

## FEDERATION NEWS

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### ***EFCA and FIDIC define sustainability policy agendas***

*EFCA's and FIDIC's Sustainable Development working groups jointly define issues of strategic importance and examine possible complementary actions.*

The EFCA task force is currently taking stock of the breadth of ongoing initiatives (regulation, guidelines, policies and codes) at national, European and global level and in various areas such as sustainable cities, R&D, indicators and certification. In addition, it also reviewed FIDIC's action areas in order to gain a clear understanding of market and regulatory developments that affect the industry at both European and global level.

EFCA will contribute to the review of the FIDIC Project Sustainability Management (PSM) guidance for firms and clients to

facilitate a common understanding of sustainability concepts and practices. EFCA and FIDIC will join forces to strengthen the industry's capacity for providing innovative sustainable solutions. In this respect EFCA will contribute to the international version of the Syntec report 'Engineering Consultancy and Innovation,' which is aimed at increasing internal and external levers for the innovation potential of the industry.

Governmental and inter-governmental regulatory bodies are working on metrics that will be introduced as mandatory standards and criteria in financing schemes. Therefore both federations will further explore how to strengthen the voice of the industry that undertakes projects from a life-cycle perspective and enhances the sustainability principle as the criterion for project acceptability.

### ***Comprehensive EFCA response to European Commission public procurement Green Paper***

*The European Public Market committee started its broad review of current EU public procurement policies and legislation one year ago to bring forward EFCA's proposals for improving the regulatory environment.*

Based on the outcome of the committee discussions, the committee Chair, Jean Félix, developed a policy paper. The paper starts with an explanation of the particular position of engineering consultants in the supply chain as trusted advisor to the owner. Then it sets out a series of proposals to improve public procurement processes to comply with the need for value for public

sector investment and develop an open European single market. These general recommendations end with a suggestion that a more generally deregulatory approach may be more appropriate.

The final chapter of the paper focuses on the procurement of intellectual services and elaborates proposed improvements.

At the end of January 2011, the Commission launched a consultation, inviting feedback on the reform of the EU public procurement rules without any preconceived approach (see also 'European Briefing, page 7).

Over the years EFCA conveyed its views on continuing and topical issues which impact on the firms' business to the European legislator. Many of these subjects are raised in the Commission Green Paper. Moreover, the Commission is open to any other comments and proposals.

The Green Paper is therefore a crucial stage and a unique opportunity to advance EFCA views and target all Commission officials and Members of the European Parliament that will set the content of any future legislative proposals.

### ***International Standing of European Consulting Firms***

#### ***The challenge of improving competitiveness***

*The EFCA 2011 conference in Berlin on 27 May 2011 will explore the way forward for European engineering consultancies in the increasingly global service economy.*



International Standing of European Consulting Firms.  
The challenge of improving competitiveness  
Thu 26/05/2011 to Sat 28/05/2011 Berlin

**EFCA Conference 2011**

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Verband Beratender Ingenieure VBI e.V., Berlin

[www.efca-conference.de](http://www.efca-conference.de)

The European industry's flagship event will address three themes:

- New business models
- Improved human resources structures
- Strengthening innovation.

Panels will consist of senior representatives from the industry and the clients' side from all over Europe.

***Book in time to secure your participation and to benefit from the early bird registration rate!***

### ***Exciting and inspirational YP events in Berlin***

*Seven active European young professionals (YP) from four countries held a meeting in Berlin at the end of January 2011 to plan the 26-27 May 2011 YP programme in Berlin.*



The meeting began with a report on the 2010 YP discussions in Rome and the ensuing proposed short and long-term YP activities, including the set-up of the YP steering group.

EFCA YPs invite their fellow professionals who are interested in meeting new people from across Europe and furthering their skills to their Berlin meeting on 26 May 2011 to learn about their planned initiatives, participate in their discussion on today's 10 key issues and join the Berlin Brandenburg International Airport construction site visit. The full YP programme will be finalised shortly.

All registered YPs are also cordially invited to the 27 May 2011 Conference in Berlin at which the results of the 2011 EFCA YP competition will be officially announced. Attendance at the conference is free for YPs.

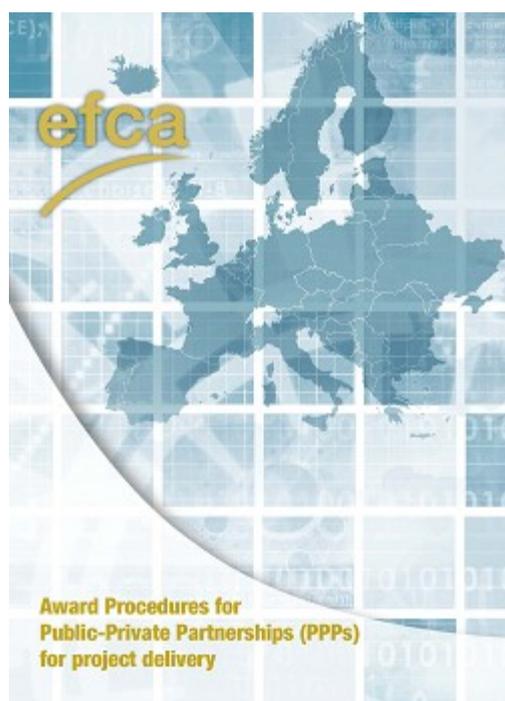
[www.efca-conference.de](http://www.efca-conference.de)

### **EFCA guidance on procurement of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)**

*The newest EFCA publication clarifies procurement of PPPs in the context of EU procurement rules and Treaty principles. It also addresses the industry's concerns and difficulties.*

Properly procured infrastructure PPP projects can provide optimal benefit to governments and society. However, all stakeholders need to have a broad understanding of PPPs and also the regulatory issues surrounding them.

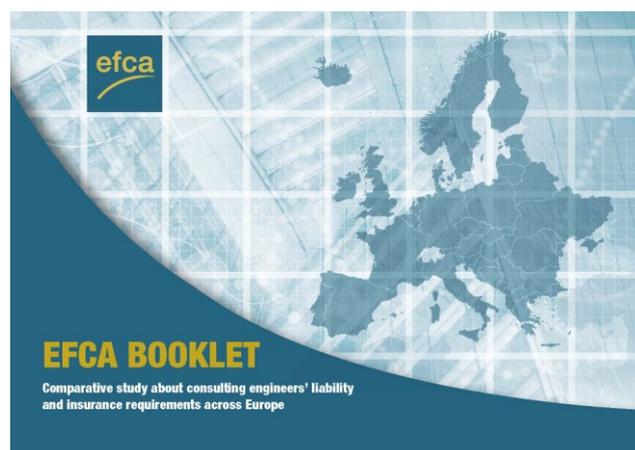
This guide identifies critical issues for engineering consultancies that relate to the use of a PPP structure, the definition of project scope and performance standards, the evaluation of risk transfers, the interfaces between all parties and the contract award.



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

### **First Europe-wide report on national consulting engineers' liability and insurance conditions**

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



The report provides basic information on the liability regimes and insurance conditions in 13 European countries, namely Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Sweden.

In addition it carries two general comparative tables that enable a concise overview of the regulatory structure, and delivers a 'compendium' of the state of present liability and insurance conditions in these countries.

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

## E F C A A G E N D A

|                                       |              |               |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| European Public Market Committee      | Brussels     | 10.03.2011    |
| D&S meeting                           | Copenhagen   | 11.03.2011    |
| Board of Directors meeting            | Berlin       | 24-25.03.2011 |
| European Consulting Future Committee  | Berlin       | 24.03.2011    |
| European Consulting Future Committee  | Warsaw       | 28.04.2011    |
| Task Force on Sustainable Development | Warsaw       | 29.04.2011    |
| 2011 GAM & Conference                 | Berlin       | 26-28.05.2011 |
| Board of Directors meeting            | Berlin       | 26.05.2011    |
| Board of Directors meeting            | Brussels     | 24.06.2011    |
| Board of Directors meeting            | Greece (tbc) | 30.09.2011    |
| Board of Directors meeting            | Brussels     | 09.12.2011    |
| Board of Directors meeting            | Brussels     | 10.02.2012    |
| Board of Directors meeting            | Brussels     | 20.04.2012    |

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**EUROPE 2020**

***A resource-efficient Europe: flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy***

*This strategy is the seventh and last of the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives which aim at building smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for Europe.*

It establishes resource efficiency as the guiding principle for EU policies on energy, transport, climate change, industry, commodities, agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity and regional development.

Using resources more efficiently will help achieve many of the EU's objectives. It will be key in making progress to deal with climate change and to achieve the target of reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions by 80 to 95% by 2050. By reducing reliance on increasingly scarce fuels and materials, boosting resource efficiency can also improve the security of Europe's supply of raw materials and make the EU's economy more resilient to future increases in global energy and commodity prices.

<http://ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe/>  
[http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)

***Commission consultation on 'Europe 2020 Project Bonds' to fund infrastructure***

*Over the next decade, record investment volumes in Europe's transport, energy, information and communication networks will be needed in order to underpin the Europe 2020 flagship actions.*

Preliminary estimates point to investment needs of €1.5 to 2 trillion for Trans-European Transport Networks, the energy sector and information and communication technologies.

The Project Bond Initiative should provide EU support to private 'project promoters'

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issuing bonds to finance in particular infrastructure projects. This should help them in attracting capital market financing from institutional investors.

The key role of the Commission and the EIB will be to absorb part of the risk of a project. The Initiative could be available to projects that are assessed to be economically and technically feasible, cost-effective and that have a prospect of financial viability.

The deadline for contributions is 2 May 2011. The Commission, together with the EIB, will organise a conference on the Project Bond Initiative on 11 April 2011.

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

### *Consultation on future EU research and innovation funding*

*With the debate on the post-2013 EU budget open, the Commission is preparing its proposals for all funding programmes, including support for research and innovation.*

The Commission Green Paper on future EU research and innovation funding programmes covers the current Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7), the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

The Green Paper is focusing on 'Europe 2020' and Innovation Union priorities as well as increasing impact on growth and jobs. It sets forth proposals to make programmes more coherent, further pooling member state national research funding, better link with cohesion funding, use EU funding to stimulate public procurement and enhance the use of prizes.

The consultation is open until 20 May 2011.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index\\_en.cfm?pg=home](http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index_en.cfm?pg=home)

### *Innovation: main competitors outpace the EU despite progress in many member states*

*According to the 2010 Innovation Union Scoreboard (IUS) conclusions the EU is not succeeding in closing the gap in terms of innovation with its main international competitors i.e. the USA and Japan.*

The 2010 Scoreboard draws on 25 research and innovation-related indicators and covers the 27 EU Member States, as well as Croatia, Serbia, Turkey, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway and Switzerland.

The indicators are grouped into three main categories:

- Enablers, i.e. the basic building blocks which allow innovation to take place (human resources, finance and support, open, excellent and attractive research systems);
- Firm activities, which show how innovative Europe's firms are (firm investments, linkages & entrepreneurship, intellectual assets); and
- Outputs, which show how this translates into benefits for the economy as a whole (innovators, economic effects).

The largest gap appears in the 'Firm activities' category where the EU27 lags behind in terms of public-private co-publications, business R&D expenditures, and, compared to Japan, in PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) patents.

<http://www.proinno-europe.eu/inno-metrics/page/innovation-union-scoreboard-2010>

Meanwhile, the Expert Panel on Service Innovation in the EU gives emphasis to the transformative power of knowledge intensive services and service innovation to delivering the 2020 Strategy.

<http://www.europe-innova.eu/web/guest/innovation-in-services/expert-panel/publications>

## ***Participation in Seventh Framework Programme for Research more attractive and accessible***

*The Commission adopted three concrete measures with immediate effect on the management of EU research grants in the current EU research programme (FP7).*

- Firstly, more flexibility will be allowed in how personnel costs are calculated, so that EU research grant-holders can apply their usual accounting methods when requesting reimbursement for average personnel costs and will no longer need to set up entire parallel accounting systems just for this purpose.
- Secondly, SME owners, whose salaries are not formally registered in their accounts, can now be reimbursed, through flat-rate payments, for their contribution to work on research projects.
- Finally, a new steering group of senior officials from all Commission departments and agencies involved will remove inconsistencies in the application of the rules on research funding.

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

## **INTERNAL MARKET**

### ***Commission consults on the modernisation of the European public procurement market***

*The Commission invites 'proactive and dynamic' reactions to the questions on modernisation, simplification and transparency of European public procurement raised in the Green Paper.*

Public procurement concerns the management of public funds and must therefore aim for optimal use of funds and delivery of results. Public contracts also concern strategic missions, such as spatial planning and transversal objectives like those linked to environmental and social concerns and innovation.

The Green Paper has six parts. The first is an introduction that reviews basic public procurement concepts and raises the question of the advisability of further clarifying these concepts to ensure greater legal certainty for both contracting authorities and companies.

The following sections address the revision's key objectives: to make public spending more efficient by ensuring better value for money and to save time and money through effective procedures. The fourth part explores ways of making better use of procurement to support society's common objectives: environmental protection, better allocation of resources and energy efficiency, and the promotion of innovation and social inclusion.

Another chapter concerns conflicts of interest, and prevention of corruption and favouritism. The last chapter looks into ways of ensuring better access for European companies to procurement in non-EU countries.

The Commission is also undertaking a comprehensive ex-post evaluation to take stock of the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the current European public procurement rules.

The results of this evaluation and of the Green Paper consultation will be discussed at a high level conference on public procurement reform, planned for 30 June 2011 in Brussels. All work streams will then feed into any appropriate legislative proposals.

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/publicprocurement/modernising\\_rules/consultations/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/modernising_rules/consultations/index_en.htm)

### ***Parliament adopts new EU regulation on the marketing of construction products***

*The regulation aims to abolish obstacles to the free movement of such products in the EU and will replace the 1989 construction products directive.*

The regulation is to protect construction workers' safety and health and simplify rules for assessing the performance of construction products in the EU, especially for micro-enterprise.

The regulation also addresses environmental concerns, setting out measures for recycling of construction products.

The regulation will enter into force following formal endorsement in Council and 20 days after being published in the EU's Official Journal. However, to give companies time to adapt, many of its provisions will only apply from 1 July 2013.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/construction-products/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/construction-products/index_en.htm)

### ***EU economy needs a more integrated Single Market for services***

*The Commission's assessment of rules at national, regional and local level and rules set by professional associations reveals difficulties with regard to regulated professions, legal form and capital ownership requirements as well as insurance obligations.*

To address these problems, the Commission proposes action in three different areas:

- A Single Market 'performance check' for services
- Targeted actions aimed at tackling remaining regulatory barriers unjustifiably hindering the potential of the Single Market for services
- Targeted actions to make the Single Market for services a more concrete reality on the ground.

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/services/services-dir/implementation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/services/services-dir/implementation_en.htm)

Eurochambres and Businesseurope published progress reports on the implementation of the main operational element of the Services Directive, namely the single points of contact.

January 2011 report Eurochambres:

[http://www.eurochambres.be/DocShare/docs/1/NMEMKIBCNBGLILDDBJAJDACRT4LTAYD4AHT56SD6C16/EUROCHAMBRES/docs/DLS/Brochure\\_Services\\_Directive\\_LD-2011-00018-01.pdf](http://www.eurochambres.be/DocShare/docs/1/NMEMKIBCNBGLILDDBJAJDACRT4LTAYD4AHT56SD6C16/EUROCHAMBRES/docs/DLS/Brochure_Services_Directive_LD-2011-00018-01.pdf)

Businesseurope: practical assessment of the state of implementation of the Services Directive and the functioning of the points of single contact:

<http://www.businesseurope.eu/Content/default.asp?pageid=568&docid=27946>

## **SUSTAINABILITY ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY**

### ***Renewable energy production must grow fast to reach the 2020 target***

*Whilst the Commission is generally positive on the ability of member states to reach the binding 20% target for renewables in 2020, indicative targets are being missed.*

The EU reached just over 18% in terms of the share of renewable energy in electricity in 2010. The (indicative) target set is 21%. For transport, the EU has only reached a share of 5.1% rather than 5.75%. These targets were set by the 2001 Green Electricity Directive and the 2003 Biofuels Directive. In the electricity sector, only seven out of 27 member states would meet their 2010 targets. For the transport sector, only nine expect to meet their 2010 targets.

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/reports/reports\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/reports/reports_en.htm)

[http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/renewable-energy-production-must-grow?utm\\_campaign=renewable-energy-production-must-grow&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=EEASubscriptions](http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/renewable-energy-production-must-grow?utm_campaign=renewable-energy-production-must-grow&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions)

### ***Wind power installations account for 17% of new electricity generating capacity (2010)***

*Newly installed wind power capacity in 2010 (9.3 GW) in the EU was 10% down*

*compared to 2009 (10.3 GW), according to statistics released by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA).*

EWEA calls on the European Commission to expand renewable energy deployment and meet the investment gap in order to prevent Europe losing its leadership in wind power and other renewable technologies.

[http://ewea.org/fileadmin/ewea\\_documents/documents/statistics/EWEA\\_Annual\\_Statistics\\_2010.pdf](http://ewea.org/fileadmin/ewea_documents/documents/statistics/EWEA_Annual_Statistics_2010.pdf)

### ***Progress report on performance in the prevention and recycling of waste***

*Certain member states have made enormous progress but the EU is still far from the long term goal of becoming a recycling society that not only limits its production of waste but also uses its waste as a resource.*

Recycling provides EU industry with valuable secondary raw materials. It also presents an economic opportunity: around half a million jobs could be created in Europe if member states recycled 70% of their waste. Improving the way waste is managed also reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/strategy.htm>

## **EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES**

### ***€67 million call for intelligent energy projects proposals***

*About 60 projects are expected to receive co-funding under the Intelligent Energy – Europe (IEE) programme.*

With €730 million funds available between 2007 and 2013, the IEE programme reinforces EU's efforts to meet its 2020 energy targets and ensure a secure and cost competitive supply of energy while fighting climate change.

The programme runs annual calls for proposals and its funding covers up to 75% of the eligible project costs.

The call for project proposals runs until 12 May 2011.

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call\\_for\\_proposals/call\\_library\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/call_library_en.htm)

### ***€170 million EU grants for transport infrastructure projects across Europe***

*The funding will co-finance key infrastructure projects in the fields of Motorways of the Sea and River Information Services, under the 2010 trans-European transport network (TEN-T) multi-annual programme and the annual programme.*

Over the course of 2010, 51 projects involving 24 member states were selected to receive funding as part of three separate calls. All projects were evaluated on the basis of their relevance to TEN-T priorities and policy objectives.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/101&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

<http://tentea.ec.europa.eu/en/home.htm>

### ***Technical assistance programme to encourage use of PPPs***

*FEMIP (Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership), the financial branch of the EIB for the social-economic development of nine Mediterranean countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Territories) started a technical assistance programme to promote the use of public-private partnership contracts (PPPs).*

With more than €300 billion to be invested in public utilities infrastructure in the southern and eastern Mediterranean by 2030 (for water management, urban services and energy in particular), the Mediterranean partner countries will have to rapidly develop their ability to mobilise the

private sector and make themselves more attractive for foreign direct investment.

A study on the legal and financial framework for PPPs in the FEMIP countries will be published in May 2011.

[www.eib.org/ftf/](http://www.eib.org/ftf/)

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Support services for European businesses**

*Want to find out what the EU can do for your business?*

**The European Small Business Portal** is designed for users across Europe, from new entrepreneurs looking for EU level financing to those interested in finding new markets, partners or specific support services. The website also contains news and information on events and examples of successful SMEs which received EU support.

<http://ec.europa.eu/small-business/>

**Your Europe – Business** provides a broad range of practical information sources and online government services for companies.

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

**SOLVIT** is an on-line problem solving network in which EU Member States work together to solve problems caused by the misapplication of Internal Market law by public authorities, without recourse to legal proceedings.

<http://ec.europa.eu/solvit>

### **Number and impacts of disasters increased in Europe in 1998-2009**

*The report of the European Environment Agency (EEA) assesses the frequency of disasters and their impacts on humans, the economy and ecosystems. It calls for better integrated risk disaster management across Europe.*

It addresses three different types of hazards: hydrometeorological or weather related (storms, extreme temperature events, forest fires, droughts, floods), geophysical (snow avalanches, landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes) and technological (oil spills, industrial accidents, toxic spills from mining activities).

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/mapping-the-impacts-of-natural>

### **Commission guides to help awarding authorities**

*The Commission published two tools to help public authorities to buy goods and services in line with EU rules.*

The first guide explains the wide range of possibilities offered by the existing EU public procurement rules to take social aspects on board in the various stages of the procurement process.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=6457&langId=en>

The second guide clarifies the European rules applicable to the organisation and financing of services of general interest.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=6458&langId=en>

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