

F E D E R A T I O N N E W S

EDITORIAL

EFCA guidance on forthcoming ISO 19650 standard

Compiling MEAT best practices in support of quality of the procurement process

Launch of EFCA BAROMETER spring 2017 survey

2017 EFCA-FRI Conference in Copenhagen

FIDIC-ACES-EFCA Regional Infrastructure Conference & Corporate Training Event 'The Road to Smart Infrastructure'

EFCA agenda

EDITORIAL

As you will note, EFCA is using another email platform and format for its newsletter.

The EFCA Bulletin will continue providing you with a summary of the federation's activities and latest European news.

In the coming 'experimental' months, the intervals will become shorter. It is aimed at bringing you content that is worth sharing as it was the case in the past, for both national member associations and industry representatives.

Suggestions to enhance visibility for what EFCA is doing and to deliver more interesting information are welcome!

EFCA guidance on forthcoming ISO 19650 standard (Information management using building information modelling)



The EFCA BIM Task Force is examining the draft international standard. At a later stage, CEN (European Committee for Standardisation) can adopt this standard as European standard.

A first assignment of the EFCA Task Force relates to the ongoing work in CEN/TC 442 on Building Information Modelling. Having a liaison status, EFCA's representative (Christophe Castaing) is actively bringing in the BIM users' views – in consultation with FIEC (contractors) - in the ongoing discussions on BIM standardisation. In this context, the Chair of the FIEC working group on BIM actively participated in the January 2017 EFCA Task Force meeting.

Secondly, and in line with the ongoing CEN/TC 442 debate, the EFCA task Force is analysing the draft ISO 19650 standard. Both comments as well as an explanation of its significance for our industry and recommendations on BIM uses are being prepared.

Other Task Force members elaborated a comprehensive overview of existing BIM guidance in Europe, whilst a third subgroup is focussing on the analysis of BIM implications on **FIDIC** contracts and contract management.

In a first stage, the 1999 **FIDIC** Red Book was looked at.

The **FIDIC** White Book will be examined in preparation for the March 2017 Task Force meeting. The Task Force's ensuing conclusions and possible proposals to **FIDIC** will be submitted for the Board's consideration.

Compiling MEAT best practices in support of quality of the procurement process

Aiming at making contracting authorities to make the most out of MEAT (most economically advantageous tender), EFCA's Internal Market Committee will examine a series of good practices and real-life examples.

In their report on the national transposition and implementation of the 2014 public procurement directives, various Committee representatives reported a strong need for both guidance on MEAT and evaluation tools for awarding authorities.

Incapable to take into account qualitative considerations, contracting authorities are awarding contracts to the cheapest offers to the detriment of quality.

Therefore, good practices and examples for the formulation of MEAT criteria and the methodology for the evaluation of price / quality are collected for elaborating useful templates.



In view of the preparation of the EU chapter in the updated **FIDIC** Procurement Procedures Guide, the Committee returned a questionnaire, thus conveying valuable and useful information on the implementation of MEAT in the EU member states to the FIDIC Procurement Policy Sub-Committee.

Launch of EFCA BAROMETER spring 2017 survey

At its January meeting, Task Group made a few further improvements to the Barometer survey and also the next report.

The spring 2017 Barometer report will be restructured and incorporate more statistical data and charts, for comparison with the industry's own feeling of the market and the firms' business reality.

The results of the survey (to be circulated in March) will be presented at the 1 June 2017 General Assembly Meeting in Copenhagen.



COMING SOON: 2017 EFCA-FRI Conference website



FRI will hold the EFCA Annual Conference and General Assembly Meeting in the very heart of Denmark's lively capital, Copenhagen on 1-3 June 2017.

The forthcoming [website](#) will illustrate that the Danish Association of Consulting Engineers, its staff and its member companies are making every effort to ensure that all participants will have an enjoyable stay in Copenhagen, wide-ranging discussions with delegates, successful workshops and an inspiring conference. A further highlight of the programme is the Young Professional Award.

EFCA and FRI are looking forward to welcoming you in Copenhagen in June 2017!

FIDIC-ACES-EFCA Regional Infrastructure Conference & Corporate Training Event 'The Road to Smart Infrastructure' – 09/10 March 2017, Belgrade, Serbia

The third edition of the specialist regional conferences is focusing on how modern technology can help improve the way in which businesses are run to become more cost effective whilst improving quality and efficiency in all activities: project-programming, procurement and project implementation.

The event will also foster knowledge about the (successful) use FIDIC forms of contract in this European region, even if it is a market predominantly regulated by public law and, as such, by public procurement rules.

You can find all information on the conference, accommodation and optional pre-conference on the conference [website](#) where you can also register on-line.



E F C A A G E N D A

Sustainable Development Committee	virtual	08.02.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	10.02.2017
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	14.02.2017
FIDIC – ACES – EFCA Regional Infrastructure Conference	Belgrade	09-10.03.2017
Task Force on BIM	Brussels	22.03.2017
D&S meeting	Brussels	06.04.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Napoli	20-21.04.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Copenhagen	01.06.2017
2017 EFCA GAM & CONFERENCE	Copenhagen	1-2.06.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Budapest (tbc)	7-8.09.2017 tbc)
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	14.09.2017
FIDIC Conference	Jakarta	1-3.10.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	24.11.2017



Copenhagen - The Black Diamond



E U R O P E A N B R I E F I N G

Public consultation on the setting up of the voluntary ex ante assessment mechanism for large infrastructure projects

Climate change poses increasingly severe risks for ecosystems, human health and the economy in Europe
Production in construction up by 0.4% in both euro area and EU28

Ambitious new Circular Economy Package

EU surplus in trade in services down in 2015 for a second consecutive year

EU Urban Agenda: launch of four new Partnerships

Record of grant funding for the EBRD in 2016

Public consultation on the setting up of the voluntary ex ante assessment mechanism for large infrastructure projects

The ex ante assessment mechanism would apply to projects that operate in transport, energy and ICT with an estimated value exceeding €700 million. A project, in the context of this action, should be understood as the totality of works (and services) procurement procedures, needed to achieve a single well-defined overarching goal related to the provision of infrastructure.

The ex ante assessment mechanism for the public procurement procedures of large infrastructure projects would consist of three elements:

- 1) a **helpdesk** for specific questions on public procurement to assist member states
- 2) a **notification mechanism**
- 3) a **mechanism for exchanging information** on projects between member states and/or project promoters.

The [consultation](#) ends on 14 April 2017.

Climate change poses increasingly severe risks for ecosystems, human health and the economy in Europe

The European Environment Agency report '[Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2016](#)' assesses the latest trends and projections on climate change and its impacts across Europe.

Better and more flexible adaptation strategies, policies and measures will be crucial to lessen these impacts.

Ambitious new Circular Economy Package

The Commission [proposals](#) cover the full lifecycle of products: from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials.

This transition to a circular economy will be supported financially by the European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF), which include €5.5 billion for waste management. In addition, support will be provided by €650 million under Horizon 2020 (the EU funding programme for research and innovation) and investments in the circular economy at national level.

Production in construction up by 0.4% in both euro area and EU28 (November 2016 compared with October 2016)

The increase of 0.4% in production in construction in the euro area in November 2016, compared with October 2016, is due to civil engineering rising by 1.0% and building construction by 0.3%.

Source: [EUROSTAT](#)

EU surplus in trade in services down in 2015 for a second consecutive year

Services that contributed the most to the EU surplus were financial services and ICT, followed by other business services (R&D, business, professional & technical services).

Source: [EUROSTAT](#)

EU Urban Agenda: launch of four new Partnerships

These thematic partnerships focus on the [circular economy](#) (coordinated by the city of Oslo), [digital transition](#) (Estonia, and the cities Sofia (BG) and Oulo (SF)), [jobs and skills in the local economy](#) (Romania and the cities Rotterdam (NL) and Jelgava (LV)) and [urban mobility](#) (Czech Republic and the city of Karlsruhe (D)).

Within the partnerships, the Commission, member states and cities work together to ensure that the urban dimension is strengthened in EU policies.

Record of grant funding for the EBRD in 2016

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development ([EBRD](#)) in 2016 attracted €445 million donor funds.

Donor grants are used to co-finance EBRD operations and related activities, such as policy reform and technical cooperation projects, aimed at enhancing the private sector's sustainable growth in countries ranging from Albania to Uzbekistan.

The EU is the EBRD's largest single donor, contributing around 50 per cent of donor funding.

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