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Sustainable development and engineering challenges: join the European forum for discussion and debate



Major changes and the demand for sustainable solutions is driving business opportunities and creating challenges for consulting engineering firms across Europe.

As an industry, we need to understand the drivers of change and to grasp macro trends. We need to understand the legislation and the formal set-up of regulation and we need to realise what our clients wish and require and how our global competitors act.

How to position ourselves as an industry and as individual firms in a changing marketplace will be some of the key takeaways from the EFCA Conference 2017.

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2017 FIDIC-ACES-EFCA European regional infrastructure conference



Attended by over 120 participants, the conference provided an important window for the Serbian member association ACES, which received substantial media attention both on television and in the written press.

The third regional conference, held in Belgrade under the overall theme “The Road to Smart Infrastructure” attracted an impressive line-up of speakers.

The conference discussed the technological revolution in the way infrastructure is designed, constructed, operated and managed. These changes impact on - or are constrained by - realities such as our contractual and procurement frameworks.

Existing unlimited possibilities for our industry will be multiplied by emerging technology breakthroughs in fields such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, 3-D printing and quantum computing. Consulting engineers need to think about ways to guide this transition and to make use of these developments to improve quality for the benefit of clients and society at large.

Bernard Gilliot appointed president of the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium

Bernard Gilliot is also president of ORI (Engineering Consultancy Association of Belgium) and treasurer of EFCA.

Belgium's chronic mobility problems will be top priority for his term of office, besides digitalisation, international trade and the future of Belgium's energy sources and management.



EFCA to unveil winners of the 2017 YP Competition in Copenhagen on 2 June 2017

Entries for the 8th edition of EFCA's Young Professional competition came in from all parts of Europe: Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Romania.

The jury, Maurizio Boi (Italy), Kari Harsunen (Finland) and Nikola Matić (Serbia), will assess the submissions with great care.

Meanwhile, they thank everyone who has taken part for their passion and commitment invested in the outstanding work. They invite all to the YP Forum and the award ceremony in Copenhagen (1-2 June 2017), at which the winners will be announced.

The annual EFCA event is the valuable opportunity for meeting with fellow professionals from across Europe.

FIDIC paper on alternative best practice contractor selection methodologies

The outcome of the FIDIC survey to its membership reveals a need for change in contracting practices.

Almost all countries (95%) agree that the practice to award construction contracts based on low price negatively affects the quality of construction and 79% of countries believe this practice often leads to delays.

The [FIDIC paper](#) 'Proposed Alternative Mechanisms to Award Works Contracts' reviews possible approaches of selection of contractor that can be used depending on the complexity of the project and the procurement and technical sophistication and capacity of the procuring entity. It sets out benefits and challenges to the owner, and therefore to FIDIC, in developing a best practice.

FIDIC encourage the use of the alternative procedures, i.e. other than the lowest price mechanism, in the award of construction contracts. Quality selected contractors will also insist on having quality selected consulting engineers.

E F C A A G E N D A

D&S meeting	Brussels	06.04.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Napoli	20-21.04.2017
Barometer Task Group	Brussels	09.05.2017
BIM Task Force	Brussels	11.05.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Copenhagen	01.06.2017
2017 EFCA GAM & CONFERENCE	Copenhagen	1-2.06.2017
BIM Task Force	Luxembourg	12.06.2017
Sustainable Development Committee	Brussels	14.06.2017
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	26.06.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Budapest (tbc)	7-8.09.2017 (tbc)
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	14.09.2017
FIDIC International Infrastructure Conference	Jakarta	1-3.10.2017
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	24.11.2017



Kalvebod Waves - Copenhagen's new waterfront



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

Commission roadmap for construction

Juncker Plan expected to trigger more than €177 billion in new investments

2017 Rolling Plan on ICT Standardisation

Production in construction down by 2.3% in euro area (January 2017 compared with December 2016)

Cohesion Policy invests in sustainable mobility in Poland and the Czech Republic

Europe strongly advancing renewable energies in Africa

The EU in 2016

Waste Package: first step towards creating a circular economy

Commission roadmap for construction

EFCA attended the March 2017 meeting of the High-Level tri-partite Strategic Forum on Construction 2020.

Priority areas and actions that will serve as the base for the future of the Construction 2020 Strategy include: accelerating clean energy in buildings, digitalisation and BIM, skilled workforce, Single Market and increased participation in the Investment Plan for Europe.

Juncker Plan expected to trigger more than €177 billion in new investments

The operations approved under EFSI (European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)) represent a total financing volume of over €32 billion.

The EIB has approved 197 EFSI-backed infrastructure projects worth over €24 billion. The European Investment Fund (EIF) has approved 264 SME financing agreements, with total financing under the EFSI of over €8 billion. Over 400,000 SMEs and Midcaps are expected to benefit from these agreements.

2017 Rolling Plan on ICT Standardisation

The [plan](#) identifies ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) standardisation activities that support EU policies (e.g. healthcare, cloud computing, intelligent transport systems, security, accessibility, the Internet of Things, eGovernment, smart grids, financial technologies, construction etc.)..

Production in construction down by 2.3% in euro area (January 2017 compared with December 2016)

According to estimates from [Eurostat](#), the EU statistical office, production in construction decreased by 6.2% in the **euro area** and by 3.3% in the **EU28**, in January 2017 compared with January 2016.

Cohesion Policy invests in sustainable mobility in Poland and the Czech Republic

A more than €91 million investment is aimed at completing the modernisation works on railway line 7, linking Warsaw to Lublin along the comprehensive [Trans-European Transport Network](#). A €30 million investment is used for purchasing 35 modern and energy-efficient trams for the Kraków urban area.

€17.2 million will be invested in the renovation of the Olomouc railway station, in the capital city of the Czech region of Olomouc. The Olomouc railway station, an important regional transport hub, is located near the heart of the [Baltic-Adriatic](#) corridor of the [Trans-European Transport Network](#), which connects the North of Europe to the South.

The Open Data [Platform](#) provides data on financing and achievements of Cohesion Policy for 2014-2020. It is updated with the December 2016 data with details on progress by Fund, by member state and by programme.

Europe strongly advancing renewable energies in Africa

19 new sustainable energy projects with an indicative EU contribution of €300 million are expected to leverage total investments amounting to €4.8 billion.

The European Commission, the EU member states and the EU Financial Institutions have committed to support Africa Renewable Energy Initiative ([AREI](#)) through existing financial instruments and mechanisms.

This includes the [Africa Investment Facility](#) (AfIF), the [Electrification Financing Initiative](#) (ElectriFI) and the new opportunities that will be made available under the future [External Investment Plan](#).

The EU in 2016

The [General Report](#) complements the [White Paper](#) on the future of Europe, providing an insight into the major EU events, initiatives and decisions of 2016.

Waste package: first step towards creating a circular economy

The European Parliament voted ambitious recycling and landfill targets. MEPs also advocate an EU food waste reduction target of 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030, compared to 2014.

The Council of ministers has yet to adopt its own position.

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