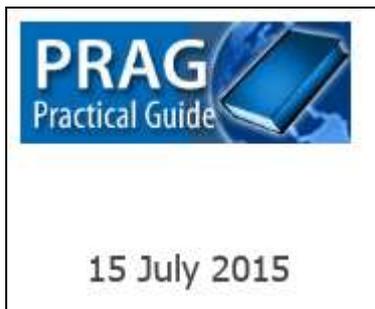


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**Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EU External Actions (PRAG) – July 2015**



EFCA's European External Aid Committee convincingly presented the industry's feedback in the review process of the 2014 PRAG.

The revised PRAG clarifies most of the issues, which the engineering consultancy industry raised in regular meetings with the European Commission.

EFCA welcomes these changes that are in line with its advocacy actions: use of global price contracts rather than fee-based ones, clarified and softened liquidity ratio, reference only to profile of experts hired in previous projects to be provided and not also names, and the 'youth for development' initiative.

The July 2015 version of the PRAG is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/about-funding-and-procedures/procedures-and-practical-guide-prag\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/about-funding-and-procedures/procedures-and-practical-guide-prag_en)

**DG DEVCO endorses EFCA views on the use of country systems**

*The Directorate for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) welcomes the EFCA position paper on the use of country systems. The EFCA paper is promoting international best practice, support to raising local procurement procedures to international standards, and fair and more competition.*

By letter, DG DEVCO commented that '... prior to the use of country systems by partner countries in the implementation of EU development aid, they will have to undertake satisfactorily a pillar assessment of their procurement procedures. This audit, whose terms of reference are drafted by the European Commission, is meant to guarantee that their systems will comply with international best procurement practices.'

## **Industry informs DG GROW on the operation of the EU services market**

EFCA reported regulatory and administrative barriers for cross-border service delivery to DG GROW, the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.

As part of the preparation of the forthcoming Communication on the Internal Market Strategy, DG GROW invited professional organisations that are representing strategic services sectors to report hindrances to the development of activities in another EU country.

DG GROW welcomed the EFCA response, mapping significant issues that affect the capacity of engineering consultancy firms to act cross-border, and that were identified through five national associations.

## **EFCA and FIDIC commemorate OICE's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

At the 18 June 2015 conference 'Consulting engineering in Europe and in the world: a model for the public procurement reform in Italy', OICE President Patrizia Lotti welcomed the Deputy Minister for Infrastructure and the committee rapporteur on the new Italian public procurement bill that passed the same morning in the Senate.

OICE has been successful in lobbying the Italian government on the new public procurement law, which is now better reflecting the procurement of intellectual services.

The conference dwelled on best practices in other European countries and, more generally, in the world.

EFCA addressed the need for engineering consultancies to shift from professions to business services providers if consultancies want to be successful nationally and subsequently internationally. Furthermore, attention was given to new markets and the

need for adapting business models of companies.

FIDIC presented best practices in international contracting.



## **SYNTEC-Ingénierie stages 14<sup>th</sup> annual meet.ING at World Efficiency**



At the occasion of 'World Efficiency', the first biennial event for policy makers and businesses looking for resource and climate solutions, the 14<sup>th</sup> **meet.ING de l'ingénierie** is organised at Paris Porte de Versailles on 13-15 October 2015.

Also CINOVA (F) and TECNIBERIA (E) team up with World Efficiency.

# E F C A A G E N D A



Dubai

13-15.09.2015

A number of [FIDIC events](#) are taking place in Europe over the next few months

Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	25.09.2015
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	01.10.2015
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	06.10.2015
FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Development Committee	Brussels	14.10.2015 (tbc)
D&S meeting	Sardinia	23.10.2015
Board of Directors meeting	Gothenburg	27.11.2015
2016 GAM & Conference	Sofia	2-3.06.2016



## EUROPEAN BRIEFING

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Climate and Energy Summer package	
Central Eastern and South Eastern European countries join forces to create integrated gas market	
Consensus on new sustainable development agenda	
New Development Bank BRICS launched	

### INVESTMENT PLAN FOR EUROPE

#### **European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) ready for take-off in autumn**

*The Commission has put the final building blocks in place to implement the Investment Plan for Europe.*

A Communication explains the important role of national promotional banks (NPBs) in catalysing long-term finance and in getting Europe investing again by participating in EFSI investments.

Also, an agreement was reached on the working methods between the Commission and the EIB (European Investment Bank).

The projects, pre-financed by the EIB and which will receive the backing of the EFSI guarantee were confirmed. Members of EFSI's Steering Board were appointed.

Final arrangements to launch the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH), the European Investment Project Portal (EIPP) and the Scoreboard of indicators for the evaluation of projects were made.

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

#### **Three new InnovFin financial products**

*'InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators' consists of a range of tailored products to help innovative firms access finance more easily.*

InnovFin guarantees and loans are backed by funds set aside under Horizon 2020 and by the EIB Group for the purpose of supporting R&I investment, which by nature is riskier and harder to appraise than tangible investments.

'InnovFin Energy Demo Projects' and 'InnovFin Infectious Diseases' are to increase investment in research in the areas of energy and health.

The third new innovative financial product, launched by the European Investment Fund (EIF), is the 'InnovFin SME Venture Capital Facility', which focuses on venture capital funds that target start-ups.

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

<http://www.eif.europa.eu/>

<http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/funding-grants/access-to-finance/>

## INTERNAL MARKET

### **Regulated profession of architects and engineers: infringement proceedings**

*The Commission sent a letter of formal notice to four member states on the grounds that their national rules include excessive and unjustified obstacles for the exercise of certain regulated professions, contrary to the provisions of Directive 2006/123 /EC (the 'Services Directive').*

Austria, Cyprus and Malta should adapt their legislation, particularly with regard to shareholding requirements and prohibitions of multidisciplinary practices for architects and engineers.

A further potential case of violation of Union law are the compulsory minimum tariffs for architects and engineers in Germany.

The national governments have two months to respond to the arguments that are put forward by the Commission.

[http://ec.europa.eu/community\\_law/infringements/infringements\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/infringements/infringements_en.htm)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-15-5199\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5199_en.htm)

### **European Professional Card (EPC) for five professions**

*From January 2016, nurses responsible for general care, pharmacists, physiotherapists, real estate agents and mountain guides will be able to apply online for the recognition of their qualifications in other EU countries through the Internal Market Information System.*

The introduction of the EPC for engineers, doctors, specialized nurses, and specialized pharmacists needs further assessment.

[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/free-movement-professionals/policy/european-professional-card/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/free-movement-professionals/policy/european-professional-card/index_en.htm)

### **Public procurement data on EU Open Data Portal**

*The subset of Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) data, covering public procurement for the European Economic Area, Switzerland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, includes information on who is buying what from whom, for how much, and which procedure and award criteria were used.*

<https://open-data.europa.eu/en/data/dataset/ted-csv>

## EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

### **CEF Energy: Second Call for Proposals 2015**

*The second CEF (Connecting Europe Facility) Energy Call for Proposals this year will make €550 million (indicative budget) available to finance projects of common interest in the energy sector - namely in electricity and gas.*

The Call will support projects that are aimed at:

- ending energy isolation
- eliminating energy bottlenecks
- completing the internal energy market.

The deadline to submit applications is 14 October 2015.

<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-energy/apply-funding/cef-energy-second-call-proposals-2015>

Under the first CEF Energy 2015 call for proposals, €150 million was allocated to 20 projects. 17 relate to studies, such as environmental impact assessments (€30 million), and 3 to construction works (€120 million); 11 are in the gas sector (financial aid worth €80 million) and 9 in the electricity sector (€70 million).

[https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/CEF\\_Energy\\_2015\\_call\\_for\\_proposals.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/CEF_Energy_2015_call_for_proposals.pdf)

## **Record €13.1 billion investment in transport infrastructure**

*The Commission selected 276 transport projects under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).*

The projects are primarily located in the core trans-European transport network. Among the beneficiaries are flagship initiatives such as Rail Baltica, the Brenner Base Tunnel, the Seine-Escaut waterway, the Caland Bridge and the Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link.

Smaller-scale initiatives include cross-border projects between Groningen and Bremen, the Iron Rhine rail line, LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) deployment plans or projects enhancing the navigability of the Danube River.

The individual grant agreements will be prepared by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) and signed with the project beneficiaries in the second half of 2015.

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

<http://ec.europa.eu/inea/en>

<http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/tentec/tentec-portal/map/maps.html>

## **New EU cross-border programmes adopted**

*Various cooperation programmes will tackle common challenges identified in the border regions and exploit their growth potential.*

The 2014-2020 cross-border cooperation (CBC) programme between Greece and Cyprus has a budget of €54 million, with nearly €46 million coming from the European Regional Fund.

The Interreg IPA CBC programme covers 6 border regions in Bulgaria and 7 Serbian regions. It is worth more than €34 million, with a contribution of nearly €29 million from

the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

A new cross-border Interreg IPA programme covers 11 border regions in Greece and 4 Albanian regions and is worth more than €42 million, with a contribution from the European Union of nearly €36 million from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

Cross border programmes, investing more than €40 million (2014-2020) in the border regions of Croatia and Serbia, are adopted.

The 2014-2020 Danube Transnational Cooperation Programme, with over €202 million coming from the European Regional Development Fund and €19.8 million from the Instrument for Pre-Accession covers regions of nine EU countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and three non-EU countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro).

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/cross-border/#1](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/cross-border/#1)

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index.cfm/EN/funding/ipa/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/EN/funding/ipa/)

## **€118 million new EU support for Latin America and the Caribbean**

*Several new programmes will be implemented through blending facilities (financial mechanisms combining grants and loans or equity from public and private financiers): the Caribbean Investment Facility (CIF) and the Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF).*

The two regional programmes for Latin America are AL-INVEST 5.0 (€26 million) and ELAN (European and Latin American Business services and Innovation network). The latter programme will last three years and the budget is €11 million.

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/innovative-financial-instruments-blending\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/innovative-financial-instruments-blending_en)

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/latin-america/al-invest-regional-aid-programme\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/latin-america/al-invest-regional-aid-programme_en)  
<http://www.al-invest4camc.org/inicio/>  
<http://www.elaneu.eu>

### **EU funding for the Caribbean**

*The €346 million new regional funding programme with the Caribbean region until 2020 represents more than a doubling of the funds that were available in previous years (€165 million).*

The funds announced for the Caribbean are part of an overall package of the European Union of almost €700 million in support of Latin America and the Caribbean.

An indicative €135 million will be allocated to the Caribbean Investment Facility (CIF).

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/caribbean-0\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/caribbean-0_en)

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/latin-america/latin-america-regional-programmes-eu-funding\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/latin-america/latin-america-regional-programmes-eu-funding_en)

### **€1.15 billion EU support for West Africa**

*The 2014-2020 Regional Indicative Programme under the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund amounts to a total of €1.15 billion.*

It is aimed at improving the implementation of this substantial allocation through a new institutional governance that is focused on effectiveness, greater and easier access to regional funds for National Authorising Officers (NAOs) and the financing of regional infrastructure investment through loan-grant blending.

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/eas-2015-rip-west-africa\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/eas-2015-rip-west-africa_en.pdf)

### **€116.8 million assistance package for Tunisia**

*The first part of the annual assistance package is financed through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).*

Five programmes will be implemented in the different regions of Tunisia.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/tunisia/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/tunisia/index_en.htm)

### **EU support for Nepal reconstruction process**

*The Commission pledged €100 million in budget support to assist Nepal reconstruction efforts and create fiscal space in the country's budget.*

Nepal is dependent on external aid (25% of the budget), with aid disbursements highly contingent upon political developments in the country and the government's absorption capacity.

The EU-Nepal cooperation programme for 2014-2020 amounts to a total of €360 million.

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/multi-annual-indicative-programme-mip-2014-2020-nepal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/multi-annual-indicative-programme-mip-2014-2020-nepal_en)

## **CONSULTATIONS**

### **Energy efficiency in buildings**

*The public consultation launches a review of the 2010 Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, which is due by 1 January 2017.*

Deadline: 31 October 2015.

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/consultations/public-consultation-evaluation-energy-performance-buildings-directive>

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Action Plan to improve corporate taxation in the EU**

*Today's corporate tax systems in EU member states are inefficient and create opportunities for companies to take advantage of legal loopholes.*

The [Action Plan](#) aims to establish a new approach to corporate taxation in the EU to tackle tax avoidance, ensure sustainable revenues and foster a better business environment in the Single Market.

The Commission also launched a public [consultation](#) on tax transparency, seeking feedback on a proposal to require companies to disclose their profits in annual reports on a country-by-country basis.

### **Climate and Energy Summer package**

*The package is an important step towards implementing the Energy Union strategy with a forward-looking climate change policy.*

As part of the Energy Union strategy, the Commission presented proposals to deliver a new deal for energy consumers, to launch a redesign of the European electricity market, to update energy efficiency labelling and to revise the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS).

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

### **Central Eastern and South Eastern European countries join forces to create an integrated gas market**

*The Memorandum of Understanding and action plan will help improve the gas*

*infrastructure in the Central Eastern Europe and South East European regions.*

A number of infrastructure projects, such as the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), LNG terminal in Croatia and evacuation system, system reinforcement in Bulgaria and Romania, interconnectors between Greece and Bulgaria and between Serbia and Bulgaria, have been identified as top priorities.

<https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/news/central-eastern-and-south-eastern-european-countries-join-forces-create-integrated-gas-market>

### **Consensus on new sustainable development agenda**

*'Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' features 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets that aim to end poverty, promote prosperity and people's well-being while protecting the environment by 2030.*

It is expected this consensus will give important positive momentum to the negotiations on a new binding climate change treaty.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015>

### **New Development Bank BRICS launched**

*The New Development Bank BRICS (NDB BRICS) opened in Shanghai on 21 July 2015 to finance infrastructure projects, mainly in BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).*

The multilateral development bank will start operations at the end of this year or in early 2016.

<http://ndbbribs.org/>

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