

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

**European recognition of inspirational young entrepreneurs**

**Join the debate session on EFCA Committees in Gent on 1 June 2018**

**2017 Sector review: the industry continues to grow**

**EFCA agenda**

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

On behalf of the board of EFCA I would like to wish you a very healthy and prosperous new year. Construction volumes across Europe increased again in 2017, reaching its highest level since 2006, before the outbreak of the international financial crisis. Construction demand rose in all 19 Eurozone member countries for the first time since Germany's reunification. Thankfully, 2018 is forecast to repeat this trend, with the strongest gains in the residential sector.

Construction output in the four years from 2014 to 2017 has increased by a total of 9%. A further increase of 6% can be expected in the 19 Eurozone member states by 2020. Growth rates will slow considerably in the future in both residential construction and non-residential construction, while civil engineering will lead the market in the medium term. The civil engineering sector is also expected to grow at over 4% in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

In 2017 the strongest construction demand was found in Hungary (+25%), followed by Ireland (+15%), Sweden (+10%), and Poland (+9%). The robust growth of the European economy and consequential positive implications for household income, corporate profits and the state of public finances has positively fuelled demand in the sector. Low interest rate level, immigration and internal migration flows, as well as the deferred investment in infrastructure since the financial crisis is supporting this growth.

The EFCA Barometer autumn 2017 report also reflects the optimism in the sector towards the future with substantial concerns over low fees and the lack of qualified staff, concerns which remain at the forefront of our actions throughout 2018.

Best wishes,

Kevin Rudden

## European recognition of inspirational young entrepreneurs

The annual EFCA YP award is the opportunity for young professionals to showcase their talents and entrepreneurship in engineering consultancy projects and to enhance their career.

Ten shortlisted entrants will be invited to attend the FIDIC – EFCA - VBI conference and YP meetings in Berlin on 9-11 September 2018, where the winner and two runners-up will be formally announced and receive their prizes.

The conference will not only offer the best opportunity to get close to leaders from major engineering consultancy firms from across Europe and beyond; participants will get new insights, develop entrepreneurial mindsets and share inspirational experiences with one another.

It is the occasion to meet enthusiastic international peers with parallel interests and expand professional and personal networks.



The submission of entries to the European awards competition is managed through the national associations.

The competition rules are laid out at:

<http://www.efcanet.org/News/Detail.aspx?id=3711>

Closing date: 31 March 2018

networking for new knowledge

## Join the debate session on EFCA committees in Ghent on 1 June 2018

The format of the agenda of the 2018 General Assembly Meeting (GAM) is revised to encourage the federation's stakeholders to discuss strategic directions and to ensure the maximum number of voices is heard.

The morning session of the 1 June 2018 GAM is addressing the federation's administrative matters and statutory items, and Kevin Rudden will present the state of play in the one-year implementation of his ambitious 2017-2020 Forward Plan.

At the end, the Chairs of the EFCA working groups will outline the main results of the last year's activities and planned advocacy action for the coming year as an introduction to the afternoon debate.

A panel of a few national association delegates will take the podium to 'interview' the chairs of the EFCA working groups one by one. In an open forum, the panel will raise questions, express national points of views on EFCA issues and voice the interests of the industry.

The discussion will help ensuring that the EFCA working groups are covering the topics that the national associations believe to be in the interest of the European engineering consultancy industry.

## 2017 Sector Review: the industry continues to grow



The Sector Review, published by the Swedish Federation of Consulting Engineers and Architects (STD-Företagen), presents rankings of the largest corporate groups in Sweden, the Nordic countries and Europe, interesting key business ratios, and brings news about structural transactions and economic developments in the sector over the past year.

This year's report shows a sector in recovery. Profitability has improved during 2016 and 2017.

The data of the Sector Review are in line with the EFCA [Barometer](#) autumn 2017 report that also showed an overall optimism in the sector towards the future and substantial concerns over low fees and lack of qualified staff.

Learn more by [ordering](#) the 2017 Sector review.

E F C A A G E N D A		
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	30.01.2018
Communications Task Group	Brussels	06.02.2018
BIM Task Force	Brussels	09.02.2018
Board of Directors meeting	Skopje	23.02.2018
Regional Infrastructure <a href="#">Conference</a>	Tbilisi (Georgia)	6-7 March 2018
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	13.04.2018
Directors & Secretaries General meeting	Brussels	25.04.2017
Barometer Task Group	Brussels	08.05.2018
Internal Market Committee	Prague	11.05.2018
Board of Directors meeting	Ghent	31.05.2018
<b>EFCA GAM</b>	Ghent	01.06.2018
<b>FIDIC-VBI-EFCA <a href="#">Conference</a></b>	Berlin	9-11.09.2018
Board of Directors meeting	Lisbon	21.09.2018
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	23.11.2018



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

## EFSI 2.0

**First agreement on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive**

**Circular economy: modernising European waste processing legislation**

**Reform of applicable rules to EU funding**

**Consultation: EU rules for products used in the construction of buildings and infrastructure works**

**European Parliament believes that 'regulations on professional services must be fit for purpose'**

**The future of EU finances: have your say on the EU budget after 2020**

**More flexibility on VAT rates, less red tape for small businesses**

**Brexit – guidance to stakeholders on impact in the field of public procurement**

## EFSI 2.0

To further boost investment, to avoid disruptions in financing and to assure project promoters that they can still plan projects after the initial investment period, the European Fund for Strategic Investments is extended from mid-2018 to the end of 2020, and its investment target is increased from €315 billion to at least €500 billion.

[EFSI 2.0](#) has the following features: increased transparency, larger proportion of sustainable projects, greater focus on small projects, more technical support at the local level, improving the business environment and bringing down investment barriers.

## First agreement on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)

Pending the formal endorsement in the coming months by the co-legislators, the agreement signals the closure of the first of 8 legislative proposals part of the Clean Energy for All Europeans [package](#) of 30 November 2016.



The agreed proposal includes measures to strengthen the energy performance of new buildings, to accelerate the rate of building renovation towards more energy efficient systems and tapping into the immense potential for efficiency gains in the building sector.

## Circular economy: modernising European waste processing legislation

At the end of last year, the EU co-legislators reached an agreement on the Commission's four legislative proposals (December 2015), addressing **waste**, packaging waste, landfill and electrical and electronic waste to pave the way for a more circular economy.

Continuing in the spirit of the 2015 [Circular Economy Package](#), the Commission adopted in January 2018 the first-ever Europe-wide strategy on **plastics**.

Driving investment and innovation, the Commission will scale up its support for national authorities and businesses with an additional €100 million for financing the development of smarter and more recyclable plastics materials.

The Commission will work with partners from around the world to come up with global solutions and develop international standards.

[Eurostat](#) launched a dedicated website to support the monitoring progress towards a circular economy.



## Reform of applicable rules to EU funding

At the end of 2017, the European Parliament and the Council reached a political agreement on new EU funding rules.

The new [rules](#) will simplify access to EU funding and decrease red-tape for beneficiaries and managing authorities.

The revised framework will result in more leverage for EU funding and more flexibility (e.g. new financial instruments, combination national and EU funds).

## Consultation: EU rules for products used in the construction of buildings and infrastructure works

The [Construction Products Regulation \(EU\) No 305/2011](#) (CPR) provides a common technical language to assess the performance of construction products. It ensures that reliable information is available to professionals, public authorities and consumers, so they can compare the performance of products from different manufacturers in different countries.



The Commission is considering a possible EU initiative to revise the EU rules on construction products and [invites views](#) on the need for change.

Deadline of the consultation: 16 April 2018

## European Parliament believes that 'regulations on professional services must be fit for purpose'

Early 2017, the Commission adopted the Services [Package](#), a series of measures to simplify procedures for cross-border service providers as well as to help Member States identify overly burdensome or outdated requirements on professionals operating domestically or across borders.

In its [resolution](#) of 18 January 2018, the European Parliament calls for transparency and comparability of the national requirements governing access to and exercise of regulated professions. Also, all regulations should be non-discriminatory, justified and proportionate.

## The future of EU finances: have your say on the EU budget after 2020

In less than five months, the Commission will propose the next long-term budget for the EU – the [Multiannual Financial Framework](#) or "MFF" - after 2020. The EU budget is expected to continue investing for growth, jobs and innovation while addressing the major challenges of the decade to come.

If you wish to participate, please follow the links below:

- [Strategic Infrastructure](#)
- [Investment, Research and Innovation, SMEs and Single Market](#)
- [Cohesion](#)
- [Security](#)
- [Migration](#)
- [Values and Mobility](#).

Deadline of the consultation: 8 March 2018

## More flexibility on VAT rates, less red tape for small businesses

The Commission [proposal](#) to introduce more flexibility for Member States to change the VAT rates they apply to different products are following up on the 'cornerstones' for a new definitive single [EU VAT area](#) proposed in October 2017, and the [2016 VAT Action Plan](#) towards a single EU VAT area presented in April 2016.

## Brexit – guidance to stakeholders on impact in the field of public procurement

A Commission [document](#) is setting out legal repercussions for UK economic operators in the EU procurement market, including for utilities, defence and security.

## 48th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting

[Reports](#) released at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos

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