



European Council  
of  
Civil Engineers

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Malta

# Standing Committee

## Development & Business Environment

**Chairman:** Karlheinz ZACHMANN

**Vice-Chairman:** Aris CHATZIDAKIS

**ExBo Rapporteur:** Murt COLEMAN

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## THE PRINCIPAL CHALLENGES

- a) **The European Commission in its vision 2020 has for 2010/2011 announced a series of programs and driving initiatives:**
  - Internal Market
  - Environment
  - Energy
  - Industry and Innovation
  - Research
- b) **The EC is aware that it will be a big challenge to coordinate all the policies and initiatives in order to avoid overlapping and contradictions.**
- c) **As ECCE, an important professional organization within the construction sector, we must make sure that we are constantly duly informed and try – as the case may be – relevant positions to be put forward, especially to the European Institutions, to National Governments and to related professional organizations.**
- d) **It is vital for the future that Standing Committees (SCs) get valuable feedback and cooperation from all ECCE Members!**

- a) **The ECF has still 10 members, however reflections and discussions about further memberships are still ongoing.**
- b) **Since the last ECCE General Assembly, at which the Memorandum was circulated, the following activities are worth to be noted:**
- 17/11/2010 presentation of the Memorandum in the European Parliament (EP) and directly after the meeting with the ECF Presidents, including the debriefing session.
  - 22/11/2010 the last regular ECF gathering
  - 03/03/2011 the first gathering in 2011

### **THE EP EVENT**

- a) **The key messages of the Manifesto are the following:**
- **The future of Europe: the role of the construction sector;**
  - **Meeting Europe's climate and energy needs whilst improving competitiveness;**
  - **Stimulation of economic growth through increased investment in research and innovation;**
  - **Contribution to a sustainable and prosperous future through innovative ideas and design**
  - **Housing and wellbeing of European citizens;**
  - **Fostering a skilled labour force;**
  - **The constructions sector – THE solution sector.**
- b) **The presentation was well attended. President Gorazd Humar took part in the event which was hosted by MEP Fiona Hall. Mrs. Selma Harrigton (ACE), speaking for ECF, stressed that construction is the most important sector with respect to overcoming the crisis, to building up infrastructures and to contributing to energy saving.**

### THE EP EVENT

- c) **During the Presidents Meeting and the de-briefing the Presidents agreed to meet once a year. The following points were retained for further consideration:**
- **Reduction of Vat – especially for refurbishment of buildings;**
  - **To follow systematically all construction related issues deriving from EU;**
  - **To look closely into the matter of EURO-bonds and other funding;**
  - **To pay attention to the coming Single Market Act;**
  - **4 immediate actions to start with:**
    - **assistance to MEPs on construction/energy matters,**
    - **figure out occasional issues for attention,**
    - **to look closely in the structural fund,**
    - **inventory of figures (e.g. job losses)**
- d) **The last meeting in 2010 took place on 22/11/10 and was hosted by CEMBUREAU.**
- **the very cumbersome study on competitiveness and especially chapter 5 of the final report may give rise for comments and actions;**
  - **ECF agreed to stick to its origins – to be an informal gathering representing a considerable / important part of the construction sector;**
  - **the working group (ACE, FIEC, CEPMC, CEMBUREAU) – based on the Manifesto – will elaborate a first draft of a road-map for actions and answers with respect to the multiple initiatives and proposals from EC; it is intended that a very small delegation will meet with Vice-President Tajani.**

### THE EP EVENT

- e) **The first gathering in 2011 took place on 3/3/11 and was hosted by CEMBUREAU.**
- a first draft of a possible roadmap was circulated;  
**key issues will be: competitiveness, energy efficiency, materials and the EU ENERGY ACTION PLAN.**
  - for the time being no Rotating Secretariat will be created;
  - with respect to the Green Paper on the Future of VAT no ECF action is planned;
  - the EN version on a 'common language' and understanding for "sustainable construction" is after 5 years of work finalized.
- EECS has proceeded to mostly all EU languages. A book, containing 4 languages (EN, FR, ESP, GER), will be presented at EECS on 11/4/11. It is not a standardisation.**
- Sam Hägglund (EFBWW) may officially represent ECF.**
- It seems that the Construction Products Regulation was adopted by the Council on 28/2/11.
- It will be published in short and will come into force in the middle of 2013.**

**THE NEXT MEETING, scheduled for 18/5/11 will be hosted by EURIMA.**

## COMMISSION'S COMMUNICATIONS, STRATEGIC PLANS AND ACTIONS to come 2011 and the years ahead

### 1) Smart Regulation in the EU

On 8/10/10 President Barroso outlined the relevant strategy:

- to evaluate the impact of legislation throughout the whole policy cycle – from first design to revision;
- to continue with the successful system of Impact Assessments on all policies – within the Secretariat General a special unit is now in charge of this;
- to continue to develop a culture of shared responsibility with all actors (EP, Council, MSs and stakeholders);
- to continue to engage with citizens – increasing the consultation period from 8 to 12 weeks;

### 2) Communication from the Commission proposing an Action Plan for short term measures being the basis for all EU strategies up to horizon 2020:

- the so called Single Market Act;

it will be circulated very largely in the form of a "Blue Book" and is intended to contain about 50 actions. They want to see if citizens understand, support and/or make suggestions;

The debate will be open for 4 months. The definite List of Actions will then be decided.

The Commission will present the engagements taken to the Commissioners and GDs concerned requesting the relevant proposals are worked out within the next 2 years.

## **COMMISSION'S COMMUNICATIONS, STRATEGIC PLANS AND ACTIONS to come 2011 and the years ahead**

### **3) Communication from the Commission for "An Integrated Industrial Policy" for the Globalization Area.**

**This initiative is closely linked to the Single Market Act – and 8 key areas for actions are stipulated; relevant for ECF and ECCE are:**

- competitiveness – proofing of new legislations**
- fitness checks of existing legislations (avoid overlapping)**
- support to SMEs for access to credit**
- to strengthen the European Standardization (to meet industry needs)**
- to upgrade transport, energy and communication infrastructures and services**
- to set out a new Strategy on Raw Materials**
- to favor sector specific innovation performances – in advanced manufacturing technologies, CONSTRUCTION, biofuels, road and rail transport.**

**The Commission will report annually on EU and on MSs competitiveness, industrial policies and performances.**



#### **4) ENERGY STRATEGY**

**based on the Lisbon Treaty.**

**It will in short set out in an Energy Strategy Plan containing a series of Actions in view to horizon 2020:**

- **our dependence on energy resources is rapidly growing,**
- **there are too few funds for Energy Research**
- **realize the 20-20-20 target:**
  - **20% greenhouse emissions,**
  - **20% renewables**
  - **20% primary energy consumption.**

**The Commission strives**

- **To realize an Internal Energy Market,**
- **to favor and realize a coordinated "energy mix" together with all MSs,**
- **to present a European Energy Roadmap for 2050,**
- **to open up the Energy Market aiming at lower consumption prices,**
- **to initiate and fund new Energy technologies (wind, solar, nuclear, bio)**
- **to create a real Energy Solidarity between MSs,**
- **to establish Partnerships with our main competitors**

**THE CHALLENGES FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS  
– THUS ALSO FOR ECCE – ARE VERY BIG  
AND WILL ONLY DUELY BE MET WHEN ALL  
MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE ACTIVELY**

**THE FUTURE HAS BEGUN  
HORIZON 2020 LIES ALREADY AHEAD**



**THANK YOU!**

**Karlheinz Zachmann**

