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### ***FIDIC and EFCA support COP21 climate summit and Paris deal***

*FIDIC and EFCA are advocating measures and tools for tackling climate change.*

In the last issue of the [Voice of EFCA](#), Carolien Gehrels, who is former Deputy Mayor of Amsterdam and Director Big Urban Clients at Arcadis, explains to EC officials, Members of the European Parliament and other contacts our industry's critical role in the transition to a sustainable economy and in creating synergies between well-functioning urban societies.

Right in time before the start of the climate negotiations in Paris, the EFCA Board of Directors endorsed the [FIDIC statement](#) for COP21.

French association CINOVA-SYNTEC, in partnership with UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and together with FIDIC and EFCA, organized a COP21 side-event at the 'Galerie des Solutions' to

present the forthcoming UNEP publication 'ABC for Sustainable Cities'. This glossary, which is supporting the policy makers' dialogue, will be officially launched in Prague during the HABITAT III regional meeting (16-18 March 2016).



In the preparatory process of the next COP summit in Marrakesh on 7 November 2016, EFCA and FIDIC will continue advocating that policy makers take full advantage of the engineering industry's capabilities to progress towards meeting emissions reduction targets.

### ***Innovative standard for sustainable and resilient communities with more consistent and integrated approach***

*Thanks to the relentless determination of Jean Félix, Chair of the FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Development Committee, the new international standard ISO37101 is reflecting the systemic approach, embedded in the 2013 EFCA/FIDIC White Paper 'Rethink Cities'.*

ISO37101 will foster the establishment of a multi-actor management process in cities and communities through a holistic

approach that will facilitate cooperation of all interested parties and avoid silo approaches.

The standard will help mayors, city officials and elected officers, infrastructure owners and operators, city planners, consultants and investors in devising a strategy and implementing management systems to become more sustainable.

The FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Development Committee will assist the responsible ISO Technical Committee (TC268) in developing guidance.

### ***EFCA endorses Serbian statement in support of quality in engineering and architectural services***

*After the example of the Spanish Association of Engineering, Consultancy and Technological Services Companies (TECNIBERIA), the Association of Consulting Engineers of Serbia (ACES), issued a statement that is highlighting the adverse effects of low-bid procurement on quality.*

This communication, addressed to policy makers and public authorities, is calling for public procurement of intellectual services that is efficient, beneficial to society and that stimulates innovation.

### ***The Sector Review 2015***



*The Swedish Association of Architects and Consulting Engineers published the detailed 2015 sector survey and market review of the consulting*

*engineering and architectural groups in Sweden and the Nordic countries, along with an international outlook.*

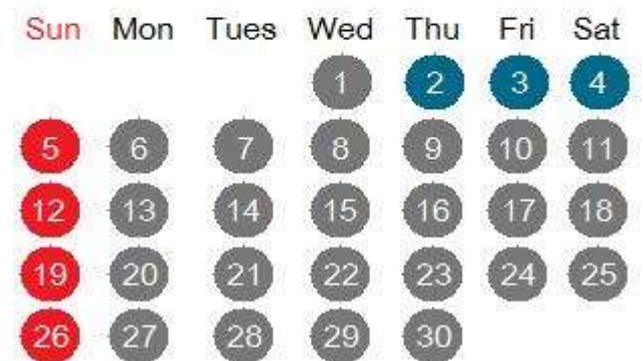
The [report](#) is published yearly in December, in cooperation with STD's Nordic colleagues in FRI, FRV&SAMARK, RIF and SKOL&ATL, from Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Finland respectively.

### ***Bringing together the business leaders from across Europe in Sofia***

*Concise inspirational presentations on expanding business opportunities in the Balkan region, a high-level networking lunch for European CEOs and a partnering session will shape the 2016 Conference programme.*

If you are interested in teaming up with Bulgarian consulting firms, finding out more about EU investments in infrastructure in the region, best practices in public procurement of EU-funded projects, growth-generating sectors for the industry and joining sparkling discussions on the effective implementation of investment programmes, join us in Sofia on 2-4 June 2016.

Mark the date in your calendar!



# E F C A A G E N D A

Task Force on BIM	Brussels	20.01.2016
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	28.01.2016



FIDIC's **2016 YPMTP programme** will start in February 2016 and will end with working sessions at the FIDIC 2016 Conference

European External Aid Committee	Brussels	09.02.2016
Board of Directors meeting	Dublin	19.02.2016
FIDIC-EFCA-SIDiR Regional Conference	Krakow	7-8.03.2016
D&S meeting	Brussels	31.03.2016
Board of Directors meeting	Helsinki	22.04.2016
Board of Directors meeting	Sofia	02.06.2016



**2016 GAM & Conference**

**Sofia 2-3.06.2016**

*Happy New Year 2016  
from the EFCA Secretariat*



*Jan Van der Putten  
Anne Croisiau  
Virginie Dalle  
Mohamed Marbouh*

# TOURS CARICATURES

BY  
MÁTYÁS  
BOROSTYÁNKŐI



**35**  
COUNTRIES  
**315**  
FACES  
**410**  
DRAWINGS  
**35**  
YEARS



**Mátyás Borostyánkői DLA** (Budapest, 1942) architect. Designer in Iparterv Ltd from 1990 Director and later President General Director of Iparterv Ltd. Between 1998 and 2003 President of the Association of Hungarian Consulting Engineers and Architects, Hungarian organization of FIDIC. Member of the Union of Hungarian Architects.

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## EUROPEAN BRIEFING

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## INVESTMENT PLAN FOR EUROPE

### *European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) support to SMEs*

The European Investment Fund (EIF, part of the EIB Group), Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, and SACE (CDP Group) signed two [InnovFin](#) and [COSME](#) guarantee agreements to provide €1 billion to Italian SMEs.

The European Investment Fund (EIF) and Sihtasutus KredEx (KredEx) signed the first [COSME](#) agreement in Estonia. The COSME counter-guarantee agreement will allow KredEx to support €200m of loans and leases to 1000 SMEs in Estonia over the next three years.

The European Investment Fund (EIF) and Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF) signed a [COSME](#) agreement in Slovenia, benefiting from EFSI support. The agreement will allow Slovene Enterprise Fund to provide €180 million of guarantees to over 1,100 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Slovenia over the next three years.

EIF and Flemish investment group PMV signed a [COSME](#) agreement in Belgium. The agreement will allow PMV to provide €40 million of loans to over 700 SMEs in Belgium over the next two years.

EIF and iwoca signed their first [COSME](#) agreement in the UK. Thanks to EU funding, over 3,000 small businesses will be able to access £40 million in funding through new loans.

### *New Circular Economy Package*

*The [package](#) includes revised legislative proposals on waste, as well as a comprehensive Action Plan.*

The waste proposals establish a clear and ambitious long-term vision to increase recycling and reduce landfilling.

The Action Plan is setting out measures to 'close the loop' of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use.

This transition to a more circular economy will be supported by ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds), €650 million from Horizon 2020 (EU programme for research and innovation, e.g. through [InnovFin](#)), €5.5 billion from structural funds for waste management, and investments in the circular economy at national level.

## INTERNAL MARKET

### ***European public procurement rules to ensure best value for EU investments***

*Relevant Commission services (DG Regional and Urban Policy, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) developed an Action Plan in support of more robust procurement in the cohesion context.*

Under the [Action Plan](#), the Commission published [guidelines](#) to help public officials across the EU identify and avoid the most frequent errors in public procurement of projects co-financed by the [European Structural and Investment Funds](#) (ESIF).

Almost half of the ESF funds are channelled through public procurement.

## EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

### ***€1 billion support package for the Western Balkans and Turkey***

*The funding of the 2015 package of pre-accession assistance programmes comes under the [Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance](#) (IPA II).*

It will support the political and economic reform process of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

The package includes a €155 million programme to help fund major regional infrastructure projects in the energy and transport sectors in the Western Balkans: four power interconnections, two road projects and two rail projects.

The EU contribution is expected to trigger loans from partner financial institutions totalling €540 million.

### ***€100 million EU support to reform and economic development in Georgia***

*The [European Neighbourhood Instrument](#) (ENI) funding will support Georgia in meeting its reform objectives in the sectors of public administration, agriculture and rural development and will help promote an active civil society.*

It will also assist Georgian institutions in implementing the Association Agreement and advance Georgia's visa liberalisation process with the EU.

### ***EU funds for new cross-border cooperation programmes***

*The EU is investing in cross-border cooperation through [Interreg](#), a financing instrument for regional development across borders.*

The last cross-border cooperation programme, adopted in 2015, is for Italy, Montenegro and Albania, worth nearly €93 million.

Seven new cross-border cooperation programmes, worth over €740 million from the European Regional Development Fund and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance were announced mid December 2015: Italy - Switzerland, Italy - Greece, Italy - Slovenia, Italy - Croatia, Lithuania - Poland, 'Greater Region (France,

Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany) and Hungary – Serbia.

The 'Interreg V-A Euregio Meuse-Rhine' programme is covering the border region of the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. It is worth €140 million, with €96 million coming from the European Regional Development Fund.

The main objectives of a new Interreg programme between Romania and Hungary worth €231.8 million, are to increase employment and cross-border labour mobility, enable joint economic growth and enhance cooperation in the prevention of natural risks.

A strong focus of a new cross-border cooperation programme between Estonia and Latvia is put on the protection and promotion of the region's natural and cultural heritage, in order to further develop a sustainable tourism activity.

A new Interreg programme, worth over €98 million, will support in particular cross-border cooperation between Italian and Austrian research and innovation institutions. It will also protect and preserve the common natural and cultural heritage in the region.

A new Interreg programme, worth €65 million, will address some of the most important cross-border challenges linked to the achievements of the Europe 2020 objectives in the border regions of Southern Latvia and Northern Lithuania.

€57 million, coming from the European Regional Development Fund and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, will provide concrete measures to improve the quality of life and offer new economic opportunities and jobs to people living in the border regions of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

### **€65 million EU funds to boost regional and transnational cooperation in the Caribbean**

The 2014-2020 'Interreg' programme for the Caribbean has a total budget of €86 million.

The [programme](#) covers the outermost regions of Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Saint Martin, and around 40 third countries and overseas countries and territories (OCTs) in the Caribbean basin, especially the countries of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Caricom (Caribbean Community) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

### **€19 million EU support to cross-border cooperation between French Guiana and neighbouring countries in the Amazon**

*The programme focuses on four strategic priorities in the fields of transport, the environment, health and the development of enterprises in the regional market.*

The total budget of the 2014-2020 cross-border cooperation [programme](#) between the outermost region of French Guiana, Suriname and the states of Amapá and Amazonas in Brazil is over €28 million.

### **2014-2020 Atlantic Area Transnational Cooperation Programme**

*The [programme](#) promotes cooperation between 38 regions from 5 EU Member States: France, Spain, Portugal, Ireland and the United Kingdom, including the outermost regions of the Canary Islands (Spain) and the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira (Portugal).*

Key focuses of the programme, worth €185.3 million with a contribution from the European Regional Development Fund of €140 million are:

- fostering innovation,
- promoting a resource-efficient economy,
- protecting the Atlantic territory against risks of natural and human origin and
- promoting the natural and cultural assets.

### **€12 million funding through the European Regional Development Fund for transnational cooperation between Mayotte, Madagascar and Comoros**

*The InterregV - Mayotte-Comoros-Madagascar cooperation programme for the period 2014-2020 focuses on cross-border cooperation between the outermost region of Mayotte and the neighbouring islands of Comoros and Madagascar.*

The Comoros and Madagascar also benefit from development programmes supported by the European Development Fund (EDF). These initiatives will be managed in coordination with the [Interreg](#) programme, with the aim of setting up cooperation projects jointly financed by the EDF and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

### ***Union for the Mediterranean (UfM): 2016 work programme and new development projects***

*UfM is an intergovernmental organisation bringing together the 28 EU member states and 15 countries from the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean.*

The three UfM strategic priority areas are: sustainable development, inclusive growth and youth employment and women's empowerment.

### ***European Commission announces new Pan-Africa Action Plan projects***

*The [Pan-African Programme](#), set up to support African integration, is funded under the EU's [Development Cooperation Instrument \(DCI\)](#) with €845 million for 2014-2020.*

Late November 2015, the Commission announced nearly €150 million for nine new [projects](#) to support governance and human rights, as well as innovation and learning throughout the African continent.

### ***€3.6 billion for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States***

*The 11<sup>th</sup> EDF [intra-ACP programme](#) amounts to €3.6 billion, a 25 % increase compared to the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF.*

The Intra-ACP programme is addressing common challenges that transcend geographical criteria and will benefit many or all ACP States.

Intra-ACP action is envisaged when national and/or regional efforts prove impossible or less effective.

The money will provide support in the areas of human and social development, environment and climate change, private sector development and peace and security across the ACP countries.

### ***Several 2014-2020 National Indicative Programmes (NIP) adopted***

*The National Indicative Programmes represent an important step in the programming of EU development aid.*

In 2013, EU member states agreed on the overall amount for development cooperation that will be channelled to 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries through the 11th EDF during the financing period 2014-2020. The total amount is €30.5 billion.

€200 million support for **Eritrea** is focussed on two main areas: energy and governance.

The 2014-2020 programme for **Ivory Coast** provides for three priorities: peace-building and state-building (€60 million), agriculture and food security (€60 million) and energy (€139 million).

Priorities of €518 million EU development cooperation with **Madagascar** are: governance and strengthening of public policies, infrastructures in support to economic development, and rural development.

The €734 million support for **Mozambique** for the period until 2020 will support a range of areas. Two areas will have a particular focus:

- Good governance and development
- Rural development to address both inclusive growth and poverty reduction in rural areas.

## **Chad: launch of five development cooperation programmes, worth €101 million**

The new funding is the first instalment of the indicative allocation of €442 million to [Chad](#) under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for the period 2014-2020.

## **Over €11 million to projects under the Partnership Instrument**

The four new projects with a combined budget of €11.23 million to enhance the EU's cooperation with India, China and Brazil as well as the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region have several foreign policy focusses.

The [Partnership Instrument](#) is managed by the [Service for Foreign Policy Instruments](#).

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Climate change adaptation and mitigation in Europe: tracking progress and sharing know-how**

The [Copernicus Climate Change](#) service is under implementation (Beta version). It will give access to information for monitoring and predicting climate change.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) report '[National monitoring, reporting and evaluation of climate change adaptation in Europe](#)' consolidates information of national monitoring, reporting and evaluation (MRE) systems in European countries.

The report complements the information available on the European Climate Adaptation Platform [Climate-ADAPT](#) and national websites on climate change adaptation.

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The report '[Overview of reported national policies and measures on climate change mitigation in Europe in 2015](#)' presents a synthesis of the information on climate change mitigation policies and measures (PaMs), adopted or planned by member states.

### **Resource-efficient cities: vital step towards urban sustainability in Europe**

The European Environment Agency (EEA) published three new [reports](#) on what a resource-efficient city is and what cities can do to enhance urban sustainability.

### **2015 enlargement package**

The annual '[Enlargement package](#)' includes the [Enlargement Strategy Paper](#) and the [assessment reports on the progress made by each candidate country and potential candidate](#).

The enlargement agenda covers the Western Balkan countries (Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia (FYRM) and Kosovo) and Turkey.

### **Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)**

Through the [new policy](#), the EU will continue to promote universal rights, such as democracy and the rule of law, while stabilisation becomes the main priority.

### **Annual report 2015 on the European Union's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2014**

STRATEGIC PARTNER

