

FEDERATION NEWS

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Positive orientation of public procurement reform

‘Contracts should go to the economically most advantageous bid, not just the lowest one’, according to the members of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) in the European Parliament.

The Rapporteur’s draft report on the European Commission proposal for the modernisation of the 2004 public procurement Directive, including approximately 150 amendments out of which 90 compromise amendments, was approved on 18 December.

The compromises adopted include EFCA’s proposals

- to introduce a definition of intellectual or knowledge-based services
- to exclude contracts ‘such as the design of works’ from the use of electronic auctions
- to use the competitive procedure with negotiation as the only possible procedure that is appropriate for knowledge-based

services because their result cannot be anticipated

- to remove the lowest cost as award criterion.

While stating satisfaction with the general outcome, EFCA’s Internal Market Committee will examine the IMCO report in the build-up to the Parliament first reading in plenary.

EU to focus on the development of eco-metropolises of production and to implement an operative action plan for selected pilot cities

‘Highly competitive eco-metropolises are the key to EU sustainable development’, EFCA stressed in its proposals to the European Commission.

In the EFCA response to the EC consultation on the follow-up measures to Rio+20 as part of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, Jean Félix, Vice-President and Chair of the joint EFCA-FIDIC Sustainable Development Committee, explained that *‘Europe should reposition production at the heart of thinking, policy interventions and social action.’*

Cities and metropolises are to be economic engines and providers of ingredients of quality for life, including sustainable (local/regional) self-supporting consumption modes.

With reference to its forthcoming White Paper ‘Rethink Cities’, EFCA elucidated our industry’s crucial and operative role in

dealing with the great magnitude and scope of sustainability challenges in an integrated, holistic way.

EFCA suggests that the EU implement an operative programme and support a network of some major diversified cities, potentially part of metropolises to be selected in all European countries, for implementing integrated holistic programmes involving major urban functions.

Brussels, 22 March 2013 - EBRD-EFCA seminar

On 22 March 2013, EFCA and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are organising a seminar in Brussels under the title 'Working with EBRD: Opportunities for Consultants'.

This one-day hands-on seminar will unveil where the opportunities are for working with the Bank and how you can participate. Participants will get practical tips on strategies on how apply for contracts with the Bank as well as the differences between EBRD Procurement Policies and Rules and the PRAG (Practical Guide for EU-financed external aid contracts).

EBRD encourages international competition and multi-national teams. This seminar will prove an excellent opportunity for networking.

The EBRD fosters transition to market economies in countries from central and eastern Europe to central Asia and north Africa. In carrying out its mandate the Bank and its clients annually award consultancy contracts worth @ €150 million.

For further information, please contact the EFCA secretariat (efca@efca.be)

European External Aid Committee looks at EU blending facilities

At its 17 January 2013 meeting, the Committee discussed with DG DEVCO (Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid) the complementary use of grants and loans in the EU's external assistance.

Blending facilities link EU budget grants – sometimes topped up with Member State grants – with loans from international, regional and European bilateral financial and development Banks and agencies.

Yves des Rieux (DG DEVCO/C/3) explained the objectives of blending and the types of grant contribution (including technical assistance), and reviewed the structure of the existing EU regional blending facilities. Blending instruments can have a significant leverage effect, are supporting the visibility of EU development cooperation and focus on growth incentives through investments in infrastructure, energy, transport and environment, including a climate change window.

The Committee raised a number of issues that deserve further consideration, including:

- level of complexity of joint management and coordination;
- insufficient attention is given to the advertisement of prior information notices and tender invitations (cf. principles of transparency, proportionality, equal treatment and non-discrimination;
- the applicable procurement procedure (which is the one of the Lead Finance Institution).

Mr des Rieux will examine our industry's pertinent questions with his colleagues and provide feedback to EFCA.

E F C A A G E N D A

Industrial and Private Market Task Force	Brussels	29.01.2013
FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Development Committee	Brussels	30.01.2013
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	08.02.2013
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	28.02.2013
Presidents' meeting	Brussels	21.03.2013 (18:00-20:00 - tbc)
EBRD - EFCA SEMINAR	Brussels	22.03.2013



Representing
FIDIC in Europe

Working with EBRD: Opportunities for Consultants

Board of Directors meeting	Sofia	12.04.2013
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	18.04.2013 (11:00-15:00)
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	30.05.2013
General Assembly Meeting	Brussels	31.05.2013

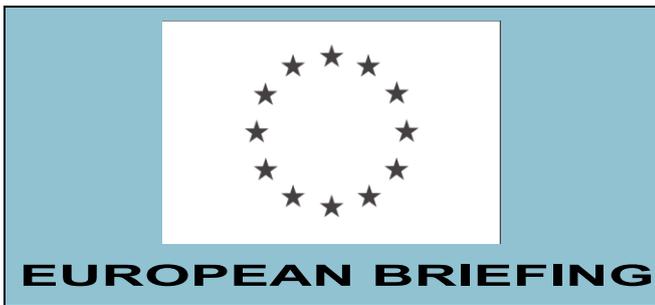


2012 Sector Review

STD, the Swedish Federation of Consulting Engineers and Architects, published its annual sector survey and market review.

The Sector Review presents economic and market developments in Sweden and the Nordic countries along with an international outlook.

A printed copy can be ordered at: <http://www.std.se/in-english/sector-review>



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EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

€46,8 million last pre-accession funding for Croatia

Since 2007, the EU made a total of €998 million in financial support available to Croatia under pre-accession assistance (IPA).

As a future EU Member State, Croatia will subsequently benefit from Structural and Cohesion funds.

€21.3 million to support Montenegro on its way towards the EU accession

The funds will focus on key reform areas, including strengthening of the justice system and public administration, better protection of the environment, and rural development.

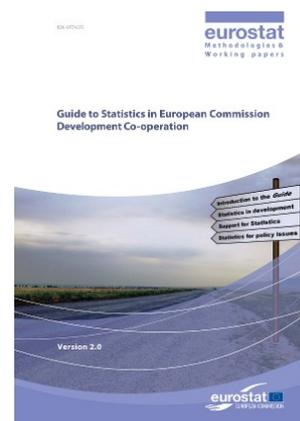
€56 million to support reforms in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The funding, coming under a two-year national programme of the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA), will help the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to move to another stage of the accession process.

<http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/>

Guide on development and aid statistics

The 'Guide to Statistics in European Commission Development Co-Operation' is a key tool for developing, assessing and evaluating aid programs.



The guide also provides information on project management and the project cycle in the European Commission, making it a key reference document for all development practitioners.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OF_FPUBLIC/RA-11-028/EN/KS-RA-11-028-EN.PDF

EU Court of Auditors (ECA): energy efficiency support 'not cost-effective'

For the Court of Auditors, cost-effectiveness should play a decisive role in public spending decisions and should permit projects to be ranked in terms of energy efficiency.

The conclusions of the ECA report are based on audits of 24 energy efficiency investment projects in public buildings, carried out in the Czech Republic, Italy and Lithuania between 2007 and 2011. The planned payback period for the investments was 50 years on average, and up to 150 years in certain cases.

At the end of 2011, these countries had allocated €1.199 billion to energy efficiency projects.

<http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/19680746.PDF>

Two Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) calls for proposals

€1.265 billion are made available to finance European transport infrastructure projects in all transport modes and all member states.

The larger call for proposals (€1.015 billion) is launched under the TEN-T multiannual programme to finance the network's highest priorities.

Member states and interested public-private partnerships have until 28 February 2013 to participate.

http://tentea.ec.europa.eu/en/apply_for_funding/follow_the_funding_process/calls_for_proposals_2012.htm

EU Court of Auditors (ECA): poor maintenance threatens roads in Sub-Saharan Africa

The ECA recommended to the Commission to better focus EDF resources and make better use of policy dialogue and technical

cooperation with the partner countries' governments in order to maximise the effectiveness of development support.

Road transport, with about € 7.4 billion in commitments over the period from 1995 to 2011, is a focal sector for EDF (European Development Fund) cooperation strategy with most Sub-Saharan African countries.

ECA auditors inspected about 2400 km of EDF funded roads in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Tanzania and Zambia.

The Court concluded that the Commission is partially effective in its support for a sustainable road network and that the partner countries do not do enough to ensure the sustainability of road infrastructure.

<http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/19834746.PDF>

First NER300 funding to innovative renewable energy demonstration projects

The projects will be co-financed with revenues from the sale of €200 million emission allowances from the new entrants' reserve (NER) of the EU Emissions Trading System.

The Commission is responsible for the overall implementation of NER300.

The sale of emission allowances is administered by the European Investment Bank (EIB). The EIB is also responsible for the project selection and for allocating funding to the member states for disbursement to the project sponsors.

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/lowcarbon/ner300/index_en.htm

€40 million for innovation in water

€40 million research funding will be made available in 2013 to support projects that contribute to the aims of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Water.

The Strategic Implementation Plan adopted by the EIP on Water sets out priority areas where solutions are needed.

Action Groups will now draw up tools and mechanisms to promote innovation in water policies and technologies.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/innovationpartnership/index_en.htm

Environment action programme points the way towards growth of today and tomorrow

The Commission proposal for an Environment Action Programme (EAP) will guide EU environment policy up to 2020.

The Programme is to secure the commitment of EU institutions, member states, regional and local administrations and other stakeholders to a common agenda for environment policy action.

It also aims to boost efforts to help EU cities become more sustainable, and improve the EU's capacity to meet regional and global environment and climate challenges.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/index.htm>

Entrepreneurship as a main driver for economic growth

With 4 million new jobs created every year, new companies, especially small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), create the most new jobs in Europe.

The Entrepreneurship Action Plan stresses the key role of education and training. It includes specific measures to help potential entrepreneurs among young people,

women, seniors, migrants, and the unemployed.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/promoting-entrepreneurship/index_en.htm

MISCELLANEOUS

European Investment Bank (EIB): €10 billion capital increase

The additional lending will target four priority sectors: innovation and skills, SMEs, clean energy and modern infrastructure.

The new financing will be in addition to the EUR 50 billion regular annual lending.

<http://www.eib.org/index.htm>

Reform of EURES jobseeker mobility network

Despite high levels of unemployment there are still labour shortages and vacancy bottlenecks.

EURES, the job search network of 31 European employment services in the EU member states, EEA countries (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and Switzerland, will focus on sectors and occupations with skills shortages and support targeted mobility schemes for young people.

The reform will also extend the number of partners offering mobility services and put in place co-operation between public and private job search organisations in order to cover an even higher percentage of available vacancies.



The EURES job mobility portal is already unique in the EU as it is free of charge and gives information on living and working conditions in all participating countries in 25 languages.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eures/>

Just a click to information about skill trends in all EU countries

The EU Skills Panorama presents information on short- and medium-term skills needs, skills supply and skills mismatches.

The Panorama, drawing on data and forecasts compiled at EU and member state level, highlights the fastest growing occupations as well as the top 'bottleneck' occupations with high numbers of unfilled vacancies.

<http://euskills Panorama.ec.europa.eu/>

European Construction Information Platform (CrIP)

CrIP is an information platform, collecting all documents of the European institutions and bodies about the construction sector.

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/crip/index.jsp>

CONSULTATIONS

Consultation on the protection of business and research know-how

Deadline: 8 March 2013

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2012/trade-secrets_en.htm

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