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**EFCA and FIDIC contribute to UNEP publication 'ABC of Sustainable Cities'**

*At its January 2015 meeting, the FIDIC-EFCA Committee on Sustainable Development agreed to support the production of the ABC of sustainable cities.*

This ABC publication will align various definitions and show particularities; it will not present globally agreed definitions but build consensus around existing definitions and concepts.

It will remain a living working document and glossary for easy reference, targeted at a general audience (including policy makers, negotiators, industry, clients, project owners, etc.).

The various phases of the planning are defined and the concrete work programme is to begin.

A marketing strategy will be elaborated together with UNEP.

It is expected to launch the ABC of Sustainable Cities at COP21 in Paris (30 November – 11 December 2015).

Please contact the secretariat ([vdalle@efca.be](mailto:vdalle@efca.be)) if you are interested in joining and supporting the ABC task group

**EFCA Board meets with German association VBI**

*Convinced that the EU regulatory environment is crucial for businesses, VBI president Volker Cornelius welcomed the opportunity for VBI representatives to share new ideas with the EFCA Board in Berlin on 19 February.*

EFCA president Flemming Pedersen encouraged all to engage in the discussion in order to strengthen the federation's understanding of the industry's current needs and future challenges, and to foster the consulting engineers' recognition and influence.

VBI representatives discussed life-cycle approaches and life-cycle costing (which deals with cost impact) in public procurement (PP) rules. In the context of the ongoing transposition of the EU PP Directive, EFCA called on the German association to emphasise the benefits of taking a life cycle perspective into account when awarding contracts. Meanwhile, EFCA offered assistance to the European Commission in the development of a European methodology for the calculation of life-cycle costs.

VBI underlined the need for concrete initiatives in the field of a standardized (open source) interaction between (online) BIM services.

Reference was made to EN 16310 and EN 16311 standards, a Europe-wide terminology describing engineering services in construction of buildings, infrastructure and industrial facilities and engineering services for industrial products.

EFCA will continue exchanging information on European initiatives in digital planning and construction such as Connect & Construct.

EFCA thanked VBI for its support in the working groups under the Construction 2020 High Level Strategic Forum.

All participants agreed on the core values of our industry: highest professional quality, integrity and responsibility, independence and high qualification.

Finally, the meeting exchanged experiences on the PRAG (Practical Guide, explaining the contracting procedures applying to all EU external aid contracts), and EFCA's actions concerned.



Volker Cornelius

Flemming Pedersen

***Stand your chance of winning: showcase your achievements and future potential***

*31 March, the closing date of the 2015 EFCA Young Professionals competition, is rapidly approaching!*

The annual EFCA YP awards are the opportunity for young professionals to showcase their talents and entrepreneurship

in engineering consultancy projects and to enhance their career.

Ten shortlisted entrants will be invited to attend the EFCA Conference on 28-30 May 2015 in Oslo, where the winner and two runners-up will receive their prizes.

This event will not only offer the best opportunity to get close to leaders from major engineering consultancy firms from across Europe but it will also bring together young professionals to discuss communications, BIM as a communication tool in projects and innovation in planning.

The submission of entries to the European awards competition is managed through the national associations.

The competition rules are laid out at <http://www.efcanet.org/News/Detail.aspx?id=1179>

## **# 315 billion**

*An inspirational presentation on the Investment Plan for Europe will trigger the one-day discussions on critical conditions for investments in high quality infrastructure and innovative projects.*

RIF, the Norwegian host association is attracting a broad range of inspiring speakers on 315 billion opportunities, 315 billion business models, 315 billion scenarios for interaction across disciplines, 315 billion forms of entrepreneurship, 315 billion ... drivers for growth and quality of life.

If you are interested in finding out more about megatrends that shape the market and impact on the industry's business models, and joining sparkling discussions on future business opportunities and powerful solutions, join us in Oslo on 28-30 May 2015.

The full programme and practical registration details will be available as from 6 March at:

<http://www.ccnorway.no/efca2015/>

## Consulting engineers: new leaders for creating a more sustainable society

The message that consulting engineers are critical to addressing a wide range of issues in an increasingly challenged world is not new. The Voice of EFCA explains why and how our industry plays an important role in shaping the world.

Consulting engineers are partially hidden in the design phase of large building and infrastructure projects.

However, with their creativity they get successfully from problem to solution and with their breadth of vision they turn ideas into reality.

Moreover, they not only develop the most efficient technological answer; they seek the best solution for society, taking account of environmental and social implications of their work.



EFCA Board member Kari Harsunen concludes that although good design may seem effortless and can be invisible, consulting engineers should get the credit they deserve for contributing to sustainable development.

[http://www.efcanet.org/Portals/EFCA/ELOKET/14841/Voice%20of%20EFCA%2013\\_December%202014.pdf](http://www.efcanet.org/Portals/EFCA/ELOKET/14841/Voice%20of%20EFCA%2013_December%202014.pdf)

## The Sector Review

The Swedish Association of Architects and Consulting Engineers published the detailed 2014 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>

The 2014 ACE Sector Study, a biennial survey that collects and analyses statistical, sociological and economic data on European Architects, is available at: <http://ace.trynisis.com/activities/publications/sector-study/>



# E F C A A G E N D A

**FIDIC-ARIC-EFCA  
Regional  
Infrastructure  
Conference**  
Bucharest - 12/13 March 2015



**FIDIC-ARIC-EFCA Regional Infrastructure Conference** Bucharest 12-13.03-2015

The conference will provide more detail and experience on the 2014 Public Procurement Directives, and their impact at national level. Participants will learn of these experiences and the impact on market development. The use of FIDIC contracts will also be explored in some detail, as these are the preferred standard in those markets.

D&S meeting	Paris	27.03.2015
FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Development Committee	Brussels	31.03.2015
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	14.04.2015
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	24.04.2015
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	07.05.2015



Board of Directors meeting	Oslo	28.05.2015
Presidents' lunch	Oslo	28.05.2015
EFCA GAM	Oslo	28.05.2015
EFCA YP Forum	Oslo	28.05.2015
EFCA – RIF Conference	Oslo	29.05.2015
CEO lunch	Oslo	29.05.2015



Dubai 13-15.09.2015

Board of Directors meeting	tbc	25.09.2015
Board of Directors meeting	tbc	27.11.2015



## EUROPEAN BRIEFING

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**Winter Economic Forecast: outlook improved but risks remain**

## EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

### ***Infrastructure priorities and investment needs for the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) until 2030***

*Nine studies, published by the European Commission, show that approximately €700 billion of financial investment is required for the development of the TEN-T core network.*

These studies, the first comprehensive analysis of tens of thousands of kilometres of rail, road, inland waterway connections, ports, airports and other transport terminals, define a preliminary lists of projects that could feed into the reserve of projects under the Connecting Europe facility and the Commission's €315 billion Investment Plan.

The Commission plans to launch new studies around mid-2015, which will consolidate project lists or determine the approach to prioritising projects.

[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/ten-t-guidelines/corridors/corridor-studies\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/ten-t-guidelines/corridors/corridor-studies_en.htm)

### ***Energy Union: secure, sustainable, competitive, affordable energy for every European***

*The Commission sets out its strategy to achieve a resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy.*

The strategic policy document is accompanied by a Communication reporting on EU's progress towards the minimum electricity interconnection target of 10% as well as the 'Road to Paris' Communication spelling out the EU's intended climate contribution.

[http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/energy-union/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/energy-union/index_en.htm)

### ***Commission takes steps to implement Investment Plan for Europe***

*The proposed European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) will be at the very heart of President Juncker's Investment Plan.*

The European Fund for Strategic Investments would be financed by an initial €21 billion: €16 billion from the EU budget and an additional €5 billion from the EIB's own reserves.

<http://www.eib.org/about/invest-eu/index.htm>

[http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/jobs-growth-investment/plan/financing/index\\_en.htm#efsi](http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/jobs-growth-investment/plan/financing/index_en.htm#efsi)

### **Spain first country to implement the SME initiative**

*The SME initiative involves collaboration between the European Commission with the EIB Group, the Spanish national authority of structural funds and a selected number of Spanish regions.*

The SME Initiative in Spain is expected to make a contribution to sustainable growth and employment through the facilitation of credit at attractive terms.

In practice, regions in the country will reallocate part of their EU funding from European Structural and Investment Funds, i.e. €800 million. This money will be channelled through the SME Initiative and used as a guarantee to take first risk in projects.

The European Investment Fund (EIF) will implement the initiative in Spain. The first loans should become available to SMEs in the summer.

<http://www.eif.org/>

### **266 Cohesion Policy programmes approved, worth more than €256 billion**

*With the adoption of these Operational Programmes and the remaining 10 by the end of February, Cohesion policy negotiations will have finished for 20 member states (all, except the United Kingdom, Romania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Spain, Italy and Sweden).*

EU Cohesion Policy Funds are the main investment arm of the Union budget, having a budget of €351.8 billion for a total of 387 programmes for the period 2014-2020.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index.cfm/en/atlas/programmes?search=1&keywords=&periodId=3&countryCode=ALL&regionId=ALL](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/atlas/programmes?search=1&keywords=&periodId=3&countryCode=ALL&regionId=ALL)

### **Multimillion-euro scheme launched to help innovative firms**

*The new €200 million Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) initiative will help to reduce the time it takes to bring new innovative ideas to market.*

The FTI initiative is funded by Horizon 2020 and is designed to better and faster exploit excellent ideas and help generate jobs and growth for Europe.

The FTI pilot aims to support mature innovative concepts that have been tested in an operational environment. Activities supported include systems validation in real working conditions, testing, piloting, business model validation as well as standard setting and pre-normative research.

The pilot will be implemented through one common and continuously open call. Proposals can be submitted at any time with three cut-off dates in 2015: 29 April, 1 September and 1 December.

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/9096-ftipilot-1-2015.html>

### **LIFE support for two new financial instruments**

*The Private Finance for Energy Efficiency Instrument (PF4EE) and the Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF) address the potential at EU and national level to optimise the use of public and private funds, in particular through dedicated financial instruments.*

PF4EE aims to address the limited access to adequate and affordable loan financing for energy efficiency projects, targeted by schemes that are developed by EU member states to implement their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.

The Commission has committed €80 million for 2014-17, anticipating an eightfold leverage effect.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/financial\\_instruments/pf4ee.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/financial_instruments/pf4ee.htm)

<http://www.eib.org/products/blending/pf4ee/index.htm>

The main aim of the NCFE is to demonstrate that natural capital projects can generate revenues or save costs, whilst delivering on biodiversity and climate adaptation objectives. Eligible projects will address payments for ecosystem services, green infrastructure, biodiversity offsets and investments for innovative pro-biodiversity and adaptation businesses.

The Commission provides up to €50 million as a guarantee for the investments and, in addition, finances a €10 million support facility to help developing the projects.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/financial\\_instruments/ncff.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/financial_instruments/ncff.htm)

### **€23 million support for sustainable development of Kiribati**

*The new EU support for Kiribati represents an increase of 80% of the previous EU support (between 2008 and 2013.)*

The funding will be spent on the socio-economic development of Kiritimati Island. It will also help alleviating climate change threats affecting the main island Tarawa and it includes supportive measures such as enhancing administrative capacities and boosting civil society organisations.

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/countries/kiribati\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/countries/kiribati_en)

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/fiji/countries\\_focus/kiribati/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/fiji/countries_focus/kiribati/index_en.htm)

### **€410 million support to Cambodia's progress over the period 2014-2020**

*The multi-annual indicative programme represents a tripling of EU assistance compared to the previous period of 2007-13.*

The three sectors that will be the focus of the EU's development cooperation are:

agriculture and natural resource management, education and skills and good governance and administration.

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/countries/cambodia\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/countries/cambodia_en)

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### ***New rules for cross-border judgments across the EU***

*The rules abolish the costly and lengthy procedure, which is currently used 10,000 times per year to get judgments in civil and commercial matters recognised in other EU countries.*

The rules, applying as of 10 January 2015, make cross-border judgments automatically enforceable anywhere in the EU, better protect consumers and employees in legal disputes involving non-EU countries, and bring more legal certainty to companies when doing business across the EU.

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

### ***Commission views on the post-2015 development agenda***

*The Communication "Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015" sets out the Commission's views on global efforts that will be needed to eradicate poverty and boost sustainable development.*

It puts forward the key components that should form part of the global partnership: a conducive policy environment, capacity development, mobilisation and effective use of domestic and international public finance, making the most of trade and technology, harnessing the positive effects of migration as well as utilizing the private sector and natural resources effectively.

It also stresses the need for a strong framework for monitoring, accountability and review at all levels.

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/communication-global-partnership-poverty-eradication-and-sustainable-development-after-2015\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/communication-global-partnership-poverty-eradication-and-sustainable-development-after-2015_en)

### **Water Project Toolkit App**

*The Water Project Toolkit application (WPT App) provides guidance and information on best practices for implementing water and sanitation projects in the developing world.*

The WPT App, developed by the Joint Research Centre with EuropeAid, gives access to the analytical tools necessary to evaluate the specific context, issues and needs in your project area, as well as operational checklists to guide you throughout the project lifecycle.

The WPT is a living document which is available online at [www.aquaknow.net](http://www.aquaknow.net).

### **Budget support works as an aid instrument**

*While some of the EU member states no longer use budget support as a modality, the Commission stands firmly behind.*

Over the years budget support has come under criticism, with some seeing it as a blank cheque for governments to do what they want with and others arguing that recipient governments will not invest in their own development efforts.

Evaluations now demonstrate that budget support is an instrument to drive development reform. However, an open and effective policy dialogue between development partners and governments is needed to effectively reduce income poverty and inequalities.

[http://www.oecd.org/derec/ec/BGD\\_Budget-Support-Synthesis-Report-final.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/derec/ec/BGD_Budget-Support-Synthesis-Report-final.pdf)

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[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/budget-support-and-dialogue-partner-countries\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/budget-support-and-dialogue-partner-countries_en)

### **New financial instruments assistance service**

*The Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) launched fi-compass.*

'fi-compass' is an advisory service on financial instruments for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and microfinance under the Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI).

<http://www.fi-compass.eu/>

### **Progress reports on reform in Bulgaria and Romania**

*The Commission issued the analysis of the steps that Bulgaria and Romania have taken in the past twelve months in the areas of judicial reform and the fight against corruption, and in the case of Bulgaria also the fight against organised crime.*

[http://ec.europa.eu/cvm/progress\\_reports\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/cvm/progress_reports_en.htm)

### **Winter Economic Forecast: outlook improved but risks remain**

*For the first time since 2007, the economies of all EU member states are expected to grow again this year.*

While all member states are expected to have positive growth rates this year and the recovery has continued to broaden in recent quarters, the divergence in economic performance across the EU is likely to continue.

[http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/eu/forecasts/2015\\_winter\\_forecast\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/eu/forecasts/2015_winter_forecast_en.htm)

