



12 April 2021

## EDITORIAL NOTE

*Welcome to the first edition of the new monthly EFCA e-newsletter.*

*It is targeted to all EFCA member associations, their representatives sitting on EFCA working groups and interested staff of engineering consulting firms.*

*The newsletter is providing regular updates on EFCA's advocacy work and achievements. It informs about the European regulatory environment and presents a selection of recent reports/resources.*

*Suggestions for content and format of the newsletter are welcome.*

## EFCA NEWSROOM

16/3/2021 - **DigiPLACE** [event](#). The project aims to create a framework for an eventual digital platform for the construction industry at EU level, which would, amongst other things, serve as a hub for existing digital platforms, both public and private.

Closing [Conference](#): 27 May 2021, 09:00-16:00

17/3/2021 - the **European Green Deal Committee** members discussed topics under three themes (climate adaptation and resilience, circular economy and sustainable transportation) they would wish to influence and identified topics that are important to monitor and could be the subject for an exchange of national best practices in preparation of the Committee's final Terms of Reference

19/3/2021 - [ECCREDI](#) (European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation) meeting on **EU Taxonomy** on the development of the list of environmentally sustainable activities for the construction sector

24/3/2021 - [webinar](#) on **AFD** and **KfW** procurement procedures: European good practice in procurement should be better known internationally and used as an example

25/3/2021 - **Construction 2050 Alliance** launches its [website](#) and [social media](#)

30/3/2021 - in a **joint EFCA-FEACO letter** to the BUDG Committee and DEVE Committee in the European Parliament, the Director General of DG INTPA and the European Court of Auditors, both federations express serious concern over procurement issues in the field of external actions deriving from a restrictive interpretation of the Financing Regulation

30/3/2021 - the **Digitalisation & BIM Committee** will initiate closer contact with buildingSMART and finalise the joint EFCA - ACE (architects) letter, setting out the design community's concerns about data ownership/transferability/portability for discussion with the EC

## EU NEWSROOM

2030 Digital [Compass](#): the European way for the Digital Decade

Council approval of the **Digital Europe programme**, with a budget of €7 588 million for the period 2021-2027

The **Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation** (SFDR) imposes an obligation on fund managers, financial advisers and certain other regulated firms in the EU to disclose information on various environmental, social or governance considerations to potential investors, and on their websites

Provisional [agreement](#) of the European Parliament and the Council on the **Connecting Europe Facility** (CEF) proposal as part of the 2021 - 2027 long-term EU budget

Strategic [plan](#) for **Horizon Europe** (2021-2024): research and innovation priorities for a sustainable future and launch of the [Innovation Council](#)

Parliament adopts **InvestEU programme**. The aim is to ensure access to strategic investment projects. 30% of the investments must be devoted to the fight against global warming

[EIB](#) backs €3.7 billion COVID-19 business support, renewable energy, internet, health, education and sustainable urban investment

## REPORTS

The road to climate-neutrality: Are national long-term renovation strategies fit for 2050? / Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) [report](#)

[UNESCO](#) report presents a snapshot of engineering innovations and actions that are contributing to meeting the SDGs

UNEP [Report](#) 'Are We Building Back Better? Evidence from 2020 and Pathways for Inclusive Green Recovery Spending': only 18.0% of announced recovery spending can be considered 'green.'

2020-2021 EIB Climate [Survey](#) (part 3): Europeans say changes in behaviour most effective measure to fight climate change.

[Study](#) - Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU industries

[SURE](#): Taking stock after six months. The report estimates that between 1.5 and 2.5 million firms affected by the COVID-19 pandemic have benefitted from [SURE](#), allowing them to retain workers

[Report](#): Effects of the COVID-19 crisis on the labour market and employment in the EU / European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound),

Commercial Real Estate Under Pressure / [IMF](#)

[Study](#): Food systems account for more than one third of global greenhouse gas emissions

