

Standing Committee

Development & Business Environment

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Introduction

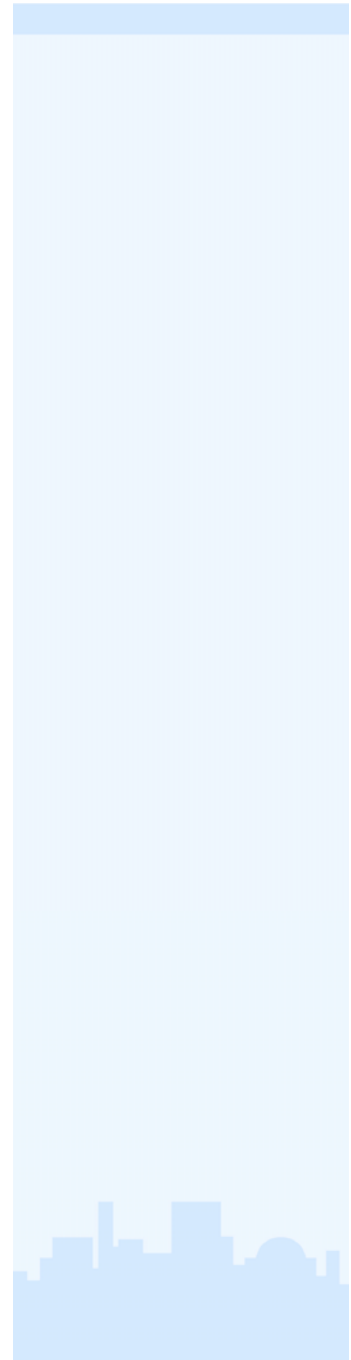
- The main issues of activities since our last General Assembly in Athens:

Presence and active participation in the
EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION FORUM (ECF)
(December 14, 2007)

It is recalled that ECF is an informal gathering of now 10 professional associations / federations directly linked with the construction sector, 9 of which are located in Brussels:

ACE	CEMBEREAU	CEPMC	EAPA
ECCE	EFBWW	EFCA	EURIMA
FIEC	UEPC		

- ECF normally meets 4 times a year, however due to timing problems of ACE, the hosting member, the meeting initially sheduled for February 22, 2008 couldn't be held and the new date for the meeting has not been fixed yet .
- It is thus likely that the next meeting will take place on May 30, 2008. This means that the meeting to be hosted by ECCE will be most probably held on Spetember 19, 2008.



Sustainable Energy Week

- **ECF postponed its own presentation due to activities of FOCOPE without taking contact**
- **ECCE SC Knowledge & Technology elaborated a contribution - to be presented at the next coming meeting;**



Internal Market Package

- **The "new" New Approach is still considered within the Council and the European Parliament.**
- **It seems that after the first reading in the European Parliament some amendmensts had been made and there has been reached**

Revision of **the Construction Products Directive**

- **The draft proposal for a Council Regulation is still under consideration within the European Commission.**
- **Only principles of market surveillance, accreditation of testing and attestation bodies may be taken over from the "new" New Approach.**
- **On the other hand it is underlined that the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) is a sectorial technical harmonisation of its own!**



Liability and Insurance

- **The Commission announced the call for tender for a study, especially focused on SMEs, aiming at the benchmarking of a number of existing national warranty and insurance systems.**



- On November 22, 2007 Eurocodes National Correspondants meeting took place. It is still hoped that in 2010 all the 58 parts will be transposed and introduced by all Member States, EFTA and candidate countries. It is now intended to divulgate the EUROCODES to the "outer world".
- On February 18 – 20, 2008, the Joint Research Center organized a presentation conference for relevant engineering and scientific stakeholders in Brussels.
- In 2006/07 a twinning project took place in Latvia, prepared and executed by DIBt of Germany in order to assist Latvia to transpose and introduce the EUROCODES.

- On 13/3/2008 FIEC presented together with the Commission services the Trans European Waterways Network project No 30 - Canal "Seine - Schelde". The project is supposed to be under PPP. A lot of civil engineering work is needed (bridges and locks).
- ChemXchange
The Commission intends to fund this project on chemicals risk management for construction SMEs. ChemXchange is aimed at fulfilling the acute needs of the construction sector in complying with the new European chemical legislation (REACH), including challenges connected with chemical risk assessment, chemical communication and management.



SMALL BUSINESS ACT

- **European Commission initiated on January 31, 2008 a public internet consultation.**
- **The initiative is focusing on SMEs and their interests with respect to EU projects for the benefits of SMEs and their growth potentials.**

BUSINESS PLAN 2008

- **Develop and tighten links with the European Construction Forum**
- **Examine possibilities to organise and host a next European Construction Forum meeting**
- **Develop contacts with ACE and EFCA**
- **Participate in European Construction Forum in an active way on energy saving issues**
- **Participate, representing ECCE, in relevant EC and EP events and report on the issues**

WHAT NEXT ?

- Try to be duly informed and report
- Look at liability, warranty and insurance
- Follow the "new" New Approach
- Follow the CPR
- Be vigilant and informed on the 'Small Business Act'
- Observe the EP initiative on a mandatory register for Lobbyists.