



<b>New design and content for the EFCA homepage</b>	<b>p1</b>
<b>EU external contracts: EFCA presses to achieve elimination of discriminatory selection criterion</b>	<b>p2</b>
<b>EU external assistance: EFCA sets the facts straight on unfair competition</b>	<b>p2</b>
<b>EFCA connects young engineering professionals in Europe</b>	<b>p2</b>
<b>EFCA welcomes new Chair for Professional Liability Committee</b>	<b>p3</b>
<b>SECTOR REVIEW 2006</b>	<b>p3</b>
<b>Research, development and innovation: major challenges for European business</b>	<b>p3</b>
<b>EFCA promotes common European terminology to remove cross-border obstacles</b>	<b>p4</b>
<b>EFCA agenda</b>	<b>p5</b>

### *New design and content for the EFCA homepage*

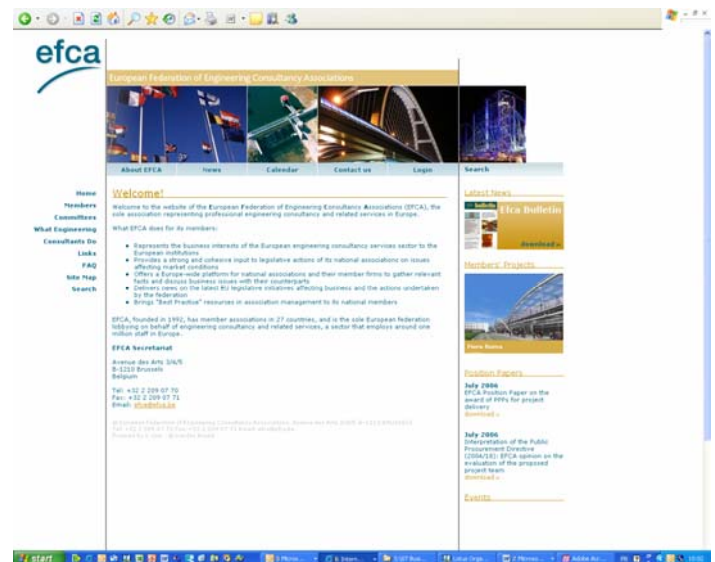
*Drop down menus and images allow visitors to the new version of the EFCA website to see quickly and clearly what is on it.*

Benefits of EFCA membership are outlined in the central text box on the homepage. Clicking on the images in the right-hand column gives quick access to latest news and recent policy statements, whilst the EFCA members' projects promote the worth of our industry.

The left column gives information about EFCA's membership and access to the national associations. It also permits visitors to gain a better understanding of the high quality work of the Committees' representational efforts.

The drop down menus from the top bar make it easy to find information on the federation, download the EFCA Bulletin and other EFCA publications, and consult the agenda of meetings, events and discounted hotel rates.

The 'Login' button gives access to the password protected extranet, EFCA's virtual secretariat.



## ***EU external contracts: EFCA presses to achieve elimination of discriminatory selection criterion***

*Following discussions with FIDIC at the occasion of the Budapest Conference, EFCA is urging the Commission to ban the use of the selection criterion '(certified) experience in using FIDIC contracts' on the grounds that it discriminates against European engineering consultancy firms.*

The use of this selection criterion is a major concern and sensitive issue for European firms as it restricts competition, in particular in ISPA funded projects in Bulgaria and Romania.

FIDIC is now backing the EFCA view that technical capacity standards, derived from Community law, offer a level of guarantee of experience, which is equivalent to the conditions under FIDIC contracts.

EFCA continues to advocate that European consultancies having experience and expertise in delivering public projects at home cannot be discriminated in EU external contracts.

## ***EU external assistance: EFCA sets the facts straight on unfair competition***

*EFCA refutes the assertion that only NGOs would have developed relevant competences in the areas of capacity building and so-called soft engineering whereas the industry would not have such tradition.*

European engineering consultancy firm continue to report examples of NGOs, international organisations, national development agencies, foundations and research institutions competing against professional private firms for EU funded external contracts.

EFCA has regularly addressed the matter with EuropeAid Cooperation Office representatives at managerial and high policy level, and also submitted various

illustrative cases to substantiate its case to the Competition Directorate General. However, in the Commission's view, non-commercial entities have the right to enter the competitive market. Commission officials also consider that the cases brought forward do not reveal any circumvention of regulation on state aid.

EFCA will continue to strongly press ahead its position that mixed short-lists comprising commercial firms and non-commercial entities should be prohibited. Documentary evidence of recent cases and (legally) consistent arguments will be conveyed to the European Commission, the Permanent Representations, and national authorities through the member associations.

## ***EFCA connects young engineering professionals in Europe***

*ACE, the UK member association, invited EFCA to consider supporting networking opportunities for young engineering consultants in Europe.*

Following an ACE presentation on critical UK industry priorities, the EFCA Board of Directors agreed in principle to help building a European network permitting constructive networking opportunities for young engineering consultants.

It is aimed at facilitating the exchange of working experiences, foster awareness of the mobility opportunities offered in the internal market and stimulating cooperation.

The Brussels Secretariat will contact the national associations that are taking initiatives regarding young professionals.

Early 2007, the Board of Directors will examine objectives and alternative options to achieve the objectives of bringing young European professionals together and closer to Europe.

## **EFCA welcomes new Chair for Professional Liability Committee**

*To promote the European engineering consultancies' messages and better coordinate with international strategies, the ACE (UK) appointed Kevin Corbett (Faber Maunsell) as the joint Chair to the EFCA Professional Liability Committee and the FIDIC Risk Management & Liability Committee.*

At the November meeting, the Committee looked into the four fact finding studies, issued in the 2004-2006 period. A consolidated report will be prepared in support of EFCA's further dialogue with the European Insurances Committee and the European Commission. At the same time, the report will provide arguments for the national associations' campaigns for both a limitation of statutory liability and the affordability and availability of insurance.

Kevin Corbett will ensure that the EFCA-FIDIC cooperation in this area will effectively address the industry's overall concerns around the issue of liability, and deliver relevant risk management guidance.

## **SECTOR REVIEW 2006**

*The Swedish Federation of Consulting Engineers and Architects (STD) published the 2006 sector survey on the Swedish, Nordic and international engineering consultancies and architectural groups, their respective markets and the important role the sector is playing in the development of investments and industry.*

The publication includes:

- the top 300 Swedish consulting engineering and architectural groups with figures on turnover, employees, profit and balance;
- developments within different sub sectors;
- major business transactions in the sector;
- international developments;

- a comparison between internationally listed consultancies;
- the top 50 Swedish architectural groups;
- the top 100 Danish, Norwegian, Finnish groups and top 25 Icelandic groups;
- the top 100 Nordic architectural groups;
- the European top 300 consulting engineering and architectural groups;
- the world's top 200 consulting engineering and architectural groups.



The latest issue (November 2006) is available at <http://www.std.se/english/index.htm>

## **Research, development and innovation: major challenge for European businesses**

*With over 140 participants at the 14 December seminar on 'Financing for Research & Development', this joint EIB-EFCA-FEACO initiative is proving to be a hit, in terms of both information and networking.*

In support of the EU Lisbon strategy, the EIB's Innovation 2010 Initiative seeks to finance the establishment of a competitive, knowledge-based economy enabling sustainable growth and job creation.

At the 14 December seminar, experts from the European Investment Bank together with its subsidiary, the European Investment Fund, focused on the link between knowledge creation and the market. They presented the range of funding opportunities, application procedures and evaluation criteria for both research centres and high technology SMEs, established within the EU-25 Member States, the Accession countries and the Western Balkans.

Mr Kari Lautso, deputy CEO and board member of WSP LT-Consultants, representing EFCA, spoke about the consultant's role in publicly-funded R&D projects, and the benefits of international co-operation.

Presentations from the seminar are available on the EFCA website:  
<http://www.efcanet.org/pages/eventdetail.aspx?id=30732>

The EIB-EFCA-FEACO seminar series continues in 2007 with the following topics:

- energy, water & environment
- EU external aid

Dates will be announced via the EFCA website.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for EIB seminars, please send an e-mail to [vdalle@efca.be](mailto:vdalle@efca.be)

### ***EFCA promotes common European terminology to remove cross-border obstacles***

*EFCA plays a leading role in the Commission supported feasibility study on standardisation in the services sector, which is due to start in January 2007.*

The EFCA Standardisation Working Party has already been active this year on the first phase of the project: data research and collection.

National responses to the EFCA questionnaire were analysed, and

particularities requiring further clarifications were identified.

Secondly, the Working Party members made valuable progress on the definition of the functional stages of a project, by comparison of working documents produced by AFNOR (French Standardisation Institution) and FIDIC.

The 15 December meeting also discussed the planning of the consultation with other stakeholders, and the reporting and presentation of the findings.

The EFCA Working Party is striving to enlarge its representation.

E-mail the Secretariat ([efca@efca.be](mailto:efca@efca.be)) to join the Working Party.

# E F C A A G E N D A

Public Procurement Committee	Brussels	11.01.2007
Project Financing Committee	Brussels	12.01.2007
Board of Directors	Brussels	22.02.2007 [11:30-16:00]
Partnership for Development Committee	Brussels	26.02.2007
Standardisation Working Party	Brussels	23.03.2007
Board of Directors	Ljubljana (tbc)	25-26.04.2007
Professional Liability Committee	Brussels	27.04.2007 (tbc)
2007 EFCA GAM & Conference	Greece (Rhodes)	07-08.06.2007
Board of Directors	tbd	28.09.2007
Board of Directors	tbd	06.12.2007



6 December 2006 Board of Directors meeting in London

By courtesy of Mátyás Borostyánkői



## EUROPEAN BRIEFING

<b>INTERNAL MARKET</b>	<b>p6</b>
<b>Services Directive: one of the most important EU projects achieved</b>	
Towards opening up EU defence markets	
Commission takes actions to correct breaches of EU public procurement law	
<b>EU FUNDS &amp; PROGRAMMES</b>	<b>p8</b>
<b>European Neighbourhood Policy going beyond cooperation</b>	
EIB's external lending mandates focus on EU neighbours	
CORDIS gateway to FP7	
Important new external assistance instrument approved	
European Agency for Reconstruction: mandate extended until 2008	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>p10</b>
EU agrees its new financial rules	
EU chemicals legislation REACH: final adoption	
Commission intends to insert optional clauses on mediation in its standard procurement contracts	
Ministers give backing to European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	
<b>DOCUMENTS &amp; WEB SITES OF INTEREST</b>	<b>p12</b>

### INTERNAL MARKET

#### ***Services Directive: one of the most important EU projects achieved***

*On 11 December, the EU Council adopted, without debate and by qualified majority, the Services Directive.*

*The Directive was finally approved in Parliament in November, following an explanatory statement by the Commission on labour law and excluded services.*

An important element facilitating establishment of services in other member states is the 'point of single contact' for service providers.

Member states are also required to screen existing legislation on service providers, removing unjustified protectionist obstacles and unduly complicated requirements.

Major areas falling outside the scope of the directive are: labour law, including the posting of workers; services of general interest and certain services of general economic interest (health care and social services such as housing and childcare; and activities connected with the exercise of official authority).

Specific other sectors include audiovisual services, gambling, temporary work agencies and private security services.

The directive will enter into force the day after its publication in the EU's Official Journal.

Member States will have a maximum of three years to transpose the directive into their national legislation.

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/services/services-dir/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/services/services-dir/index_en.htm)

#### ***Towards opening up EU defence markets***

*The Interpretative Communication, providing guidelines on when defence contracts can be exempt from EU rules requiring competitive bidding, is considered a first step towards greater competitiveness, openness and efficiency in EU defence markets.*

The issue relates to the application of Article 296 of the EC Treaty, which gives Member States the possibility to derogate from Internal Market rules on public procurement when this is necessary for the protection of their 'essential security interests'.

The Interpretative Communication aims to prevent possible misinterpretation and misuse of the Article 296 exemption. It explains the principles of the exemption, and

clarifies the conditions for its use in the light of European Court of Justice case law.

The Communication is a non-legislative measure and does not modify the existing legal framework.

It only concerns defence procurement by national authorities inside the EU and does not deal with defence contracts with third countries, which continue to be governed by WTO rules and in particular by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA).

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/publicprocurement/dpp\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/dpp_en.htm)

### ***Commission takes action to correct breaches of EU public procurement law***

The Commission decided to refer Greece to the European Court of Justice over the tendering procedure for the award of a public service contract launched by ERGA OSE concerning the railway project 'Phase A studies for building and electromechanical works and facilities for the Thriasio Field Station Complex'. The Commission considers that the call for tenders for the award of the contract in question is incompatible with Directive 93/38/EEC.

Furthermore, the call for tenders in question breached the principle of equal treatment of participants, the principle of mutual recognition of formal qualifications, as well as articles 12 (discrimination based on the grounds of nationality) and 49 (freedom to provide services) of the EC Treaty.

A second proceeding relates to the procedure launched by the Public Power Corporation (DEI) for the design, commissioning, transportation, installation and operation of two similar steam electric stations and their ancillary equipment in Atherinolakkos (Crete). The Commission considers that, by tendering the project in question without a prior call for competition and not informing the complainant promptly about the reasons for the rejection of his offer, the contracting entity infringed Directive 93/38/EEC.

The Commission decided to send a reasoned opinion to Austria concerning the award of a contract for the supply, adaptation and maintenance of a software application. The contracting authority, a social security institution, concluded the contract in question with a private software company without conducting a transparent and competitive procedure.

The Commission decided to send a reasoned opinion to Germany concerning the practice of German local authorities to directly award contracts and concessions for the provision of rescue transport services without following transparent award procedures. The German Government argued that the services in some German States fall under the public activity of the State and thus should not be qualified as public service contracts. However, in the view of the Commission, the concerned services are not connected with the exercise of official authority, which would be the only acceptable exclusion from EU law.

The Commission decided to send a reasoned opinion to Poland concerning the Polish Border Guard's award of a public contract for a coastal radar surveillance system without any form of publication and without following the competitive procedures set out in the relevant EU Directive. The Polish authorities argued that the contract in question was exempted from the application of the Directive since its execution had to be accompanied by special security measures and since the state's essential security interest required such an exemption. However, the Commission considers that the Polish authorities have not proven that the exemption actually applies.

[http://ec.europa.eu/community\\_law/eulaw/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/eulaw/index_en.htm)

### ***European Neighbourhood Policy going beyond cooperation***

*The main aim of the new neighbourhood strategy is to increase the positive impact of the policy by proposing new means of cooperation and financial assistance to those countries that intend to step up their reform process.*

From the beginning of the next EU budget cycle in 2007, financial support for the European Neighbourhood Policy will be provided through the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

The 2007-13 budget foreseen for ENP countries is 12 billion euro.

To maximise the impact and leverage of this EU funding the Commission proposes the creation of:

- A Neighbourhood Investment Fund, to which Member States will also be invited to contribute, which would be used to leverage additional lending from the European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other development banks. The contribution from the Community Budget would be 700 million euro. It is estimated that this fund could encourage lending of several times the amount of grant funding.
- 300 million euro will be set aside for a Governance Facility, to provide additional support on top of normal country allocations to acknowledge and support the work of partner countries, which have made most progress in implementing their Action Plans.

At the moment there are 16 countries that participate in ENP: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.

The EU foreign ministers approved the European Commission's communication on 11 December.

[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm)

### ***EIB's external lending mandates focus on EU neighbours***

*The general external lending mandate of the European Investment Bank (EIB) provides for a total volume of lending for the seven-year period amounting to 27.8 billion euro (including an optional mandate of 2 billion euro) to be allocated in 2010.*

More than 82% of the loans will be allocated to pre-accession tools and the European Neighbourhood Policy. 8.7 billion euro will be allocated to the accession countries or potential candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and the countries of the western Balkans). The EIB loans to the twelve countries bordering on the Mediterranean will amount to 8.7 billion, and 3.7 billion euro will go to the countries in eastern Europe (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldavia and Russia).

Furthermore, the EIB signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in support of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova. It will apply later to Central Asian countries and Belarus, subject to future Council agreement on EIB financing in these countries.

Concretely, the EIB and the EBRD will work together to finance projects of significant interest to the EU in energy, transport, telecommunications and environmental infrastructure.

### ***CORDIS gateway to FP7***

*CORDIS, the Community Research and Development Information Service, launched a new Seventh Framework Programme*

*(FP7) service. The first calls for proposals are due to be launched on 22 December.*

On 18 December the Council approved FP7, with a total budget of 50.52 billion euro for seven years.

The CORDIS web service provides the latest state of play as the EU's new research and development (R&D) programme moves into its implementation phase. It will then develop into a fully-fledged support service for all potential participants and interested parties.

Adopted work programmes and calls for project proposals will be published on this service as soon as they are available. The new pages allow users to learn about FP7 in general and, in particular, its specific programmes and their themes, as well as the activities related to Euratom and the Joint Research Centre (JRC). There is also a set of fact sheets in 21 languages, providing general information about the new Framework Programme.

For potential participants, there is a guidance section explaining the rules of participation in FP7, including eligibility criteria, explanations of the most important procedures, and a summary of the different types of participation that are available. The new FP7 service also provides access to sources of support for participants, ranging from the newly-appointed National Contact Points (NCPs) in each of the EU Member States and associated countries, to a network of liaison officers.

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7>



### ***Important new external assistance instrument approved***

*Following difficult negotiations, the Parliament adopted an agreement on the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), with a budget of nearly 17 billion euro for 2007-2013.*

Following pressure from MEPs, the instrument's scope will be restricted to developing countries. The Commission had wanted to extend it to industrialised countries which have pre-accession, neighbourhood or partnership agreements with the EU. MEPs, however, insisted that development policy must focus on the developing countries, in line with the Millennium Goals.

Another of the major problems with the Commission's initial proposal was that it sought to remove, almost completely, Parliament's right to set policy for developing countries by co-decision. The Commission intended to take policymaking out of the scope of legislation and use non-binding communications instead. The only binding policy provisions would then have been included in the strategy papers for each country, region or thematic programme - and these were to be adopted without input from Parliament.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2006-0544+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

### ***European Agency for Reconstruction: mandate extended until 2008***

*The European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) will remain operational for two more years.*

The EAR is responsible for the management of the CARDS (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation) programme, which ends in 2006.

The remaining EC assistance under the CARDS programme to be disbursed in the next two years totals some 680 million euro.

The agency was established in February 2000 as the EU's main reconstruction arm in war-damaged Kosovo and later expanded to Serbia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The agency's headquarters are in Thessaloniki, Greece, and it has operational centres in Pristina, Belgrade, Podgorica and Skopje.

<http://www.ear.eu.int/home/default.htm>

## MISCELLANEOUS

### ***EU agrees its new financial rules***

*A final agreement was reached on 30 November to reform the management of the EU budget and to simplify access to EU funding.*

*The revised Financial Regulation will have to be finally adopted by the Council by the end of this year.*

The requirements on proof of financial capacity (evidence that the tenderers have no previous malpractice convictions, are not bankrupt and are making proper tax and social security contributions) may be waived for contracts below the new threshold (i.e. below 60,000 euro instead of 50,000 euro).

The new text introduces similar simplifications for contracts in the field of external aid, but with much higher thresholds (200,000 euro for services).

The Commission will set up a central database that will contain all relevant information on entities condemned for fraud or corruption in the Member States and third countries involved in the implementation of EU programmes.

The Commission will now work on the remaining amendments to the Implementing Rules, i.e. those dependent on the adopted revisions to the Financial Regulation, on the

basis of the opinions to be provided by the other Institutions on the Commission's proposal of 4 July 2006.

The Financial Regulation and the linked Implementing Rules will start to apply as from 1 May 2007, except for some limited provisions for agricultural and structural funds that will need to enter into application on 1 January 2007 together with the new sector-specific legal bases.

### ***EU chemicals legislation REACH: final adoption***

*The Council adopted the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulation on 18 December.*

The compromise, balancing the need to protect human health and the competitiveness of the European chemicals industry, concludes three years of negotiations on a comprehensive reform of manufacturing, marketing, import and use of chemical substances between the Council of Ministers, the Commission and the Parliament.

REACH will require the registration, over a period of 11 years of some 30.000 chemical substances in use today, a process which will enable information gaps on the hazards of substances to be filled, and to identify appropriate risk management measures to ensure their safe use.

The onus will be on industry to generate the data required and to identify the measures needed to manage the risks. The authorisation system will strongly encourage companies to switch to safer alternatives. In fact, all applications for an authorisation need to include an analysis of alternatives and a substitution plan where a suitable alternative exists.

The first REACH obligation, pre-registration, will take place from 1 June 2008 to 30 November 2008. It will be followed by registration in three and a half, six or eleven

years, depending on the volume band or level of concern of the substance. This information and evidence demonstrating the safe use of the substance need to be submitted in a registration dossier to the new European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), which will be established in Helsinki.

The implementation of REACH promises to be difficult and complicated. Guidance documents and IT tools are being developed.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/index_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach\\_intro.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach_intro.htm)

<http://ecb.jrc.it/REACH/>

### ***Commission intends to insert optional clauses on mediation in its standard procurement contracts***

*Following an inquiry by the European Ombudsman, the Commission made a commitment to encourage alternative methods of dispute resolution in the future.*

Every year, the European Ombudsman receives a significant number of complaints against the Commission concerning contractual disputes. The Ombudsman started an inquiry in which the Commission was asked to investigate the possibility of increased use of mediation in EC-funded contracts.

The Commission made a commitment to encourage alternative methods of dispute resolution in the future. This could be done through the insertion of an optional mediation clause in its standard procurement contracts. However, the Commission warned that the use of mediation or other methods of dispute resolution may involve costs. It also stated that the Commission cannot impose mediation for disputes between its contractors and their sub-contractors. The Commission should inform the Ombudsman about its follow-up to this case by 30 June 2007.

<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/decision/en/06011.htm>

### ***Ministers give backing to European Qualifications Framework (EQF)***

*The EQF is aimed at creating a common language to describe qualifications. It will help Member States, employers and individuals compare qualifications across the EU's diverse education and training systems.*

The core element of the EQF is a set of eight reference levels describing what a learner knows, understands and is able to do - 'learning outcomes' - regardless of the system where a particular qualification was acquired.

EU education Ministers extended the timetable for relating national qualifications systems to the EQF and for supplementing all new qualification certificates, diplomas and Europass documents issued with a clear reference to the appropriate EQF level. The European Parliament is not expected to adopt its first reading until Spring 2007.

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eqf/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eqf/index_en.html)



## DOCUMENTS & WEB SITES OF INTEREST

### EU LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

#### Proposals & Regulation

#### **Proposal for a Regulation, setting out rules for the implementation of the provisions on Structural and Cohesion Funds**

The Regulation gives Member States clear guidelines to help them prepare well for the next programming period starting on 1 January 2007.

The Regulation reflects the increased decentralisation of project management and transparency (publication at national level of information on the beneficiaries and operations being co-financed by the Funds).

Over the period 2007-2013, the EU will make available about 350 billion euro (in current prices) from its Structural Funds and instruments, which represents 35% of the Community budget.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/newsroom/pdf/applreg1\\_1206\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/newsroom/pdf/applreg1_1206_en.pdf)

#### **Promotion of research, development and innovation**

The Commission adopted a Communication, clarifying the legal conditions arising from EU case law and setting out some basic principles and good practices for the design of tax incentives for R&D.

In parallel it adopted a new Framework to clarify to Member States how they can give state aid to not only research and development but also innovation projects, without infringing EC Treaty state aid rules. This new Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Framework will help Member States wishing to use state aid as a complementary instrument to boost Research, Development and Innovation. The new State Aid Framework for research and innovation, which has been adopted in parallel, may have a direct effect on tax incentives for R&D.

The new Framework is due to apply from 1 January 2007.

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006\\_0728en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0728en01.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/state\\_aid/reform/rdi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/state_aid/reform/rdi_en.pdf)

#### **Proposal for a Directive on the assessment and management of floods**

The Directive's aim is to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, infrastructure and property.

The Council common position of 23 November 2006 incorporates a number of the European Parliament's first reading amendments, which improve or clarify the text of the proposed Directive. The text will be sent to the European Parliament for a second reading, in the context of the co-decision procedure.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/flood\\_risk/key\\_docs.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/flood_risk/key_docs.htm)

#### **Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing an Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation**

The Regulation aims at supporting efforts to enhance nuclear safety and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear materials in third countries.

The budget earmarked for the implementation of this Regulation is 524 million euro over the period 2007 to 2013.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st14/st14426.en06.pdf>

### **Critical Infrastructure Protection**

The Commission approved a communication on the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP) as well as a proposal for a directive designating European critical infrastructure.

The new programme includes the 2007-2013 programme Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security Related Risks (137 million euro). Access to funding will be by grants open to industry, with the Commission financing up to 70% of costs. Applications by industry, though, will have to be put forward by member states. Another source of funding would be the Seventh Framework Programme.

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006\\_0787en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0787en01.pdf)

## **REPORTS**

### **General Report on Pre-Accession Assistance (Phare-ISPA-Sapard) in 2005**

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006\\_0746en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0746en01.pdf)

### **Annual Report of the Instrument for Structural Policy for Pre-Accession (ISPA) 2005**

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006\\_0674en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0674en01.pdf)

### **Economic reforms and competitiveness: key messages from the European - Competitiveness Report 2006**

The report focuses on four major challenges which the member states are urged to address in the context of their national reform plans: liberalisation of energy markets, better regulatory environment, funding innovation policy and the concept of "Lead Markets" in innovation policy.

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006\\_0697en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0697en01.pdf)

### **Transition report 2006 - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development**

The report studies the financial sector in transition countries. It analyses how financial systems have been restructured, their impact on the economy and private sector development, and the introduction of new financial services.

<http://www.ebrd.com/pubs/econo/6813.htm>

### **European Neighbourhood Policy – State of Play**

In 2004, the European Union adopted the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) to support its partners' political, economic and social reform processes and to deepen bilateral relations with them.

[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm)

### **State Aid Scoreboard**

Published twice a year, the report is a public record on how much aid is granted in each member state together with details of Commission cases. It measures the EU's success in reaching the 2010 Lisbon goals of reducing state aid and shifting emphasis from aid to individual companies to horizontal objectives such as employment, regional development, environment and research.

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/state\\_aid/studies\\_reports/studies\\_reports.html](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/state_aid/studies_reports/studies_reports.html)

### **'A year of delivery' - The European Commission's 2006 Annual Progress Report on Growth and Jobs**

The Commission's Annual Progress Report is based on the Member States autumn 2006 Implementation Reports and on the Commission's own review of progress with EU level reforms under the Community Lisbon Programme.

[http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/index_en.htm)

### **Urban sprawl in Europe - the ignored challenge**

The report shows that many environmental problems in Europe are caused by rapidly expanding urban areas. The report contains case studies from seven cities across Europe illustrating both good and bad approaches to urban planning over the past 50 years.

[http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea\\_report\\_2006\\_10/en](http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2006_10/en)

### **Land accounts for Europe 1990-2000**

Based on spatial information, the land accounts produced by the EEA provide assessments of the magnitude of the various types of change and, at the same time, of their distribution over the European territory.

[http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea\\_report\\_2006\\_11](http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2006_11)

## **CONSULTATIONS**

### **Modernizing labour law to meet the challenges of the 21st century**

The Commission discussion paper asks Member States, social partners and other stakeholders how labour law at EU and national level can help the job market become more flexible while maximizing security for workers.

Deadline: 31 March 2007

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/labour\\_law/green\\_paper\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/labour_law/green_paper_en.htm)

### **Global Europe - The EU's Market Access Strategy in a changing global economy**

The consultation paper is set out in four sections:

- The context: the EU's Market Access Strategy in a changing global economy
- Identifying, prioritizing and tackling barriers to trade
- The Market Access Database
- Conclusions: new approaches to working together

Deadline: 12 January 2007

[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/mk\\_access/cs101106\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/mk_access/cs101106_en.htm)

## **GALILEO Green Paper on Satellite Navigation Applications**

The Green Paper sets out the framework within which satellite navigation applications are developing and outlined questions for debate. It aims to prompt new ideas from industry, public authorities, consumer groups or consumers themselves in order to define concrete targets and the most appropriate public sector action with regard to GNSS.

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy\\_transport/galileo/green-paper/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/galileo/green-paper/index_en.htm)

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **A strategic review of better legislation in the European Union**

The EC Communication highlights the progress made so far and discusses future challenges. Major initiatives concern the correct national transposition of EU law, reduction of administrative burden, simplification of existing regulation and improvement of the impact assessment studies on proposed legislation.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/regulation/better\\_regulation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/regulation/better_regulation/index_en.htm)

### **Production in the construction sector up by 0.8% in the euro area**

**Up by 1.0% in the EU25** - Third quarter 2006 compared to second quarter 2006

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP\\_PRD\\_CAT\\_PREREL/PGE\\_CAT\\_PREREL\\_YEAR\\_2006/PGE\\_CAT\\_PREREL\\_YEAR\\_2006\\_MONTH\\_12/4-06122006-EN-AP.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_PRD_CAT_PREREL/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2006/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2006_MONTH_12/4-06122006-EN-AP.PDF)

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