from standardisation to innovation in Europe', the Commission identifies the most important challenges, presents concrete objectives for standardisation and the use of standards, and consolidates on-going efforts of all relevant stakeholders.

Standardisation is a voluntary cooperation among industry, consumers and public authorities for the development of technical specifications based on consensus.

In the EU, standards are developed by the European Standards Organisations CEN (European Committee for Standardisation), CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation) and ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute).

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards_policy/index_en.htm

EC guidance to clarify public private partnership regime

The guidance explains the Community rules that apply to the choice of private partners for an institutionalised public private partnership (IPPP).

IPPPs are undertakings jointly held by public and private partners and are usually set up to provide services for the public, in particular at the local level.

At Community level there are no specific rules governing the founding of IPPP.

EU law on public contracts and concessions requires a contracting entity to follow a fair and transparent procedure, either when selecting the private partner to supply goods, works or services through his participation in the IPPP, or when granting a public contract or a concession to the public-private entity.

If the task assigned to the public-private entity is a public contract fully covered by the Public Procurement Directives, the procedure for selecting the private partner is determined by these Directives.

If the task is a works concession or a public contract that is only partially covered by the Directives, the fundamental principles derived from the EC Treaty apply, in addition to the relevant provisions of the Directives.

Finally, if it is a service concession or a public contract not covered by the Directives, the selection of the private partner has to comply with the principles of the EC Treaty.

The guidance expresses the Commission's view that under Community law one tendering procedure is sufficient when an IPPP is set up.

Community law thus does not require double tendering (one for selecting the private partner to the IPPP and another one for awarding public contracts or concessions to the public private partnership) when an IPPP is established.

The EC communication also affirms that, as a matter of principle, an IPPP must remain within the scope of its initial object, i.e. the original contract awarded, and cannot obtain any further public contracts or concessions without another procedure in accordance with EC public procurement rules.

However, to take account of the fairly long duration of IPPPs, the communication explains the conditions for adjustments to certain changes in the economic, legal or technical environment.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/ppp_en.htm

Commission questions application of 'in-house' exception

The Commission started infringement proceedings in two specific cases, whereby Italian and German national authorities invoke the 'in-house' exception.

The public service contracts in question have been concluded in the context of structures of cooperation between public municipalities.

The Italian case concerns the direct award of water and wastewater management services by the public entity ATO 2 (i.e. a consortium of municipalities of the region Marche, responsible for the coordinated management of water and wastewater services) to a public-owned company limited by shares, namely Multiservizi S.p.A. ATO 2 is shareholder of Multiservizi.

The Commission considers that the powers entrusted to each municipality as a minority owner are insufficient to confer on them a control which is similar to the one exercised over their own departments.

The Commission also excludes that the shareholders of Multiservizi can jointly control this company through ATO 2, since Multiservizi carries out a number of activities other than the management of the water service, which do not fall within the competence of ATO 2.

Secondly, despite the additional competences conferred on the shareholders' meeting by the statutes of Multiservizi, the management board of this company keeps considerable management autonomy.

The German case concerns the direct award of public service contracts for waste disposal services between the municipalities of Heidelberg and Mannheim and the administrative district Rhine-Neckar without a competitive tender procedure.

The municipalities of Heidelberg and Mannheim and the administrative district Rhine-Neckar in Baden-Württemberg have cooperated in waste disposal matters since 1986.

The Commission started infringement proceedings following a complaint by a private waste disposal undertaking.

The local public authorities are acting as contracting authorities buying services from operators in the market. They cannot rely on the 'in-house' exception, because the cooperation structure set up by the parties implies that the municipal companies

involved carry out a significant part of their activities for authorities which are not their shareholders.

Consequently, the public authorities are obliged to apply transparent and competitive tendering proceedings, opening up the market to competition and ensuring that they get the best value for their citizens' money.

Commission screens French law on 'project definition contracts'

The Commission decided to refer France to the Court of Justice concerning the provisions of the public procurement code relating to the 'definition contracts procedure'.

It considers that such contracts conflict with public procurement Directive (2004/18/EC) which does not provide for such derogation.

Under French law, 'project definition contracts' may be used when the public purchaser is not itself able to specify the extent and nature of its requirements.

Definition contracts are study service contracts intended to define the requirements in question and hence to determine the subject of, and establish the specifications for, a subsequent contract.

The purpose of such contracts is to explore the possibilities and conditions for establishing a contract subsequently, if necessary through production of a model or demonstrator. They must also enable the price level of the provisions to be estimated and calculated, as well as the different phases of the performance schedule.

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

Intelligent Energy Europe: 2008 call for proposals

Some 45 million euro is made available to co-finance European projects for the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy, and the set up of local or regional energy agencies.

Any public or private organisation from the EU, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Croatia can apply.

Projects must have at least three partner organisations from three different countries. Further information is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/

Want to see your Eco-Innovation project funded?

The European Info Day 2008 will give you essential information and advice on how to develop a good project proposal and apply successfully.

The 2008 call for proposals will be published on 21 April 2008.

Learn more at the European Eco-innovation Info Day (Brussels - 8th May, 2008)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/ecoinnovation/infoday_en.htm

More on Eco-innovation in Europe:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/ecoinnovation/index_en.htm

Cairo to receive 558 million euro by 2010

The financial package will support Egypt's own reform programmes, as reflected in the priorities in the National Indicative Programme 2007-2010 in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

In 2008, four programmes worth 139 million euro have been launched.

Some 80 million euro is allocated to support the reform of the Egyptian transport system and 29 million euro will improve the quantity, quality and efficiency of the water supply. A 17 million euro purse is allocated to the promotion of human rights while 13 million euro will support the reform of the country's administrative system.

<http://www.delegy.ec.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/partners/enp_egypt_en.htm

63 million euro grant to Timor Leste

Under the new Timor Leste Country Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme, Timor Leste will receive more than 10 million euro per year in comparison to 9 million euro per year for 2006 and 2007.

The indicative allocation of the six-year aid strategy is as follows:

- 35 million euro for Sustainable Rural Development
- 8 million euro for Health
- 13 million euro for Institutional Capacity Building
- 4 million euro for support to Non-State Actors
- 3 million euro for a Technical Cooperation Facility to support the National Authorizing Officer (Ministry of Finance) and other concerned Ministries for the implementation of the National Indicative Programme.

An additional 18 million euro to be added to the 63 million euro envelope for Timor-Leste's commitment to governance reforms is presently under consideration.

http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/iqsg/documents_library_en.cfm#csp0

MISCELLANEOUS

Member states to take responsibility for sound financial management of structural funds

The Commission adopted an Action Plan to address the Court of Auditors' recommendations on how to improve its supervisory role of management and control systems in member states for structural actions.

The report from the EU Court of Auditors put forward an error rate of 12% in the transfer of Structural Funds in 2006 (which equals 4 billion euro).

The Action Plan defines specific measures and deadlines that the member states have to meet for better control of expenditure under the Structural Funds.

It is aimed at improving the effectiveness of the first level of financial controls at member states' level.

It will allow the Commission to expand ex-post controls, apply faster suspension mechanisms and launch financial correction procedures whenever necessary.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0097:FIN:EN:PDF>

<http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/479520.PDF>

Infringement proceedings over energy efficiency

Belgium and the United Kingdom have still not communicated their transposition of the Directive on the energy performance of buildings.

The Directive aims at reducing energy consumption in buildings and sets standards to new buildings and to buildings undergoing major refurbishment.

It is crucial that the Directive is well implemented in the member states to realise

its potential of savings in energy consumption.

An overview of European initiatives, standards and projects is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/buildings_en.htm

Promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in developing countries

The Commission finally launched the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF).

The GEEREF will invest in regional sub-funds in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region, North Africa, non-EU Eastern Europe, Latin America and Asia. The focus will be on investments below 10 million euro.

The Commission intends to put 80 million euro into GEEREF in 2007-2010 to kick-start the initiative.

Total initial funding from public and commercial sources of 150 to 200 million euro is anticipated, and this is expected to mobilise additional risk capital of at least 300 million euro and possibly up to 1 billion euro in the longer term.

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

EC Green Public Procurement Toolkit

The European Commission is currently developing a web-based toolkit on Green Public Procurement (GPP) that will be available on the GPP website.

It will provide three modules:

- *Strategic information*: setting up a management system for the gradual introduction of GPP within public and semi-public organisations;
- *The legal framework*: an overview of the legal framework for GPP, with a clear indication of the “do’s and don’ts”,

targeting strategic and operational levels within contracting authorities and corporate purchasers.

- *Practical module - examples of environmental specifications*: a set of Product Sheets for 11 high-priority product/service groups, offering recommended purchasing criteria with different levels of ambition.

The criteria have been established on the basis of broad stakeholder consultation and are, where appropriate, based upon European (or national) environmental criteria and guidelines. This module is specifically designed for purchasing officers.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/training_en.htm

European Qualifications Framework adopted to align supply and demand for knowledge, skills and competences.

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) is a common European reference framework which links countries' qualifications systems together and acts as a translation device to make qualifications more readable.

The EQF has two principal aims: to promote citizens' mobility between countries and to facilitate their lifelong learning.

The EQF uses 8 reference levels based on learning outcomes (defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competences). It shifts the focus from input (lengths of a learning experience, type of institution) to what a person holding a particular qualification actually knows and is able to do.

The descriptors for the 8 reference levels were drafted in close cooperation with representatives of the European social partners, as well as the member states.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eqf/index_en.html

EIB transport policy takes full account of climate change

In 2008, the European Investment Bank (EIB) will continue to give priority to railways, inland waterways and maritime projects, in particular the motorways of the sea.

Such projects are the most promising in terms of cutting greenhouse gas emissions per unit of transport.

However, the EIB will also provide loans to research activities by all vehicle manufacturers, with the aim of boosting energy efficiency, ensuring emissions reductions and improving safety.

Investments in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) are and will continue to be a priority for the EIB.

<http://www.eib.org/about/events/annual-press-conference-2008.htm>



DOCUMENTS & WEB SITES OF INTEREST

EU LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Proposals & Regulation

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2008/8/EC of 12 February 2008

The Directive is modifying the rules on value added tax as regards the place of supply of services. For all supplies of services the place of taxation should, in principle, be the place where the actual consumption takes place.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:044:0011:0022:EN:PDF>

InnoSME – Intelligent ideas, smart business

The InnoSME project aims at identifying potentially innovative SMEs from the 12 countries that have joined the EU since 2004. It also intends to increase these firms' chances of winning funding contracts, particularly in the area of information and communication technologies (ICT) under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP).

<http://www.innosme.eu/page.asp?n=home>

Waste: revision of the Framework Directive

The proposal aims to update and modernise the 1975 Framework Directive on waste. It refocuses the directive on the reduction of environmental effects resulting from the production and management of waste, by taking account of the whole life cycle of the products. The second reading in the European Parliament will be marked with contention. The vote is scheduled for the June plenary session.

http://ec.europa.eu/prelex/detail_dossier_real.cfm?CL=en&DosId=193712

Western Balkans: Enhancing the European perspective

New measures to promote economic and political development and to propose to the broader region concrete measures in order to move forward in the pre-accession process of the six countries of the Western Balkans: Serbia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia (FYRM) and Montenegro.

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/balkans_communication/western_balkans_communication_050308_en.pdf

REPORTS

Science, technology and innovation in Europe - 2008 edition

This publication covers a wide range of indicators in line with the strategic goals set out by the European Council in the Lisbon strategy aiming to turn the European union by 2010 into the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. The indicators include R&D expenditure, R&D personnel, patents, venture capital, high-tech external trade and other indicators related to high-tech and knowledge intensive sectors of the economy.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073,46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTA_L&p_product_code=KS-EM-08-001

European Innovation Scoreboard

Five EU Member States - Denmark, Finland, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom - continue to have a very strong performance as world innovation leaders alongside the US and Japan.

The picture is less positive for public research and development expenditure and high-technology exports, where the United States is pulling ahead.

www.proinno-europe.eu/metrics

Internal Market Scoreboard (December 2007)

On average 1.2% of Internal Market Directives for which the implementation deadline has passed are currently not transposed. However, Member States too often fail to apply Internal Market rules correctly: only ten Member States have managed to reduce the number of infringement proceedings against them.

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

Progress reports on implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy

The Communication provides an overview of developments in the EU's relations with the neighbours that are encompassed by the ENP (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Republic of Moldova, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine).

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/documents_en.htm#3

Climate for a transport change

The TERM 2007 report examines performance of the transport sector vis-a-vis potential future targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions and concludes that technology measures are insufficient to meet likely targets. Policy-makers have to address the growth in transport demand.

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2008_1/en

CONSULTATIONS

VAT - Review of existing legislation on reduced rates

The consultation is based on a document that sets out the current Community legal framework for VAT reduced rates and the context of the ongoing political debate.

The document aims to seek the views and opinions of all stakeholders on the potential components of, on the one hand, a first limited legislative proposal to be presented in 2008 and, on the other hand, a subsequent more comprehensive revision of the scope of VAT reduced rates.

Deadline: 12 May 2008

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/consultations/tax/index_en.htm

MISCELLANEOUS

Future skill needs in Europe: medium-term forecast

The study concludes that demand for skills and qualifications is being driven upwards in most occupations, including in so-called elementary jobs, by the continuing rise of the service sector and sweeping technological and organisational changes

www.cedefop.europa.eu

European Quality Assurance Register in Higher Education (EQAR)

European Register of the quality assurance agencies that assess the quality of teaching at universities in Europe and comply with the so-called European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance.

The Register will be operational by the summer of 2008.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/higher/higher_en.html

European Commission Annual Policy Strategy for 2009

This Annual Policy Strategy presents the priorities for the last year of the current Commission's mandate.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0072:FIN:EN:PDF>

European Court of Justice: 2007 report

The European Court of Justice had 580 new cases brought before it in 2007, the highest number in its history, representing an increase in new cases of 8% compared with 2006 and 22.3% compared with 2005.

<http://curia.europa.eu/en/instit/presentationfr/index.htm>

Greening the economy: Creating a climate for change

Study by the international business school INSEAD and the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium.

Main finding: Europe is a global leader in eco-innovation, but it often fails to convert ideas and patents into investments.

<http://www.vbo-feb.be/index.html?page=61>

China catching up and the US still well ahead

A comparison of global economies through Time-Distance analysis, published by Eurochambres, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry

<http://www.eurochambres.eu/Content/Default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=877>

Success stories within the road transport sector on reducing greenhouse gas emission and producing ancillary benefits

The report, released by the EEA, explores six projects - implemented in the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom - that have helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and therefore contribute to the EU's medium and long-term targets on climate change. These projects have also helped improve air quality and reduce noise.

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/technical_report_2008_2/en

India and Bhutan: Country Strategy Papers 2007-2013 and Multi-annual Indicative Programmes 2007-2010

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/sp/index.htm

EDITORIAL OFFICE: Yann Leblais, Panos Panagopoulos, 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/>