



European Council  
of  
Civil Engineers

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# Standing Committee

## Development & Business Environment

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

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

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## **The outgoing Danish EU Presidency**

According to its program for “greening Europe” the Directive on Energy Efficiency has been conducted to its final phase and the environmental aspects in Public Procurement were strengthened.

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) being the most important item was put under way.



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## The EU Commission

In his State of the Union Speech before the EP on 12/05/2012, President M. Barroso enumerated a number of reforms to come:

1. To tackle the European economy
2. To complete the Single Market
3. To push for the economic and monetary union
4. To start building a banking and fiscal union using current instruments and treaty provisions.

Further the EC is intended to move towards a Federation of Nation States – what requires a new Treaty; and to deepen European Democracy – in view of the 2014 European Elections.

In completing the EU – Single Market the Commission intends a new Internal Market Action Plan focusing on:

- The establishment of a banking union
- To build up a simple supervision system – involving national supervisors.

The European Council will meet three times – October, November and December 2012.



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## The sitting EU Presidency of Cyprus

Since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 and up to the end of 2012 Cyprus took over for the first time in EU history the Presidency and that under the following program:

Addressing the actual economic and EURO crisis. Furthermore, the Cypriot Presidency will follow up the items left from the pervious Presidency. That is why Cyprus is developing all logistic efforts needed and that also with respect to the multiple staff engagements in Brussels.

Salient points are:

- To cope with the various aspects of the pending financial crisis
- To push for further energy savings up to the horizon 2020
- To promote industrial research and development

The actual Presidency is assisted and seconded by the outgoing Danish Presidency and the incoming Presidency – IRELAND; they form together the so called "TROIKA".

- a) Since the last ECCE GAM held on 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in Vilnius, Lithuania the 2 following ECF gatherings were held and duly reported: 25/6/2012, 26/9/2012 (and on 30/11/2012 will be the last of this year).
- b) In the last months and weeks ECF has undergone quite important changes:  
ACE, CEMBUREAU, CEPMC have changed their General Secretaries and in FIEC and CEPMC also relevant specialized experts and assistants have resigned for personal reasons.  
CEPMC: Mr. P. BAR – specialist for CPR (Construction products) and EUROCODES  
FIEC: Mr. F. FARADAY – specialist for Competitiveness and contacts with EP and EC.

All this means that the relevant Associations and Federations within ECF will from now on have to build up their relevant networks – especially with EC and EP.

The salient issues within ECF so far are:

- The communication from Commission to the EP and the Council Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the Construction Sector and its enterprises (put forward by Vice-President Tajani)
- The Road Map to a Resource Efficient Europe (under the responsibility of DG – Environment)
- The different Products and Building labeling schemes

As announced before – under the responsibility of Vice President TAJANI – the Commission issued and announced Communication to improve the sustainable competitiveness of the Construction Sector.

- ❑ The short term objectives are:
  - Green economy (low carbon) and growth of employment – upgrade skills and qualifications (of workers in construction)
- ❑ The long term vision is:
  - Restructuring of the construction sector (innovations)

The relevant Commission – Communication put forward the following challenges:

- To promote renovation of buildings
- To develop a range of services to address health, energy efficiency, green buildings, disasters resilience, adaptation to climate change (e.g. earthquakes safety and fire safety), indoors climate – reuse/ recovery/ recycling and design to fit.



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## The EC - ISSUES

On occasion of the report on one of the previous ECF gatherings it has been recalled the presentation of DG – ENV by Josephine Lindslom dealing with the upcoming Communication on SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS:

The EC is developing a new “green single market” strategy to replace parts of its existing Sustainable Consumption and Production action plan (SCP). Other aspects of SCP will be incorporated into an update of the EU’s industrial policy.

The planned Communication on a “green single market for green growth” – including development of common footprint methodologies and provision of better information on the environmental profile of the products.



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## The challenges for the future

The multiple EC Communications and resulting initiatives are very challenging for the lobbying professional organizations and associations. It is important to be connected with other professional organizations – to contact relevant political representatives and present their visions.

I cannot but recall my ultimate appeal...



**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 and Vilnius no reaction nor contribution has been received!!**

**What shall I do – what did I do wrong?**



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# THANK YOU!

**Karlheinz Zachmann**