

# **ECCE BRIEF ACTIVITY REPORT**

## **JUNE 2013 – OCTOBER 2013**

*by Fernando Branco, ECCE President*

*&*

*Maria Karanasiou, ECCE General Secretary*

Nicosia, October 2013

# **57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Lisbon**

## **May 31 – June 1 2013**

- 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal hosted by the Ordem dos Engenheiros was organized with great success. The ECCE – OE Conference “Changes in Civil Engineering” took place on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May.





# 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Lisbon

## NEW MEMBERS

- The European Civil Engineering Education & Training Association (EUCEET Association) was accepted as ECCE Associate Member





# 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Lisbon

## STANDING COMMITTEES

- Mr. Ruben Paul Borg was accepted as Chair of Standing Committee (SC) on Knowledge & Technology succeeding Prof. Asko Sarja.



# **57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Lisbon**

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Mr. George Demetriou from Cyprus was elected unanimously as Vice Chairman of the SC Environment & Sustainability.



# 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Lisbon

## STANDING COMMITTEES

- Mr. Bora Kutruza from Cyprus and Mr. Aristides Karlaftis were elected unanimously as Vice Chairmen of the SC Associate Membership.



# 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Lisbon

## MEETING WITH JAPAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

- ECCE ExBo, OE President and the JSCE delegation had a meeting when the ECCE – JSCE Agreement of Cooperation was signed.





# **AFTER LISBON**

## **Workshop in regulating access to professions: National Perspectives**

**17<sup>th</sup> June 2013, Brussels**

- ECCE President, Prof. Fernando Branco participated in the above workshop.
- The objective of the workshop was the exchange of different approaches to the regulation of professions across EU.



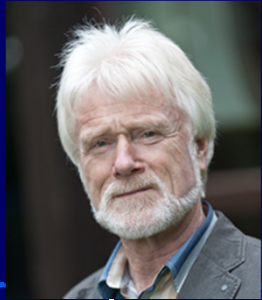


## **ECF breakfast brief with MEP Mr. Reinhard BÜTIKOFFER**

**27<sup>th</sup> June 2013, EP premises, Brussels**

- Mr. Karlheinz Zachmann participated in the ECF breakfast brief with MEP Bütikofer.
- During this one hour meeting the ECF updated manifesto was presented and the main topic of discussion was the Competitiveness of the Construction Sector.

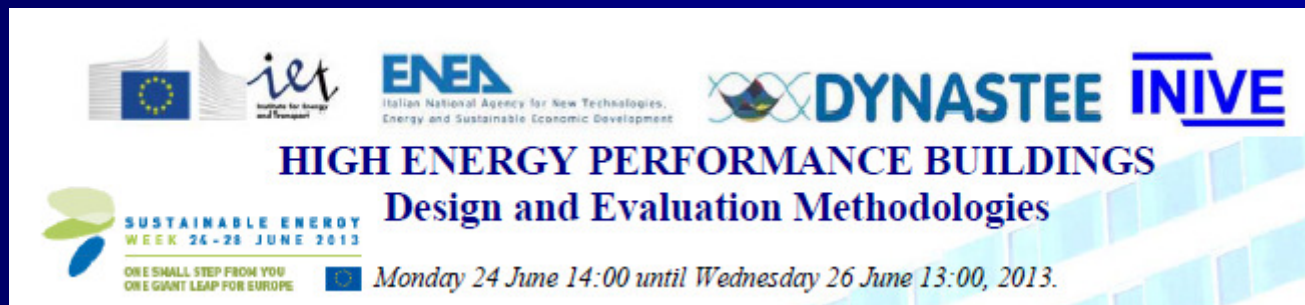




## Workshop “High Energy Performance Buildings: Design and Evaluation methodologies”

**24 – 26 June, BBRI premises, Brussels**

- The Chairman of the SC on Environment & Sustainability, Prof. Carsten Ahrens, participated in this workshop which was part of the EU Sustainable Energy Week.
- The event was organized by INIVE-DYNASTEE, EC-JRC-IET, ENEA.
- The workshop focused on the energy related part in the design process of new or renovation buildings that will cover calculation methods, performance assessment methods, integration of renewable energy technologies, design sets and case studies (nZEB, passive energy) and variable aspects such as consumer behavior.



# **EU strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises**

## **Thematic Group 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**



**12 September 2013, Brussels**

- **ECCE President participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Thematic Group 1 “Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation”**
- **The Thematic Group is divided in three pillars:**
  - **Pillar 1: Building renovation**
  - **Pillar 2: Trans European Networks (TENs) and Infrastructure maintenance**
  - **Pillar 3: Innovation in Construction**



# **6<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS' MEETING OF EUROPEAN ENGINEERS' ORGANIZATIONS**

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2013, Office of the European  
Parliament, Athens**

- The 6<sup>th</sup> International Presidents' Meeting was hosted by the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG).
- Participants: TCG, ECCE, ECEC, EFCA, FEANI, SEFI, WCCE, WFEO, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, FYROM, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Kingdom (observer).
- Fernando Branco made a presentation on "The Construction Sector today – Facing the crisis" and one on the Professional Recognition and Mobility – the New Directive on Professional Qualifications – the European Professional Card. Vassilis Economopoulos was the moderator of the meeting on behalf of the TCG President. Aris Chatzidakis made a presentation on the Reforms on Public Procurement EU Legislation.
- The following persons participated on ECCE's side: Wlodzimierz Szymczak, Gorazd Humar, Alan Stilwell, Nicola Monda, Michail Lachinov, Nicos Neocleous, Zvonimir Sever, Mirko Oreskovic, Dragoslav Sumarac, Dimitar Natchev, Gabor Szollossy,, Alois Materna, Dusko Popovic.

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## 6<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS' MEETING OF EUROPEAN ENGINEERS' ORGANIZATIONS



# **“2<sup>nd</sup> EUROPEAN ENGINEERS’ DAY” ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2013, Titania Hotel, Athens**

- In this Meeting the participants were the following: ECCE, ECEC, FEANI
- It was decided that the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Engineers’ Day will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014, in Brussels , together with the 7<sup>th</sup> Presidents’ Meeting that will be held the day before.
- The organizers will be ECCE, ECEC, FEANI and an invitation will be sent to other organizations as well.
- The suggested themes/ topics are the following: Professional recognition, Public procurement, Investment in Construction, 2020 Horizon. The topics will be decided in a later time.
- The focus will be on the Engineering Profession.





# **European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) General Assembly**

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2013, Athens**

- ECCE President, Prof. Fernando Branco participated in the ECEC General Assembly and had a welcome address on behalf of ECCE in the beginning of the Meeting.
- ECCE Past President, Mr. Vassilis Economopoulos, participated in the ECEC Meeting and as a representative of the Technical Chamber of Greece (host organization) had a welcome address.



# **ECCE Newsletter**

**June 2013**

- A new initiative of ECCE, the issuing of periodic Newsletters.
- The ECCE Newsletter is prepared every two-three months.
- The goal is to bring together periodically the European Civil Engineers and to be aware of their problems and their realizations, organizing a forum of ideas and of news.
- The Newsletter may also act as a mean to send ideas for discussion in Brussels.
- Next ECCE Newsletter will be in **DECEMBER 2013**

**Get involved with ECCE Newsletter !**



## European Council of Civil Engineers

### EUROPE'S POLICIES FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING

During the 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Assembly in Lisbon, an International Conference was organized with the title: "Changes in Civil Engineering". The theme is very real in Europe as after several years of investments in large infrastructures networks, suddenly, with the economic crisis, the construction industry almost stopped. So it is time to think about what to do about Civil Engineering in Europe and to give some guidelines to the politicians.

Civil Engineering is always associated to public investments, as its goal is to achieve the well-being of the human society from the simple comfort of having water in the tap, till the construction of a 2km span bridge allowing an easy crossing of a large river. Besides public works, Civil Engineering is also associated to private investments mostly corresponding to the building of our homes. All this represents in average more than 10% of the European countries economy and employment.

When governments stop public investments, the economy of the society is affected, leading to a reduction in private investments and automatically civil engineering activity decreases and unemployment increases significantly, reaching the actual crisis in Europe.

In this situation, many of the construction companies, without work in Europe, had only one way to survive: to internationalize, meaning to move to the countries where public investments exist, namely in South America, Africa and Far-East. With them went the engineers, the architects, and in general all the members of the construction cluster. Several European construction companies



Conference "Changes in Civil Engineering"

are presently with incomes above 95 % from the world growing economies, and many small SMEs, which stayed in Europe, went into bankruptcy. Today young civil engineers go working abroad as soon as they finish their graduation. Europe that globally has a lack of engineers, who are the basic force for a new growth of the economy, is sending its civil engineers abroad! This clearly means a policy to increase the difficulties of any economy recuperation.

But does this have to be like that? Has Europe built all its infrastructures and does not need any more? No, it is clearly a short sighted vision of the politicians, because the well-being of our society still needs, and will always need, a lot of public investments in civil engineering.

JF Kennedy during his reign invoked this principle to good effect. The economy operates more efficiently with a smooth infrastructure system but cannot be put in place without investment. Just look at a few examples of what Europe should implement:

**New Infrastructures** – At the end of this century, the energy consumption will increase around 100% (energy

infrastructures needed), each European will travel more than 11000 km per year (trans-European networks needed) with a big increase in air transportation (intermodal systems needed), the temperature will increase around 3°C what leads to drying zones and an increase of the ocean level with bigger waves and frequent hurricanes (water infrastructures and coastal protection needed), people living in cities will increase from 40% to 70% (transport networks for cities needed). This shows that Europe needs urgently to address the strategies to be implemented in infrastructures, like:

- Trans-European Energy infrastructure;
- Trans-European road and railway links;
- Transports in sustainable European cities;
- Intermodal transportation systems;
- Coastal protection and water infrastructures for climatic changes.

**Infrastructures Maintenance** – Besides building new infrastructures new maintenance strategies to protect the existing struc-

#### ECCE Newsletter

N°3

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#### News from:

- Estonia
- Germany
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Portugal
- Slovenia

# **STANDING COMMITTEES**



## **Standing Committee on Knowledge & Technology**

***Chairman: Ruben Paul Borg***

***Vice Chairman:***

- Review of the strategy document of the Knowledge and Technology Standing Committee through skype and telephone conferences with members of the Standing Committee.
- Submission of the Strategy Document to all ECCE members requesting feedback to be submitted to the Chairman.
- Analysis of feedback received from ECCE members with regards the Knowledge and Technology Standing Committee Action plan.
- Preparation of an Agenda for the 58th General Assembly based on the Strategy document and the feedback to the Plan.





## **Standing Committee on Environment & Sustainability**

***Chairman: Prof Carsten Ahrens***

***Vice Chairman: George Demetriou***

- End of European Directive on Water and success of the “Initiative for the human right to water and sanitation and against liberalisation of water services in Europe” in the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013
- Preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECCE conference “Water Management in Europe” in the context of the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013 (vice chairman)
- Participation of ECCE at the conference „High energy Performance Buildings” in Brussels, 24. – 26. June 2013 (chairman)
- Presentation of the paper “Photo Voltaic Energy – from the World Scale to its smart Use at Home” at the “International Conference on Engineering for Sustainable Energy in Developing Countries ESEDC 2013” as a meeting also of the WFEO Standing Committee on Energy in Guangzhou, China, 5. – 8. Sept. 2013 (chairman, also chairman of the Solar energy Group of WFEO SC Energy)



## **Standing Committee on Education & Training**

***Chairman: Prof. Iacint Manoliu***

- Completing, in cooperation with the EUCEET Association, the Phase I: "Bologna process and the academic world" of the study "The impact of the Bologna process on civil engineering education and profession in Europe".
- Undertaking a survey conducted among professional for the Phase II "Bologna process and the professional world" of the study "The impact of the Bologna process on civil engineering education and profession in Europe". To the survey participated 176 professionals form 8 ECCE members.



## **Standing Committee on Development & Business Environment**

***Chairman: Mr. Karlheinz Zachmann***

***Vice Chairman: Mr. Aris Chatzidakis***

- In 2013 ECF gathered in January and March. A special gathering took place in the EP with Mr. Bütikofer, rapporteur of the EC Communication on: "Strategy for sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises".
- In 2013 first Ireland and then beginning of June Lithuania took over the EU Presidency. Before the EU elections Greece will taking the lead.
- Before the end of 2013 about 75 legal acts have still to be adopted.
- Croatia became full member of the EU.
- The future of presence and representation in Brussels are urgently challenged.
- Last ECF Meeting on 14/10/2013. Main topics discussed were the Waste Policy review, the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF), Sustainable Buildings, Green Infrastructure, Thematic Groups under the High Level Group, Sustainable logbook.



## **Standing Committee on Associate Membership**

***Chairman: Mr. Vassilis Economopoulos,  
ECCE Past President***

***Vice Chairmen: Bora Kutruza & Aristides Karlaftis***

- Contacts for incorporating new Associate Members within ECCE (Companies, Universities, Organizations, Associations, etc.) – many outstanding discussions that will be finalized soon.
- Contacts with current ECCE Associate Members for refreshing/ updating the communications and for fulfilling their financial obligations.
- Consideration and recording of the eligible target groups to attract New ECCE Associate Members.
- Consideration and preparation of topics of interest for ECCE Associate Members for discussion, communication and work.



**Task Force  
Civil Engineering Heritage**  
***Chairman: Mr. Gorazd Humar,  
ECCE Immediate Past President***

- The TF CEH is continuing the preparation of the new ECCE book on Footbridges. Many contributions were already send to the Editor in Chief Gorazd Humar. Some countries did not prepare their contributions till now.
- The deadline for presentation of contributions is extended to end of December 2013.
- The Japanese Society of Civil Engineers confirmed that they will prepare their contribution in time.



