

Standing Committee

Development & Business Environment

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EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION FORUM

- a) **The ECF has currently 10 members.**
- b) **4 informal gatherings are held every year. In 2010 ECF has already held 3 gatherings: 26/2/10 (hosted by ECP), 5/5/10 (hosted by FIEC) and 10/9/10 (hosted by EAPA). A special “briefing” meeting in the view of the EP event was held on 11/10/10 (hosted by FIEC), and the last meeting for this year is planned on the 22/11/10 (hosted by CEPMC).**
- c) **The two main issues that ECF has been concentrated on in the 2010 meetings are:**
- preparation of a **Manifesto** on construction and its professions and industries – contributors to economic recovery, energy efficiency and sustainability;
 - organisation in the EP, connected with the ECF Presidents Meeting, of an event for emphasizing the importance of the construction sector and presentation of the Manifesto; contacts with MEPs and representatives of the Commission.
- Other points touched upon were:**
- the new coming Construction Products Regulation (CEPMC),
 - the standardization policy of the European Commission (revision of European Norms (ENs) and EUROCODES),
 - danger of massive penetration of public procurements in the EU market.



THE MANIFESTO

During the summer period the Manifesto text as well as the brochure lay-out, were drafted, finalized and agreed on by all ECF.

Main messages:

- Importance of the whole construction sector = 9,9% of EU GDP, 14,9 million jobs, 95% of all enterprises are SMEs; multiplier effect 1:3;
- The sector is apt and ready to meet the challenges of energy efficiency and climate change;
- The sector is committed to research, development and innovation;
- The sector contributes – via all its branches – to a quality built environment and infrastructure, thus providing a “good life”;
- The construction enterprises make big efforts in order to upgrade the skills of their labour force;
- The construction sector is THE sector to contribute under the principles of sustainability to the recovery and growth of the EU economy.

The Brochure preparation and dissemination:

Each ECF member is going to contribute 2.000€, as it has been previously agreed. The layout and printing cost for 3.500 brochures amounts to 6.000 €.

Regarding the dissemination plan of the brochures, it has been agreed that each ECF member will get 200 brochures directly and the remaining 1.500 are intended to be disseminated by or through ECF to addressees suggested by ECF members as well as to commonly agreed persons within the EU Institutions.

The small expert group (ACE, Cembureau, FIEC) will draft an accompanying letter in which all the Presidents' electronic signatures will be used.

Organisation of the EP event and Presidents' Meeting

It has been agreed that the EP event will take place on 17/11/2010 at the premises of the MEP - restaurant and it will be followed by the Presidents' Meeting later in the afternoon. Before the event a Press Release will be issued, but under the "embargo" for the next day.

Mrs Fiona Hall, MEP Liberal Group, will host the lunch.

There will be three speeches at the beginning of the lunch:

- MEP **Fiona Hall**
- Vice President of the EU Commission, **Mr Tajani**
- President of FIEC – speaking for ECF
(Draft of her speech will be circulated to ECF members beforehand).

The 3 experts will also elaborate a scheme for a common speaking brief to be used at all the tables of the lunch (Presidents may rotate to different tables).

The lunch will be held from 13:00 to 14:30 but an early arrival (at 12:30) is advisable for networking and contact making purposes. No more than 3 persons of each ECF member can participate in this event.

The Presidents' Meeting

It is intended to hold this meeting in the afternoon directly after the EP event in the CEMBUREAU meeting room.

The Presidents' Meeting will take place at the same time with the "de-briefing" meeting of the EP event, since besides Presidents, other representatives are also expected to be present.

ECCE Strategic Plan

The ECCE Strategic Plan fits correctly in the ECF Manifesto, however highlighting the specific key-points and necessary actions for the civil engineering sector.

The whole construction sector counts approximately 10% of GDP and civil engineering covers about 21% of all construction activities.

Main key-points:

- Competitiveness Agenda for our sector:
 - to develop a quality policy;
 - to improve the EU and national regulatory environment;
 - to advocate strongly for better and modern provisions for training and education;
 - to favour reorientation and reinforcement of engineering relevant R&D.
- European Standardisation is a sound basis, but now by all concerned is closely looked upon as to the real and correct application, its integration in various sectors of EU legislation, its updating as well as the streamlining of the CEN/CENELEC procedures for speeding up the results.
- ECCE can through its networks and members give valuable contributions to the EU projects linked to sustainability. This is also the case with respect to energy saving and especially to energy efficiency in the built environment.
- ECCE and the sector of civil engineers must be professional leaders in the framework of high ethical and moral standards.
- ECCE must, as a professional organisation and through its national delegations and members, act as an efficient advisor to EU Institutions on civil engineering matters. That is why an active and permanent participation and involvement in professional networks is vital.

As a consequence:

ECCE must strengthen and activate its internal organisation and make sure to be adequately present at European as well as national levels.

Where indicated, there has to be close cooperation and action with other European Engineering Organisations.

This is a very big challenge for our Organisation. A lot of problems and obstacles have to be met and overcome.

**The salient questions:
WHAT TO DO?
BY WHOM?
WHEN?
WHERE?
AND HOW?**



THANK YOU!

