

# Standing Committee

## Development & Business Environment

**Chairman:** **Karlheinz ZACHMANN**

**Vice-Chairman:** **Aris CHATZIDAKIS**

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## THE PRINCIPAL CHALLENGES

- a) **The coming actions and initiatives from the European Commission in view of the horizons 2020 / 2050 are in particular in the following areas:**
- Internal Market
  - Environment
  - Energy
  - Industry and Innovation
  - Research
  - Resources
  - Transport
- b) **The EC is aware that big efforts are requested to avoid possible overlapping and contradictions. This counts also for EP and Council.**
- c) **ECCE, together with all other professional Stakeholders and Associations/ Organizations are urgently requested to follow closely and in a permanent way all items of their interest – and especially related to Construction.**
- d) **The feedback from ExBo, ECCE Members and their representatives is vital for the work! However, since the last GA in Malta for our SC no reaction, suggestions or contributions are received.**

**THIS NEEDS TO BE CHANGED!!**

- a) **The ECF counts still 10 permanent members. But due to various requests of adherence a clear position is needed.  
EURIMA and ELC will work out a strategic "Governance Paper".  
However, a too great number of participants has to be avoided and the informal character of the gatherings must be maintained.**
- b) **For the moment ACE (Architects) are not represented due to the departure of its Director, Adrian Joyce, who became General Secretary of EuroACE (European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency).**
- c) **Since the last GA in Malta the following ECF Gatherings are to be noted:  
18/05/2011, 12/07/2011 and 09/09/2011.  
The last meeting in this year is scheduled for 22/11/2011.**

### The main ECF issues

- 1. The follow-up of the Manifesto – a road map is likely to be worked out**
- 2. The proposal for an Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) is focused upon and members are invited to examine the text – especially with respect to the impact on their professions, on overlapping and contradictions.  
UEPC and housing promoters/ developers have already issued a relevant common position. It is foreseen to control also MEPs.**
- 3. Energy Efficiency in Construction:  
“Renovate Europe” closely linked with EuroACE has set up the frame for a study concentrating on the existing building stock in all MSs and requiring profound renovation.  
It is agreed that ECF will be regularly kept informed and documented.**

4. **It is recognized that the construction sector must be made more visible and present at EU levels.**  
**Special coming issues are: the Smart Cities Programme, the EC-flagship initiative on Resources Efficiency, Air Quality.**
5. **Public Procurement:**  
**The EC may present up to the end of the year a draft for revision.**  
**As far as international PP – tendering is concerned there is felt a growing threat from China using state money and refusing equal treatment. In this respect it seems that China has not opened at all its PP market for all kinds of Civil Engineering!**
6. **Small Business**  
**In the construction sector SMEs count for the major part of enterprises. They are recognized to be the engines of Europe's economic growth. Enterprises with up to 250 employees are considered SMEs. The SMALL BUSINESS ACT of 2008 is the cornerstone of a comprehensive EU policy – "think small first". However, in practice SMEs still face big problems. The interlinkage and interdependence of all EC initiatives already on the table and to come is a highly complex matter (see chart from ESBA).**



## The EC-Flagship Initiatives

**In March 2010 the EC launched the Europe 2020 Strategy.**

**The Commission identified three key drives for growth at EU and national:**

- **Smart growth** – (fostering knowledge, innovation, education and digital society)
- **Sustainable growth** – (making production more resource efficient, boosting competitiveness)
- **Inclusive growth** – (raising participation in the labour market, acquisition of skills and fight against poverty).

**These 3 key drives are addressed by 7 Flagship Initiatives**

- 1. Digital Agenda for Europe**
- 2. Innovation Union**
- 3. Youth on the move**
- 4. Resource efficient Europe**
- 5. An industrial policy for the globalization era**
- 6. An agenda for new skills and jobs**
- 7. European platform against poverty  
+ Energy Infrastructure Priorities**

**In order to cope with all these multiple initiatives and proposals a specific Assessment system has been set up by the EC.**

**At first the leading GENERAL Directorates will assess the texts as to technicalities, to compatibility to other EU initiatives and policies.**

- Under the EC – General Secretariat (SG) an Impact Assessment Board is established. But there only the formal examination/ control of compatibility with the Treaty and EU policies is made.
- In the forefront another SG service is examining new coming initiatives and proposals. It is here where industry and professions concerned may successfully present their concerns and be heard and understood.



**I recall my urgent invitation to all ECCE Participants and Members:**

- to take an active and proactive role in the work of our SC
- to make themselves informed on salient issues
- to contact national Chambers, governmental services and MEPs
- to make known their interests and concerns/ positions
- to inform President, ExBo and your representative in Brussels

**From now on it is vital that all ECCE members play an active role within ECCE and this SC.**

**Unfortunately since our GA in Malta no reaction nor contribution has been received!!**



European Council  
of  
Civil Engineers

# **THANK YOU!**

**Karlheinz Zachmann**