

## FEDERATION NEWS

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### ***Demonstrating the value of sustainable solutions***

*At the 3 December 2010 meeting, national directors exchanged information and views on actions*

- to promote our industry's contributions to local, regional and global sustainable infrastructure and development and*
- to call on public and private clients to adopt sustainable purchasing policies.*

The meeting discussed tools for convincing and assisting clients to address sustainable development in the definition of scope and selection/award criteria. Inspiration was drawn from the French logbook, Carnet de Bord Développement Durable CBDD®, developed by Syntec-Ingénierie together with local public clients and research institutes. This good practice could be transferable to other countries, provided it is adapted to the national context.

[http://www.syntec-ingenierie.fr/fr/publications/vient\\_paraitre/image/cbdd\\_2010\\_11\\_26ver6.pdf](http://www.syntec-ingenierie.fr/fr/publications/vient_paraitre/image/cbdd_2010_11_26ver6.pdf)

The next theme of discussion was innovation and research for sustainability. It covered company organisation, business models and tools to promote the firms' participation in national and European research programmes and networks.



EFCA called on its members to collect examples, highlighting that in the context of sustainable development SMEs can become market leaders through exploiting their innovation and technological potential.

These demonstration projects will be showcased on the EFCA website, which is currently being upgraded and re-designed.

## **EFCA highlights procurement effectiveness for best value**

*EFCA welcomed the European Commission's (EC) ongoing assessment of European public procurement legislation and highlights points for consideration.*

EFCA's European Public Market Committee discussed with an EC official a series of preliminary proposals and recommendations at its 1 December 2010 meeting.

EFCA highlighted the importance of public procurement for sustainable development and enhanced private sector competitiveness. EFCA also emphasised that flexibility during the tender phase and project implementation as well as life cycle costing approaches are essential to achieving quality outcomes.

EFCA will shortly submit its formal response to the upcoming Green Paper on the modernisation of public procurement and in the general context of the Commission's evaluation of the 2004 public procurement directives to the EC.

European political stakeholders. The January 2010 issue includes an interview with Jean Félix, EFCA Vice-President and chair of the European Public Market Committee, and informs about the EFCA publications on public procurement.

[http://www.efcanet.org/menuBoven/Publications/EFCA\\_Publications/Latest\\_EFCA\\_Publications.aspx](http://www.efcanet.org/menuBoven/Publications/EFCA_Publications/Latest_EFCA_Publications.aspx)

## **European standardisation of terminology to start national consultation stage**

*The proposed glossary of key words and terms to define the activities that take place within each functional stage will be released for comments at national level shortly.*

In June 2009, the two working groups of the CEN Technical Committee (TC) 395 on terminology for engineering consultancy services (one for building, infrastructure, and industrial units and one for industrial products) started the preparation of a descriptive glossary of terms. The working groups comprise experts from the industry from various countries and their proposals are based on a Europe-wide consensus.

The Chair of CEN/TC 395, EFCA Vice-President Jean Félix, called on all EFCA member associations to contact the national mirror committees or national standard organisation in order to support the proposed glossary of terms. Such glossary would help each and every firm and its clients to reduce the risk of misunderstanding and to formulate the contract more accurately.

## **Young Professionals: opportunities to develop international skills**

*During 2011, a series of EFCA initiatives are aimed at promoting the Young Professionals' development.*

Following on from the success of the 2010 Young Professionals competition for

**the Voice of efca**  
European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations  
Representing FIC in Europe  
JANUARY 2011

### Changes urged for procurement policy to better support sustainable growth

Politicians must be aware that although we are in a financial crisis, unless quality criteria for public procurement are given greater importance, the life-time costs of many public projects could rise to unacceptable levels in the future – not just in maintenance but also in environmental and social costs.

An EU review has opened the door for industry to use its experience with the current procurement directive to advise politicians, and the European Commission, how its procurement policy can be improved. This accompanies the launch of Europe 2020, the new EU strategy for sustainable growth which encompasses the knowledge society and innovation, and an EU agenda for smart regulations. The European Federation of Consulting Engineers Associations (EFCA) has welcomed the review and been in dialogue with the Commission over recent months to discuss current problems.

Consulting engineers and architects play a key role in the sustainability of public projects by incorporating the latest technologies and innovations, having access to pertinent information and bringing quality expertise to the initial design phases. But this means that the tendering process must allow for more quality criteria during the selection stage – basing final decisions on lowest cost is creating abnormally low-price offers and can be a false economy in the long run.

“Price is important”, says Jean Félix, Vice-President of EFCA and chair of its European Public Market Committee leading the discussions, “but it should be considered over the whole life-time of a project and not just for today otherwise low price usually means low quality and limited functionality and high maintenance costs in 10-20 years time.”

EFCA is now formally submitting its proposals to the EU review and calling for changes in three main areas: value-for-money, including a selection process with more emphasis on quality; unique and common rules for opening the market and developing the knowledge society; and more flexibility and dialogue during the implementation of a public contract. EFCA also considers that improving the efficiency of European policy in the public market cannot be disconnected from the updating of other instruments of European legislation and policies, such as in the insurance and qualification services sectors.

Design and management services account for just 10% of construction costs, or 3% of construction and operation costs.

<http://www.efcanet.org>

Meanwhile EFCA circulated its external half-yearly newsletter 'the Voice of EFCA' to the

engineering excellence, EFCA now invites entries for the Year 2011 future champion of the profession.

Each member association may nominate up to 5 candidates. The closing date for entries is 28 February 2011. The winners will be presented with their awards at the 27 May 2011 conference in Berlin.

Full information can be found at <http://www2.efca.be/pages/news.aspx?item=14354>.

In the meantime, Young Professionals from various European countries have started the preparation of their Forum and networking events in Berlin.

Further information on the competition and the YP programme in Berlin will be announced on the 'Young Professionals within EFCA' group on LinkedIn.

The upgraded EFCA website as well as the extranet will provide for a section dedicated to Young Professionals. It will serve as a platform for discussion and cooperation and exchange of information and ideas at European level.

### ***EFCA to focus on consulting services for the private sector and industrial engineering firms***

*EFCA has traditionally placed its emphasis on services for the public sector. The Board of Directors has decided to focus on the needs of consultants working for the private sector including industrial engineering firms.*

Regarding the latter, membership of the associations in Finland, France, Spain and Sweden encompass consulting firms that are active in the manufacturing industry (product design), process industry (mainly oil & gas) and machinery (equipment design).

These four member associations reported on the issues of strategic importance to these sectors and the support they provide to industrial engineering (IE) firms.

EFCA will now set up a task force (TF) regarding the needs of industrial engineering firms with - as a first step - a representative of each of the four countries mentioned before.

This TF will consider the reported themes and define the possible scope of work of EFCA and services for IE firms that EFCA should focus on.

### ***Practical Guide 2010***

*The revised 2010 version of the Practical Guide (PRAG) explains the contracting procedures which apply to EC external aid contracts.*

The 2010 version of Practical Guide incorporates changes brought about by the amended Cotonou Agreement and elaborates the texts concerning indirect centralised management and joint management. It mentions the possibility to use country procedures in decentralised management and clarifies 'conflict of interest'.

Meanwhile, firms raised a major concern emerging from the November 2010 version of the PRAG and more particularly in relation to the revised version of the Statement of Exclusivity and Availability.

EFCA explained to EuropeAid the problems that the new provision generates and submitted proposals to remedy the situation.

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/practical\\_guide/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/practical_guide/index_en.htm)

### ***Statutes revised to be more reflective of actual workings***

*The 3 December 2010 Extraordinary General Assembly meeting adopted the proposed changes to the EFCA Charter and Rules of Procedure.*

The Board of Directors developed proposals that aimed at streamlining the statutory documents with EFCA's current way of operation. The revised provisions

also reflect EFCA's commitment to the FIDIC-EFCA Agreement.

During the past half year, the Board has consulted the member associations with regard to the revised Code of Conduct. The Board will consider the feedback received at the end of January 2011.

### **Comparative report of national consulting engineers' liability and insurance conditions published**

*The EFCA booklet gives a structured overview of the variation in liability regimes and insurance systems between member states.*

It summarises the answers received in 2009 from the member associations of 13 representative European countries, namely Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Sweden.

It is not a detailed legal study; firms that are looking to other than national markets are advised to refer to legal specialists for extensive guidance.



The publication is for sale (€20) at the EFCA secretariat ([vdalle@efca.be](mailto:vdalle@efca.be)).

### **STD December 2010 Sector review**

*The Swedish Federation of Consulting Engineers and Architects published its annual Sector Review.*



The Sector Review presents developments in Sweden and the Nordic countries along with an international outlook.

[http://www.std.se/web/The\\_Sector\\_Review.aspx](http://www.std.se/web/The_Sector_Review.aspx)

### **Hotels in Brussels - EFCA corporate rates 2011**

*The EFCA Secretariat negotiated special 2011 corporate rates with two already known and well appreciated hotels.*

The 2011 list of hotels as well as a map with their location is available on request, on the EFCA website

([http://www.efcanet.org/menuBoven/Events\\_\\$26\\$Hotels/Brussels\\_Hotels.aspx](http://www.efcanet.org/menuBoven/Events_$26$Hotels/Brussels_Hotels.aspx)) and on Extranet for the members (Useful Papers/Useful Documents).

*Don't forget to mention that you are an EFCA member when booking your room!*

Please do not hesitate to contact the EFCA secretariat (Virginie Dalle, [vdalle@efca.be](mailto:vdalle@efca.be)), should you need assistance or more information.

**Annual gathering of the European engineering consultancy industry**

**Berlin, 26-28 May 2011**

**NOTE THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY!**

Board of Directors meeting	Innsbruck	28.01.2011
European Consulting Future Committee	Brussels	03.02.2011
Task Force on Sustainable Development	Rotterdam	11.02.2011
Task Force on Industrial Engineering	Brussels	16 or 17 or 18.02.2011 (tbc)
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	24.02.2011
European Public Market Committee	Brussels	10.03.2011
D&S meeting	Copenhagen	11.03.2011
Board of Directors meeting	Berlin	24-25.03.2011
2011 GAM & Conference	Berlin	26-28.05.2011

***MDB Harmonized Major Works (Construction) Contract Conference  
Brussels, 27-28 January 2011***

For registration, please contact:  
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For further information:  
[www.fidic.org/mdb2011](http://www.fidic.org/mdb2011)

**The MDB Harmonized Major Works  
(Construction) Contract Conference**

Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Brussels, Belgium  
27-28 January 2011

**Programme coordinators:**

Building and Woodworkers International (BWI)  
European International Contractors (EIC)  
International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC)

**Local organization:**

European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA)

Significant challenges and opportunities were recognized by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) when the MDB Heads of Procurement agreed that a structured programme for the harmonization of master procurement documents should include amended General Conditions for major works. These would take account of and extend the standard wording which previously had been incorporated in Particular Conditions to the FIDIC Construction Contract.

In May 2005, FIDIC agreed special MDB Harmonized Major Works (Construction) Contract General Conditions comprising the General Conditions of a MDB Harmonized Edition of the FIDIC Construction Contract. They were licensed by FIDIC for MDB-financed projects; updated versions of the MDB Harmonized General Conditions were released in March 2006 and June 2006. However, implementing the conditions remains a challenge for construction industry stakeholders:

- their wording raises issues that need clarification so that users are not inclined to make their own interpretations, thus creating uncertainty and increasing risk;
- there are provisions that need specific guidance, notably measures relating to labour, employment, health and safety standards, collective bargaining, and the technical and managerial capacity to implement and monitor the contract;
- there are general issues common to the sector where the MDBs' guidance and best practice could bring about important changes. For instance, while Dispute Boards became mandatory in the MDB Harmonized General Conditions, modified procedures and incentives may need to be introduced.

**The Conference**

In order that the MDB Harmonized Major Works (Construction) Contract continues to serve as one of the main vehicles for ensuring environmentally and socially responsible procurement, the conference will analyse the rationale behind the contract's provisions and how the provisions are implemented, user experience for the first five years, and future developments.

The programme comprises seven panel sessions, coordinated by leading experts from the MDBs, bilateral and international development agencies, industry associations and organizations representing international trade and commerce, the financial and insurance sectors, labour, contractors, consulting engineers, quantity surveyors, dispute adjudicators, and arbitrators.

[www.fidic.org/mdb2011](http://www.fidic.org/mdb2011)



In association with The World Bank and the other Participating Banks for MDB Harmonized Major Works (Construction) Contracts:  
African Development Bank  
Asian Development Bank  
Black Sea Trade and Development Bank  
Caribbean Development Bank  
Council of Europe Development Bank  
European Bank for Reconstruction & Development  
Inter-American Development Bank

**Registration Fee**  
Euro 200, including meals, refreshments and a copy of the MDB Harmonized Construction Contract.

**Organization**  
The programme and speakers for the MDB Harmonized Major Works (Construction) Contract Conference are coordinated by B&W, EIC and FIDIC, with FIDIC managing the administration and EFCA managing the local arrangements. The conference opens at 09:00 on Thursday 27 January 2011, and ends with a closing report at 17:00 on Friday 28 January 2011. Panel sessions will cover the contract clauses and user experience as well as cross-cutting issues including the anti-corruption clause, labour and health and safety provisions, and dispute boards.

**Registration**  
Online registration: [www.fidic.org/mdb2011](http://www.fidic.org/mdb2011)  
Offline registration: please complete and send the accompanying registration form to FIDIC.

**Information**

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## EUROPEAN BRIEFING

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### INTERNAL MARKET

#### **Public procurement: SMEs disadvantaged**

*A new study published by the European Commission has found that SMEs are not obtaining a percentage of public procurement contracts proportionate to their economic importance.*

The 'Evaluation of SMEs' access to public procurement markets in the EU' report found that despite winning an estimated 60% of public procurement contracts published in the Official Journal of the EU, SMEs are securing only 34% of the overall value of these contracts.

This is between 14 and 21 percent lower than their overall weight in the economy.

Whilst medium-sized enterprises are not unduly underrepresented in this regard, public procurement access for micro and small enterprises is clearly limited.

Micro-enterprises secured a share of 6% of public procurement contracts, small

enterprises 11% and medium-sized companies 17%.

The report also highlights a number of procurement techniques that could be used by public buyers in view of facilitating SMEs' access to procurement.

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/business-environment/public-procurement/>

#### **Commission asks views on the use of a European professional card**

*Today, mobility remains low in the EU: in 2009 only 2.4% of the EU's population lived in a Member State other than that of their nationality. In the last thirteen years, about 200.000 citizens sought recognition of their professional qualifications.*

In its strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (Europe 2020), the Commission highlights the need to promote intra-EU mobility to match labour demand and supply more effectively.

The Commission is now gathering stakeholders' views on what aspects of Directive 2005/36/EC on professional qualifications should be simplified, updated or made more user-friendly in preparation for its Green Paper, to be adopted in autumn 2011.

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/consultations/2011/professional\\_qualifications\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2011/professional_qualifications_en.htm)

### RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

#### **OpenAIRE opens access to EU scientific results**

*The EU-funded OpenAIRE (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe) will eventually open up access to all scientific papers and data produced by researchers funded by the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7) and European Research Council (ERC).*



Open access to research articles helps to increase the impact of the EU's investment in research and development and to prevent wasting time and valuable resources on duplicative research. With access to a wider selection of literature, researchers can build upon this knowledge to further their own work. Small and medium sized businesses and entrepreneurs can also benefit from improved access to the latest research developments to speed up commercialisation and innovation.

Developing research infrastructures and e-Infrastructures, including those for scientific research results, with a view to boosting Europe's competitiveness, is a priority of both the Digital Agenda for Europe and of the Innovation Union initiative.

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

## EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

### ***What funding for EU external action after 2013?***

*The legislative financial instruments for EU external action will expire at the end of 2013, coinciding with the end of the current 2007-2013 Multi-annual Financial Framework.*

External action has a number of objectives, including promoting Europe as a global partner, preparing candidate countries for accession, working towards poverty eradication, enhancing democracy and the rule of law and assisting vulnerable populations outside of the EU.

The Lisbon Treaty defines the EU external action which includes political dialogues as

well as commercial policy but also development and economic cooperation with third countries.

Within the new framework for EU external action, this consultation is primarily focused on the financial instruments by which the EU supports external assistance as well as economic, financial and technical cooperation with third countries, in the context of the preparation of Commission legislative proposals for post 2013.



image © EU

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/5240\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/5240_en.htm)

### ***Report on implementation of EU enlargement assistance***

*The Report on the implementation of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) describes the actions financed during the year 2009 as well as findings of monitoring work, and gives an assessment of the results achieved in the implementation of the assistance.*

Compared to previous years, this year's report puts greater emphasis on achievements and lessons learned and on perspectives for the Instrument.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/press\\_corner/key-documents/financial\\_assistance/2009/2009\\_ipa\\_annual\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/press_corner/key-documents/financial_assistance/2009/2009_ipa_annual_report_en.pdf)

## SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY

### *Energy Roadmap 2050*

*The European Commission will put forward an Energy Roadmap 2050 in 2011.*

The Energy Roadmap 2050 will follow the Roadmap for a Low-Carbon Economy by 2050, which will focus on reductions in greenhouse gas emissions across the EU economy in the context of the European Council's target of an 80-95% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2050.

It will aim at presenting different pathways to reach the objectives in the sector. It will address the established objectives of EU energy policy – sustainability, energy security and competitiveness, and focus on how energy security and competitiveness can be improved throughout the transition to a low-carbon energy system.

The Commission (Directorate General for Energy) invites a broad range of stakeholders to contribute to the preparation of the Energy Roadmap 2050 by answering a questionnaire.

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/consultations/20110307\\_roadmap\\_2050\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/consultations/20110307_roadmap_2050_en.htm)

## MISCELLANEOUS

### *Is Europe in the driver's seat?*

*Reports look at competitiveness and market potential of two engineering related sectors.*

A first report aims to answer the question: how can the European automotive industry retain its strong current position and prosper in an increasingly competitive global sector?

The authors highlight the need for continuous product innovation and recommend the EU automotive industry to invest in emerging and future technologies with software-intensive segments: Advance Driver Assist systems (ADAS), Vehicle-to-vehicle/Vehicle-to-Infrastructure communication (V2X) and autonomous driving.

<http://ftp.jrc.es/EURdoc/JRC61541.pdf>

The study 'A Helping Hand for Europe: the Competitive Outlook for the EU Robotics Industry' provides a techno-economic analysis of the robotics sector, explores the definitions of robotics and the current state of the art of technologies and applications, the overall market and its potential.

It recommends that efforts be focused on unexploited opportunities, such as food processing, high-tech industries and professional and domestic services.

<http://ftp.jrc.es/EURdoc/JRC61539.pdf>

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