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**Showcasing our businesses' expertise and experiences in urban development**

*At a side event of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), FIDIC presented the ABC for sustainable cities and the EFCA-FIDIC White Paper 'Rethink Cities' as exemplary frameworks for a holistic and integrated planning approach to sustainable city development and management.*

Anders Persson, FIDIC representative at the event, illustrated the central role of the design community in meeting the New Urban Agenda goals and ambitions.

As a corollary, FIDIC together with AFNOR (in charge of the secretariat of ISO - Technical Committee 268 'Sustainable cities and communities') presented the new ISO standard on urban management systems (ISO 37.101).

Urban professionals are urged to join forces in the further implementation and development of the standard through trainings and guidance tools.



Anders Persson (STD), FIDIC representative (third from the left)

At the annual UN climate conference in Marrakech (Morocco), Moncef Ziani, FIDIC Vice President, will make a presentation on the engineering consulting industry's commitment to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

**DG GROW presents ambitious and challenging project**

*DG GROW (Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs) officials joined the September meeting of EFCA's Internal Market Committee to hear about the industry's expectations of the formerly called 'Services*

*Passport’ and discuss the Commission’s initiatives to deliver an effective Single Market.*

Over the past years the Commission has undertaken assessments of persistent barriers to cross-border provision of services in the EU, in particular in the area of business services.

EFCA provided sector specific and experience-based evidence. Together with some of its national associations, EFCA also took part in the Commission consultation on the proposal to introduce a ‘Services Passport’ and possible actions to address regulatory barriers and barriers from professional indemnity insurance requirements.

DG GROW reported on the outcomes of the analysis and public consultation to EFCA’s Internal Market Committee and informed about the renamed ‘European Services Certificate’. Besides details on the services provider identification and compliance with national legislation, the Certificate would include elements regarding insurances.

DG GROW is continuing its internal debate on how stepping up EU-level efforts to reduce administrative burdens and obstacles for firms that wish to offer services in other member states.

### ***EFCA updates position on blending***

*To ensure that our industry can add to the effectiveness of EU aid and in accordance with the principles of equal and fair opportunities and transparency, EFCA is requesting to have a full procurement plan, the name of the leading institution, the procurement rules and eligibility criteria available through a single tender information source.*

There are eight blending facilities that get grant funding from the EU budget, the European Development Fund and the member states development finance

institutions, which are combined with loans from other financial institutions.

A major problem that European engineering consultancies face is to locate, assess and win projects in developing countries that receive EU grants.

Indeed, it proves difficult to identify the entity in charge of managing the tenders/proposals, and acquire knowledge of the variety in eligibility criteria and evaluation/selection modalities.

The revised [EFCA policy statement](#) argues for improved transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the blending instrument.

In its report on the outcome of the April-May 2016 EC public consultation on the revision of the Financial Regulation, the Commission acknowledged the lack of information and publicity in indirect implementation.

### ***Joint dialogue between EFCA and European International Contractors (EIC)***

*The two federations agreed to explore the possibility for organising jointly a third Roundtable on Infrastructure Projects in Developing Countries with DG DEVCO (International Cooperation and Development) in the first quarter of 2017.*



Frank Kehlenbach, [EIC](#) Director, joined the 25 October 2016 meeting of the European External Aid Committee.

He set out the [EIC position](#) on the proposed new PRAG (Practical Guide to contract procedures for European Union external action ) provisions for Design-Build projects, in particular the General Contract Conditions, as well as the EIC views on blending and the proposed European External Investment Plan.

Given that the opportunities for Public-Private Partnerships and private investment

in Africa's infrastructure sector to date sector are limited, EIC elaborated a concept for a revised blending mechanism, the [EIC Blending 2.0 proposal](#). It advocates the involvement of export credit agencies in public infrastructure projects in Africa financed by the EU.

EIC has the status of friendly reviewer of FIDIC contracts and documents.

### **National Directors debate best practices and key insights**

*In order to help colleagues all over Europe advancing their associations' missions and create value for member firms, the Directors exchanged information and views in three workshops at their autumn meeting.*

At the invitation of ARIC, the Romanian Association of Consulting Engineers, the Directors met in Bucharest on 21 October 2016.

In the afternoon, the meeting split up into three discussion groups: (1) Policy-Making/Agenda-Setting; (2) Committee / working group management and (3) Member firms management.

Valuable insights and proven expertise were reported back to the group.



The participants welcomed the opportunity for reviewing daily practices, performances and strategies.

They agreed that 'Sharing best practices and the industry's changing markets and business environment' will be the theme of the spring 2017 meeting in Brussels.

### **EFCA Board meets with STD - Svenska Teknik&Designföretagen**

*STD President Markus Granlund called on EFCA to influence the European policy makers in Brussels to ensure that the firms' interests are heard.*



At the STD-EFCA meeting, President Flemming Pedersen explained the continuous close cooperation with FIDIC as well as the division of labour as stipulated in the 2013 FIDIC-EFCA cooperation agreement.

The STD representatives discussed with the EFCA Board the ongoing work on the European business conditions and needs and the complementary global activities.

Other topics raised included: availability of Europe-wide statistical data that demonstrate the economic importance of the industry, future major EFCA activities that will create value for the national associations, and EFCA's continuous efforts to improve internally the efficiency of meetings and communications and to strengthen its voice towards the European institutions.

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

Task Force on BIM	Brussels	02.12.2016
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	12.01.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	10.02.2017
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	21.02.2017 (tbc)
FIDIC – ACES – EFCA Regional Infrastructure Conference	Belgrade	09-10.03.2017
D&S meeting	Brussels	06.04.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Napoli	21.04.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Copenhagen	01.06.2017
<b>2017 EFCA GAM &amp; CONFERENCE</b>	Copenhagen	1-2.06.2017



Copenhagen Inner Harbour Bridge



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#invest EU

### **European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) extended for three further years**

The next EFSI period, known as EFSI 2, will continue to support energy *infrastructure* projects, as well as those that encourage

*renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency.*

Since its launch in 2015, EFSI – which is implemented and co-funded by the European Investment Bank (EIB) – is on track to mobilise at least €315 billion in additional investment by mid-2018.

### **New European External Investment Plan (EIP)**

*By leveraging funds from the EU, member states, other donors, financial institutions and the private sector, the EIP will promote sustainable investment and tackle some of the root causes of migration in the EU Neighbourhood and Africa.*

The EIP will be based on three pillars:

- a new investment fund, the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD), combining existing investment facilities with a new guarantee to address and unblock bottlenecks to private investment. The EFSD will include two Regional Investment Platforms (Africa and EU Neighbourhood)
- technical assistance for broader policy environment to help local authorities and companies develop a higher number of sustainable projects and attract investors, in order to further engage the private sector
- a range of dedicated thematic, national and regional EU development cooperation programmes, combined with structured political dialogue targeted at improving the investment climate and the overall policy environment in the countries concerned.

### **Guidance on the Eurostat treatment of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)**

The *Guide* comes as a response to calls from many public and private sector stakeholders for more clarity on the rules used by Eurostat for assessing the statistical treatment of PPPs.

It explains if and how the features of typical PPP contracts influence the statistical treatment of a PPP as “on” or “off” the balance sheet of government.

## INTERNAL MARKET

### ***Plans for major EU corporate tax reform***

The [corporate reform package](#) proposal comprises three proposals to provide for a more modern and fairer tax system for business, to close loopholes between EU countries and non-EU countries and to provide new dispute resolution rules to relieve problems with double taxation for businesses.

## EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

### ***Cohesion Fund invests in the modernisation of Hungarian railway***

The Commission approved a [major project](#), worth €39.2 million from the [Cohesion Fund](#), to improve the railway connection between Budapest and Békéscsaba, in southeast Hungary, along the [Rhine-Danube corridor](#) of the [Trans-European Transport Network \(TEN-T\)](#).

### ***Investment in broadband access for rural communities in Romania***

The Commission allocated €45.7 million from the [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#) to Ro-Net, a [major project](#) started in the 2007-2013 period.

### ***EU investment in Polish road infrastructure***

€66 million from the [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#) will be invested in the improvement of road connections between rural areas and urban centres in the [Łódź](#) region.

### ***€222.7 million EU investment in green and low-carbon projects***

Additional investments to [LIFE](#) programme for the Environment and Climate Action, leading to a total of €398.6 million, will be invested in 144 new projects in 23 member states.

### ***Sixth member state to join the SME Initiative***

*The SME initiative was launched in Finland in September 2016.*

The programme, worth €40 million with €20 million from the [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#), gives small businesses better access to finance.

### ***New assistance package of almost €210 million for the EU neighbourhood***

The assistance package includes over €88 million to support bilateral cooperation projects that will benefit citizens in Egypt (€50 million) and Palestine (€38.6 million). In addition, over €41 million will fund regional cooperation programmes which will benefit the [Southern Neighbourhood](#) region as a whole.

A package of €79.8 million will boost socio-economic development and SMEs, youth employability and connectivity in the [Eastern Partnership](#) countries.

### ***Facility for International Cooperation launched***

*Together with the signature of 4 contracts, a new [EU-Latin American regional cooperation mechanism](#) was launched.*

The first call for proposals, with a budget of €13 million, resulted in 9 selected projects, from which 4 contracts were signed early October 2016 in Argentina.

## **Table of projects financed by the EU budget**

The European Commission published an interactive [map](#) detailing the projects that are financed by the EU across the world.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **New anti-bribery standard**

[ISO 37001](#), *Anti-bribery management systems*, specifies a series of measures to help organisations prevent, detect and address bribery.

#### **EU commitments to reach global targets in sustainable urban development**

At the [U.N. Habitat III Conference](#), the Commission presented three commitments to meet the [New Urban Agenda's](#) global objectives.

The EU's three commitments are: (1) delivering the New Urban Agenda through the [Urban Agenda for the EU](#); (2) developing a global, harmonised definition of cities and (3) fostering cooperation between cities in the field of sustainable urban development.

#### **Online platform to support development of regions and cities**

The '[Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies](#)' brings together data, methods and tools to support regional and urban policy, covering areas such as demography, air quality and transport.

#### **Urban Data Platform**

The one-stop shop [portal](#) will help cities to address challenges, such as energy

efficiency or accessibility, by making the most out of EU funding opportunities. It is complemented by the new [Urban Data Platform](#), hosted by the [Joint Research Centre](#) and by the [State of European Cities Report](#), released jointly with UN Habitat.

#### **Communicating statistics on the Energy Union**

A digital publication is [shedding light on energy in the EU](#).

More publications:

Eurostat [Sankey energy balance interactive diagram](#)

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to energy statistics

Eurostat [database](#) on energy

#### **Commission proposal for a new Financial Regulation**

*The Financial Regulation (FR) is the main point of reference for the principles and procedures governing the establishment, implementation and control of the EU budget.*

The proposal merges the current two legal acts (FR and Rules of Application - RAP) into a [single set of rules](#) and makes a number of improvements in terms of [simplification](#).

### **CONSULTATION**

#### **Interim evaluation of Horizon 2020**

Contributions are sought from researchers, entrepreneurs, innovators and organisations that participated in Horizon 2020.

Final date: 15.01.2017

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim\\_h2020\\_2016/consultation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim_h2020_2016/consultation_en.htm)

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