



European Council of Civil Engineers

ECCE ANNUAL REPORT

2015

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WHO WE ARE

European Council of Civil Engineers

The European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) was created in 1985 out of the common concern of the professional bodies for Civil Engineers in Europe that the Civil Engineers working together across Europe could offer much more to assist Europe advance its built Environment and protect the natural environment.

At the European Union level, ECCE aims to promote the highest technical and ethical standards, to provide a source of impartial advice, and promote co-operation with other pan-European organisations in the construction industry. ECCE also advises and influences individual governments and professional institutions, formulates standards and achieves a mutual compatibility of different regulations controlling the profession, and formulates standards for a European Code of Conduct of the Civil Engineering Profession and disciplinary procedures applicable throughout the Union.

ECCE formulates guidelines to maintain and raise standards of civil engineering education, training and professionals' competence, as well as assisting in achieving mutual compatibility of Euro codes, standards and regulations in the related industry and encouraging and improving levels of safety and quality in the industry.

ECCE is active in such areas as the environment, research and development, education and training, ethics, continuing professional development, transportation and liability, as well as organising workshops and conferences.

“Civil Engineers at the Heart of Society Building Life Quality and a Sustainable Environment”

Our objectives:

At the level of the European Union:

- To promote the highest technical and ethical standards.
- To provide a source of impartial advice.
- To promote co-operation with other pan-European organisations in the Construction Industry.

At the level of National Governments and Institutions:

- To advise and influence individual governments and professional Institutions.
- To formulate standards and achieve a mutual compatibility of different regulations controlling the profession.
- To formulate standards for a European Code of Conduct of the Civil Engineering Profession and disciplinary procedures applicable throughout the Union.

At the level of The Profession, related Organisations and Industry:

- To formulate guidelines to maintain and raise standards of civil engineering education, training and professionals competence.
- To assist in achieving mutual compatibility of Euro codes, standards and regulations in the related industry.
- To encourage and improve levels of health& safety and quality in the industry.

ECCE Member organizations in 2015:

- BULGARIA *Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria* ([UCEB](#))
- CROATIA *Croatian Chamber of Architects and Engineers* ([HKAIG](#))
- CYPRUS *Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers* (CCCE)
- CZECH REPUBLIC *Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians* ([CKAIT](#))
- ESTONIA *Estonian Association of Civil Engineers* ([EEL](#))
- GEORGIA *Georgian Society of Civil Engineers* ([GSCE](#))
- GREECE *Association of Civil Engineers of Greece* ([ACEG](#))
- HUNGARY *Hungarian Chamber of Engineers* ([HCE](#))
- ITALY *National Council of Italian Engineers* ([CNI](#))
- LATVIA *Latvian Association of Civil Engineers* ([Lat ACE](#))
- LITHUANIA *Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers* ([LSIS](#))
- MALTA *Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers* ([KTP](#))
- MONTENEGRO *Engineers Chamber of Montenegro - Civil Engineers Chamber* ([ECM-CEC](#))
- POLAND *Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers* ([PIIB](#))
- PORTUGAL *Order of Engineers* ([OE](#))
- RUSSIA *Russian Society of Civil Engineering* ([RSCE](#))
- SERBIA *Serbian Chamber of Engineers* ([SCE](#))
- SLOVAK REPUBLIC *Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers* ([SKSI](#))
- SLOVENIA *Slovenian Chamber of Engineers* ([IJS](#))
- SPAIN *Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos* ([CICCP](#))
- TURKEY *Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers* ([IMO](#))

ECCE Associate Members in 2015:

- GERMANY *Institute of German Engineers – ZDI*
- FRANCE *Société des Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France* ([IESF](#))
- ROMANIA *Romanian Association of Civil Engineers* ([AICR](#))
- GREECE *EPSILON International SA* ([EPSILON](#))
- COSTA RICA *Association of Civil Engineers of Costa Rica* ([ACECR](#))
- European Civil Engineering Education and Training Association ([EUCEET Association](#))



ECCE LOSES TWO OF ITS FOUNDING MEMBERS

Passing of José Medem Sanjuan, ECCE Honorary President



José Medem Sanjuan (born on 13th August 1927) passed away in Madrid on January 27, 2015. A prominent civil engineer, leader, mentor, visionary, professor, friend and family person, he was an inspiration and motivator to many with the highest ethical and professional standards. His legacy is a living testimony of his efforts and life within the engineering profession and the organisations in which he was involved. He remained active in most of the professional organisations till the end, primarily WCCE, WFEO, Instituto de las Ingenierías de España, Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos de España, UPADI and the Pan American Academy of Engineers.

José Medem Sanjuan was Past President of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations, the World Council of Civil Engineers (Founding President), the European Council of Civil Engineers, the European Federation of National Engineering Associations, International Council of Engineering and Technology and the Foundation of Aragón for the Promotion of Infrastructure. He was Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering at the Polytechnic University of Madrid, Vice-president of the Committee of International Affairs of the Instituto de la Ingeniería de España, and a Founding member of WFEO's Anti-Corruption Standing Committee. A member of the Pan American Academy of Engineering and Spain's representative to the Pan American Union of Engineering Associations (UPADI). Also a member of the Advisory Council of the Global Infrastructure Anti-Corruption Centre since the founding of GIACC. He was also Chairman of the International Advisory Board of the World Engineers Conventions of Hannover (2000), Shanghai (2004) and Brasilia (2008), and Chairman of the "Demarcacion de Madrid" of the Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos. He was a civil engineer and specialized in civil engineering projects, town planning, worksite management and programming. He received numerous awards, including the Distinction of the Order of Civil Merit from the King of Spain, the Gold Medal Commemorative of the Change in Tunisia from the President of Tunisia, and the Silver Medal of the Centenary of the Spanish Institute of Engineers. He was honorary Senator of the European Senate of the Economic Forum. His many publications leave a legacy on engineering practice and themes.

He is survived by his wife Frida, children Virginia, Cristina, Silvia, Ignacio, Javier and Natalia, sons-in-law José de Simón, Ricardo Botas, Francisco Rico, Letizia Cristobal and Antonio Conderana and his grandchildren.

Passing of Vassilis Economopoulos, ECCE Past President



On October 4th 2015, ECCE Past President Vassilis Economopoulos passed away in Athens, Greece. An enthusiastic and dedicated worker towards the highest professional standards of the engineering profession and its efficient commitment to society, he has seeded with his contribution his legacy, not only in Greece but throughout the world. He has been a teacher, mentor, professor, colleague but mostly a friend, impacting and making a difference wherever initiative in which he became involved.

Current Chairman on ECCE's Standing Committee on Associate Membership, his commitment to ECCE has been total since its inception in 1985, bearing ECCE's presidency during the period 2008-2010. He has held all its different posts and has been member of ECCE's Executive Board uninterruptedly since 1995.

His career on professional chambers was extensive and has held several offices in many and diverse organizations. He has been Special Advisor to WFEO president, WCCE Treasurer, Member of the Greek Delegation to FEANI, President of the Association of Civil Engineers of Greece (ACEG) and Vice President in the Pan-Hellenic General Assembly of the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG). He was also elected as a Chairman of the Transport Economics Committee of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and a member of its Policy Board.

Civil Engineer graduated from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), acted as individual professional by the license from the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG). He also held a graduate of Law and Public Administration Department of the National University of Athens.

His professional career developed as independent consultant in transport and water engineering. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer and later Director General of the Athens Metro Operation Company during the period 2001 to 2007 and has participated in the Administrative Boards of Public Companies in construction and design sector. He was also appointed to the staff Co-operator of a Vice President of the European Parliament Antonios Trakatellis (2004-2007), Governor of a Pension Fund and President in a Municipal Water Company.

He is survived by his wife Anna and his sons Panos and Babis.



ECCE IN BRUSSELS

High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum on Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises European Commission publishes report from the High Level Forum on follow-up actions



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Sustainable Growth and EU 2020

Sustainable Industrial Policy and Construction



Past president Fernando Branco participated in this meeting in representation of ECCE. The main guidelines that were presented for the construction sector are presented below.

It is important to highlight the following points:

- Important investments are allocated to Energy rehabilitation (in practice any building rehabilitation can use these EU funds if some energy saving is associated to the works);
- EU does not know what is the saving energy return from this rehabilitation, so it is investing also in green value increasing of the property, to convince people to invest in rehabilitation;
- EU is also investing in Life cycle and recycling of the demolition debris, trying to impose that in a Green Public Procurement, what nobody really knows what it is. For now, the idea is to try to recycle public buildings up to 70%;
- Eurocodes are being pushed to be adapted all over the world, and simultaneously to be simplified.
- Political strategies for EU investments in Africa, Middle East and America are being studied to protect EU companies.

Summary of the actions of the High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum

Thematic Group 1 - "Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation"

Action 1: Blending of different Financial Instruments: Financial Instruments for energy efficiency schemes

Follow up on the report from the Energy Efficiency Financial Instruments Group (EEFIG) should address properly drivers in terms of demand for use of financial instruments, e.g. the needs for a coherent regulatory framework for energy efficiency, the standardisation and effective use of available means within the Structural Funds.

Action 2: Property valuation

Property valuation should be supported by an evidence based data set to better capture the value of energy and environmental performance. TG1 members suggest to create in collaboration with DG GROW and DG Energy a dedicated working group on the impact of sustainability on property values. This working group should bring about actions focused on (a) strengthening the data basis on impact of sustainability on property values, (b) strengthening the evidence base for conclusions on this (incorporating not only a value premium orientation but also a risk assessment attitude), using case studies, impact studies, existing material, etc. and (c) increase and improve the dialogue between the real estate sector, the valuation industry, the construction sector and financial institutions in order to improve investor readiness and related risk management.

Action 3: Life Cycle Costing (LCC)

EFCA and DG GROW to undertake further actions potentially with support from ACE (Architects Council of Europe) or CPE (Construction Products Europe). The focus is to be placed on how to: a) develop a set of cost classification criteria, including data collection and analysis; b) explore involving LCC in public sector works through public procurement, and; c) develop a scenario to further implement LCC in private sector work processes.

Action 4: Public-private partnership models for various market segments and project sizes

In order to raise awareness about the potential offered by financial instruments, practical experience with public-private financial models should be spread.

Thematic Group 2 - "Skills and qualifications"

Action 1: Review the eligibility for funding measures to ensure fair access for all workers, professionals and sizes of enterprise especially for SMEs.

Sustainable funding for long term training programmes is crucial for improving the human capital basis of the sector. Existing approaches in this area have to be further analysed. Good practices and innovative methods at national/regional level (e.g. the French levy for construction sector training) to be identified and promoted

Action 2: Provide guidelines for developing partnerships to optimise the uptake of the innovation process by suitably trained people.

Partnerships between academia/the educational sector and the enterprises in the construction sector are vital for a tailor-made preparation of prospective employees, facilitating recruitment processes and adaptation of new employees. Such partnerships, activities and dedicated events should be promoted and followed up to provide references on how such partnership can be successfully achieved.

Action 3: Review existing EU level initiatives and partnerships that support training, including sectorial trade and professional associations.

Effective promotion of EU funding opportunities for training activities is recommended. Moreover, the members of the group are encouraged to promote the "Apprenticeship Pledge" initiative among their affiliates.

Action 4: Facilitate mobility of construction professionals.

Mobility is one of the key elements to address geographical imbalances of sector's skills and to contribute to improving the human capital basis of the sector (e.g. up-skilling through short term visits). A greater role may be performed by sectorial and educational organisations in this regard, as well as by Public Employment Services across the EU Member States and these activities could be better supported by EU financial instruments. Specific initiatives and identified good practices to be promoted.

Thematic Group 3 - "Sustainable use of natural resources"

Action 1: Encourage the creation of an EU framework for building assessment

In order to increase the acceptance of the evaluation framework, the needs of the market from the demand perspective should be identified and addressed properly in the development of core indicators.

Action 2: Management and valorisation of Construction & Demolition Waste (C&D Waste)

A technical and economic study should support the elaboration of specific tools and/or guidelines for the assessment of buildings prior to demolition and renovation. Moreover, the development of a standardized protocol for the management of C&D Waste recycling should increase the potential of recycled materials. This should be accompanied, where appropriate, by the definition of sound end-of-waste criteria.

Financial instruments should also engage the private sector to explore investment and financing opportunities in C&D Waste recycling facilities. Moreover, Green Public Procurement might facilitate the access to public markets and effective use of recycled materials.

Finally, local urban planning should consider setting of new C&D waste recycling plants when economically viable.

Thematic Group 4 - "Internal market"

Action 1: Fitness check concerning the Internal Market for Construction Products and Services

TG4 to provide and support stakeholder interaction for the pilot 'Fitness check', and to monitor progress and assess outcomes.

Action 2: Network of national contact points for construction products and services

Improve information provided by contact points (including making information available in different languages), together with exploring good practices for effective communication amongst different contact points and competent departments within Member States so as to facilitate better and more efficient information provision to users.

Action 3: Insurance for cross border services in construction

Assess in 2015 the results from the ELIOS project and the EC 2014 proposals under the Services Directive for improving cross-border insurance cover.

Action 4: Eurocodes / Analysis of Eurocodes

The implementation, simplification, evolution and promotion of Eurocodes need to be pursued.

Action 5: Ensure effective market surveillance in construction products

Enhance market surveillance of construction product: a) improved information provision to raise public awareness (e.g. on legal obligations, contact information for Market surveillance authorities and market surveillance actions and procedures); b) improve cooperation with concerned economic actors and c) capacity building and facilitation of peer exchanges.

Thematic Group 5 - " International competitiveness"

Action 1: Focusing future work and collaboration on the construction sector with a well-targeted selection of international partners

Cooperation efforts should focus on the African, neighbouring countries and United States markets and address market access barriers both for construction products and services, particularly those on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) or establishing local offices. In more detail, market access barriers to wood-related products in Japan should be discussed in the EU-Japan negotiations. With regard to EU US Free Trade Agreement (TTIP), a specific follow-up is required for dredging and marine services in the US (Jones Act). Architects call for Mutual Recognition Agreement from US.

Moreover, the internationalisation of SMEs in the construction sector should be further supported by EU-wide export facilitation measures.

Action 2: Funding and guarantees for international construction projects

Further support should be given to the development of the proposal to involve Export Credit Agencies in EU Development Funds in order to increase the benefits of EU development funds for EU contractors, for example by continued support to the EIC ITF Africa 2.0 proposal and its inclusion in the EUBEC TG-6 Working Group.

The design and development of Design-Build-Operate rules in public procurement for developing countries should be based on appropriate consultation of the construction industry stakeholders

Strict environmental and social (e.g. corporate social responsibility) criteria in international and development aid projects should to ensure a level playing field between EU (or OECD) contractors and other competitors.

Action 3: International cooperation on regulation and standards beyond Eurocodes

Best practices in achieving Mutual Recognition Agreements with priority countries should be developed and applied in ongoing negotiations. Other ways of ensuring recognition of professional qualifications should also be explored.

New avenues for international cooperation on standards should be explored with practitioners from the private sector – such as for example World Green Building Council - and from the public sector.

The promotion of EUROCODES should be continued in neighbours countries, Middle-East and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the European Union and the United States of America – Incorporation of professional Engineering Services Feasibility Study

What is the TTIP?

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a proposal for a free trade (agreement FTA) between the European Union and United States.

On June 2013, EU member countries granted the European Commission a mandate to start negotiations with the US government to achieve this trade agreement according to the guidelines mentioned in later sections of the document. Since then, nine negotiation rounds have been held so far. The latest round of negotiations so far has taken place in New York from 20 to 24 of April of 2015. The next round of negotiations will take place on 13 to 17 July 2015 in Brussels.

Due to the result of the last elections to the Senate in the United States, the Obama administration is making a valiant effort to carry to term the TTIP negotiations before the end of the parliamentary term to avoid an election outcome may change the American position on the Treaty.

EU position

As stated in the document **Council of the European Union's Directives for the negotiation on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the European Union and the United States of America** in its 17th paragraph

17. The Agreement should develop a framework to facilitate mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

In addition to this, its 24th paragraph regarding public procurement concurs that

24. The Agreement shall aim for the maximum ambition, complementing the outcome of the negotiations of the revised Government Procurement Agreement in terms of coverage (procurement entities, sectors, thresholds and services contracts, including in particular public construction). The Agreement will aim at enhanced mutual access to public procurement markets at all administrative levels (national, regional and local), and in the fields of public utilities, covering relevant operations of undertakings operating in this field and ensuring treatment no less favourable than that accorded to locally established suppliers.

On these grounds, it appears significant to include professional engineering services among the sectors considered within the partnership's clauses.

Scope

The scope of this document is to summarize the different topics and potential issues to be discussed from the incorporation of professional engineering services among the sectors

covered by the presently in negotiation Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the European Union and the United States of America.

Proven the portfolio of US future investment in infrastructure, the opening of the US market is justified to EU firms and professionals. One of the existing hurdles for EU firms and professionals to conduct business in the US is the completion of the professional recognition procedures necessary for the legal practice in the US, a fact which brings inherent risks to EU professionals and firms (especially SMEs) such as the unauthorized professional practice in the US.

In addition to this, data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor, in its Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition, <http://www.bls.gov/es/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/civil-engineers.htm>

It is projected that the use of civil engineers will increase by 20 percent between 2012 and 2022, above the average for all occupations. As we continue aging infrastructure, civil engineers will be needed in managing projects to rebuild bridges, repairing roads and dikes and dams update.

Thus, the option to open markets for our firms and enhance the employability of our professionals and companies is confirmed.

Actions taken so far

Colegio communicated to the Spanish Ministry of Industry our interest in not to rule out the provision of engineering services on the agenda of the negotiation rounds of the TTIP. During such meeting, we were informed that the Commission was considering rule out the topic as it meant no real interest to the sector as engineering's professional organizations had not expressed it so far.

To confirm such interest, Colegio's President addressed letters to the European Council of Civil Engineers - ECCE and the European Council of Chambers of Engineering - ECEC asking these organizations to support the inclusion of the provision of engineering services in the TTIP's negotiation rounds. ECCE complied addressing a letter to Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström. Such letter was answered by the Commission by Mr Ignacio IRUARRIZAGA Diez, Head of Unit, Directorate for Trade in Services and Investment of DG Trade. In response, ECCE established a working group led by Colegio to prepare an initial background information document in TTIP.

On the other hand, ECEC expressed his interest in carrying out coordinated action invited Colegio's president to a meeting in mid march, which was not finally held and a new invitation has been offered to hold another meeting on June 15 in Berlin.

Objectives

The objectives of the European engineering community in such round of negotiations should be to expand any agreement around the interests that will be presented later in the document as well as safeguard concerns arising from our community.

Interests

Professional recognition

Taking into account that the provision of engineering services has diverse approaches in the different EU member states and within US territory, it is understandable that a mutual recognition of professional qualifications is out of the question. Nevertheless, several principles on mutual recognition of professional qualifications should be agreed. Such principles should provide basis for the implementation of streamlined temporary license procedures similar to those applicable through EU's Directive 2013/55.

Public procurement

EU's Single Market refers to the EU as one territory without any internal borders or other regulatory obstacles to the free movement of goods and services. On these grounds, procurement procedures regarding engineering services only require proof of entitlement to practice equivalent professions in any member state in order to qualify for tender on the same area of activity.

Such should be the spirit to implement into transatlantic procurement procedures regarding personnel qualifications, the acceptance of documentation issued by any member state competent authority or registration institution to certify the proof of qualification required by tendering documents in any of the jurisdictions within the signatories' territories. If that should not be the case, US federal government funded projects whatever their location should accept the above mentioned solution.

Other issues

Several other aspects horizontal to all sectors are critical to the successful application of this trade agreement. Among others, we would like to draw our attention on the following two:

- One of them is the need to encourage the commitment of US states to ratify TTIP, as the US signatories to the North American Trade Agreement - NAFTA were solely US Federal Government and the State of Texas.
- Migratory procedures are to be streamlined in order not to hamper any possible breakthroughs managed in any other relevant topics and must bear in mind project durations in the case of engineering services.

Concerns

Effective cross-border licensing

Although the issuance of temporary licenses by signatories' registration bodies should bear in mind project's duration, such temporal license should be project-linked and entitle professionals for such activity and not for a period of time. Otherwise, freedom of establishment would be granted through inappropriate procedures e.g. a temporal license of five years may permit such professional to develop different projects under the aegis of the main project which served as evidence for the issuance of such temporal license.

Compliance to national regulations

Transatlantic practitioners should be required explicitly to be observant of any sectorial regulations standing in the destination jurisdiction. TTIP should not overcome member states standards unless such topic should have been already overruled by EU regulations.

Criminal and civil professional liabilities

Courts rulings and disciplinary actions issued by professional registration bodies from TTIP's signatories should revoke professional qualifications in all its territories and grant transparency measures to communicate such sanctions. TTIP should try to avoid malpractice foxholes which would maim severely its success.

Follow-up activities

- Convene a first contact meeting on 30 May in Naples between stakeholders (ECCE, ECEC, and any others) during the 60th General Assembly of the European Council of civil engineers.
- Encourage the member organizations of the stakeholders (ECEC, ECCE and any others) to contact their national governments to disseminate the engineering profession interest on the topic.
- Contact the EU negotiation team and offer them the creation of a TTIP negotiation support group on the topic and prepare a common position to be presented in one of the assigned Stakeholder Policy Presentations which will be celebrated on the occasion of the 10th round of negotiations of the TTIP which will take place in mid-July in Brussels.
- Establish contacts with US registration bodies for the celebration of a workshop to explore the risks and opportunities posed by TTIP to our professionals.

Attendance of ECCE to TTIP's 10th Negotiations Round



Such stakeholders' event was held in Brussels on the July 15th 2015 and was part of the previous events to the 10th Negotiations Round held from July 13 to 17.

The European Commission approved the attendance of the European Council of Civil Engineers and invited us to make a five minute [presentation](#)

within the subgroup of public procurement for us to present the potential benefits of TTIP and identify our major concerns and how could they be addressed to TTIP's implementation.

ECCE was represented in this important event by ECCE Executive Board Member, Jose Francisco Saez Rubio. After the presentation, we were contacted by representatives from both EU and US negotiation teams and were requested collaboration from ECCE to enhance TTIP's outcome for the civil engineering sector and we were requested a primer proposal in writing.

During our contacts, we ratified the ECCE's interest in the existence of an effective professional mobility framework due to the lack of civil engineering professionals both in Europe and the US and ECCE expressed its commitment open to collaborate in this or any other matters.

Since then, Jose Francisco Saez Rubio follows up closely all the developments related to this matter.



ECCE MEETINGS – PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

ECCE participates in the 6th International Meeting of the Civil Engineering Chambers from the Portuguese and Spanish Speaking Countries



Meeting of the Chambers' Presidents and Invited guests

On the 5th and 6th of March 2015, in the capital of Cape Verde, Cidade da Praia met the representatives of the Civil Engineering Chambers from the Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries, including Portugal and Spain, the Latin America Countries, Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde. Some countries justified their absence like Macau from China.

ECCE Immediate Past President Fernando Branco was present, representing the

actual ECCE president, and also, as guests, assisted the representatives of FEANI and WCCE.

During the opening ceremony the President of Republic of Cape Verde was present and referred the importance of Civil Engineers to the development of the islands and wished the best success for the meeting.

The first day was devoted to discussion of organizational matters of the association. The first meeting of this association in Lisbon in 2008 was remembered with recognition to the founder of Mr. Fernando Santo. In the forum, the representative of each country spoke about their national problems, namely related to the evolution of the construction sector and to the recognition of foreign civil engineers.

Fernando Branco presented recent ECCE activities, and their importance for the European Civil Engineers, including the activities to influence the positions of Brussels, the 2nd Engineers Day, the Position Papers, the Standing Committees, the organization of Conferences related to technical important topics, the publication of books and the quality of e-Journal, inviting everybody to register in ECCE site to receive it.



The International Conference

On the second day took place an International Conference with the topics: (I) Infrastructures and Development; (II) Construction in Seismic and Volcanic Zones and (III) The Future of Civil Engineering, with an important audience from Cape Verde engineers.

Fernando Branco presented the conferences “Strategies for Building Rehabilitation” in topic (I) and “the Challenges of Civil

Engineering” in topic (III). In both topics the main issues related to a European Vision were described.

In the last theme, the ECCE activities related to the Professional Recognition of Engineers in Europe were presented by Fernando Branco as a possible basis for solutions of recognition of civil engineers among the Latin America countries. This was the lead theme of the important final Forum, discussed among the presidents of the several chambers, and it even appeared on the National TV News of that day.

ECCE meets ICE leadership in February and in July 2015



Left to right: Fernando Branco ECCE Immediate Past President, Tim Broyd ICE Vice President, Włodzimierz Szymczak ECCE President, Vassilis Economopoulos ECCE Past President, Nick Baveystock ICE Director General and Secretary

Towards the end of 2014 ECCE received a resignation letter from the Institution of Civil Engineers (U.K.) which is one of ECCE's founding members. This was a very unfortunate moment for ECCE as one of its founding members decided to step down. The ECCE President and Executive Board considered the poor situation and decided that for the sake of ICE's long history in ECCE the least that could be done was to explain and clarify the situation and the reasons that led ICE to such a decision.

Therefore, a meeting with ICE leadership was arranged on 5th February in London. In this meeting the participants on behalf of ECCE were ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak, ECCE Immediate Past President Fernando Branco and ECCE Past President Vassilis Economopoulos. On behalf of ICE, Nick Baveystock Director General and Secretary and Tim Broyd Vice President participated in the meeting.

It has been a very fruitful and constructive meeting since the two organizations established a direct contact and exchanged information to achieve the utmost transparency and dissolve any misperception due to miscommunication. The discussions that were held reinforced the need for further dialogue and good results were expected.



Left to right: Włodzimierz Szymczak ECCE President, Nick Baveystock ICE Director General and Secretary

Over the next months the communication between ECCE and ICE continued and a second meeting between ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak and ICE Director General and Secretary Nick Baveystock was arranged on 29th July, in London.

It was a follow-up to direct contacts established in February 2015 between the leaders of the above-mentioned organizations. During the meeting, both parties discussed a number of important issues concerning the ECCE's main present and future tasks, and how to convince ECCE Members to contribute to the current ECCE dealings, the situation on the European construction market, the approach to TTIP negotiations and many other issues.

Also, the cooperation between European Organizations of Civil Engineers, building cooperation between the ECCE and the EU's authorities was discussed. The parties discussed possibilities for a stronger involvement of the ICE in the ECCE's activities. It ought to be emphasized that the whole meeting was filled with the spirit of mutual understanding and all major doubts have been cleared out.

These meetings and the establishment of direct contacts between the leaderships of the two organizations led to a very positive outcome as after a few weeks ICE communicated to ECCE their decision to reactivate their ECCE Membership in ECCE starting from the beginning of the next year.

ECCE was invited to the 75th Anniversary of The Association of Polish Engineers in Great Britain



On 27th – 29th March 2015, the ECCE President, Włodzimierz Szymczak, took part in the 75th Anniversary of The Association of Polish Engineers in Great Britain. The first day of celebrations took place in the Polish Embassy in London hosted by the Ambassador of the Polish Republic in London, His Excellency Witold Sobkow. The Meeting brought together many prominent guests from Europe and worldwide. ECCE President gave his Honorary Patronage for these celebrations and delivered a welcome speech. Next day the International Conference titled "BIM for Poland - risk and challenges" took place. Włodzimierz Szymczak presented an ECCE approach to this subject and an action already taken. The last point in the agenda was a technical visit at the Tottenham Court Road Underground Station which is currently developed as a part of a big infrastructure project named CrossRail. This project is carried out using BIM method.

ECCE is invited to a honorary event with the European Commission President Jean – Claude Juncker in Dusseldorf



Left to right: EC President Jean-Claude Juncker,
Włodzimierz Szymczak ECCE President

A very important Event for the Honorary Award to Jean – Claude Juncker (President of the European Commission) within the European Senate Meeting of the Network/Group of the Associations of SMEs – “We Entrepreneurs” was held on 16th April 2015 at Dusseldorf/Neuss by the initiative of our ECCE Honorary Vice President Hermann Sturm.

ECCE was represented in the event by the President Włodzimierz Szymczak and the Former President Vassilis Economopoulos who were invited by the organisers.

In this event, our President Włodzimierz Szymczak was awarded as Honorary Senator. Many ECCE contacts and discussions were held in the frame of this event with European and other Organisations representing SMEs and important personalities participating in this meeting.

The priority of ECCE for Supporting and Promoting the Sustainable Growth of SMEs in Europe was set by the ECCE President from Warsaw General Meeting and our participation in this network-group and its activities is of great importance.

In this direction, the other Honorary Senators previously awarded by the [European Economic Forum \(EWIF\)](#) Members of ECCE Vassilis Economopoulos, Gorazd Humar and Iacint Manoliu will also be activated. Our passed ECCE President Jose Medem was the first ECCE Member awarded as Honorary Senator by EWIF.

The main speakers in this event were the following:

- WERNER KÜSTERS Supervisory Board/ Board of Directors of the Network/ Group of Associations of SMEs “We Entrepreneurs”
- HANS-JÜRGEN PETRAUSCHKE District/County Council of the Rhein-Kreises Neuss County
- PROF. DR. DRES. H.C. PAUL KIRCHHOF (key-note speaker) Judge of the Federal Constitutional Court, Director of the Institute for Finance and Tax Law of the University of Heidelberg
- HERMANN GRÖHE Federal Minister of Health
- JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER President of the European Commission

The key-note speaker’s Prof. Dr. Dres. H.C. Paul Kirchhof, speech title was “The Idea of Europe as an orientation to escape from the Crisis”. He spoke about the ideals behind the Idea of Europe: Peace, Freedom and Security. He mentioned that the increasing dissatisfaction among the European populations can jeopardize the peaceful European community “we must make the citizens understand that it is an advantage that our industry/companies are situated in a peaceful area, where legal certainty and freedom of contract dominate”.

Jean-Claude Juncker called out to “More Europe, less nation-state”. “The citizens are more and more distanced/alienated of what is taking place/decided in Brussels because they don’t understand what we’re doing. We’re losing in influence and significance from all around the world (he means new upcoming superpowers like China, India etc.) and therefore is not the moment to question the European unity, but in contrast to emphasize it”. About the crisis he mentioned: “We have to deal with a Polycrisis, there is fire in every corner” – mentioned about the debt crisis, the migration problem and the demographic declining birth rates.



Left to right: Vassilis Economopoulos ECCE past President, Włodzimierz Szymczak ECCE President, Hermann Sturm ECCE Honorary Vice President



Left to right: Włodzimierz Szymczak ECCE President, Vassilis Economopoulos ECCE past President

ECCE President meeting with the Austrian Society of Engineers and Architects (ÖIAV) and the Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants (bAIK)



Left to right: Peter Reichel
Secretary General ASEA,
Włodzimierz Szymczak
President ECCE, Prof. Heinz
Brandl President ASEA

Already before our 61st General Meeting in Naples, ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak, realizing one of his priorities - enlargement of ECCE Membership – established e-mail contact with Prof. Heinz Brandl – President of the Austrian Society of Engineers and Architects. The correspondence concerned a possibility of establishing closer cooperation between the two organizations, including membership of Austrian Society of Engineers and Architects in ECCE. Consequently, on 16th June 2015 in Vienna the direct meeting between ECCE President and ASEA leadership took place. Włodzimierz Szymczak informed the Austrian partners about the agenda and results of the 61st ECCE General Meeting and presented tasks, goals and current works of our organization. Prof. Brandl and Secretary General of ASEA, Mr. Peter Reichel, talked about current situation in Austrian civil engineers community and organizations. Finally, both sides came to the common conclusion that it is worth cooperating closer and Austrian Civil Engineers are strong enough and interested in playing the proper role in ECCE, including their membership in it.

President Szymczak gave an interview for a local internet TV station. The main topic of that interview was the message to young engineers concerning the challenges faced by civil engineering profession and also chances and opportunities which engineering education gives.

Sightseeing of the newly renovated ASEA Headquarter took place. This historic building is located in the strict center of Vienna. Particularly impressive is the main hall restored with great attention to historical details.

On June 17th, President Włodzimierz Szymczak met with Mr. Klaus Thurriedl who, in addition to his function in ECEC, is also a member of leadership of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants. The main topic of the meeting was the possibility of developing and deepening cooperation between ECCE and community of the Austrian civil engineers linked with both the Chamber and the Society.

The cooperation on the topic of Common Training Framework for European Chartered Engineers, which is foreseen in Article 49 of the new Professional Qualifications Directive, was agreed and also other possibilities of cooperation have been discussed during the meeting of the ECCE President and ECEC Secretary General Mr. Klaus Thurriedl.

ECCE meets the Federal Chamber of Engineers of Germany (VDE) leadership in Berlin



Left to right: Zygmunt Meyer, Włodzimierz Szymczak, VDE President Hans-Ulrich Kammeyer and VDE Director Thomas Noebel

On 4th of September 2015 in Berlin, in the Headquarter of The Federal Chamber of Engineers of Germany (VDE) an important meeting took place. The ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak met the President of VDE Hans-Ulrich Kammeyer. In the meeting also took part Prof. Zygmunt Meyer on behalf of ECCE and Director Thomas Noebel on behalf of VDE.

The main topic of discussion was how to attract the representative of German civil engineers to join the ECCE as a Full Member, and who should it be. President Szymczak started with a short presentation of the ECCE for our German Partners. He emphasized his efforts directed on

attracting new members to ECCE and developing activity of existing ones. The aim of that action - as he claimed - should be establishing ECCE as a strong platform gathering all European Civil Engineers. This platform should be respectable and valuable partner for European Union Authorities.

President Kammeyer shared the above mentioned approach of ECCE and explained specific law conditions which apply for engineering organizations in Germany. Both parties have agreed that the best candidate for the German Full Member in ECCE would be one of the strongest regional chambers of civil engineers. President Kammeyer offered VDE to make a research and start initial talks with the most promising candidates. Berlin's meeting was very fruitful and proved the worth of direct contacts between partners.

ECCE participates in the 12th General Assembly Meeting of the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) in Rome



Left to right:, ECEC President Crtomir Remec, ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak, ECEC Secretary General Klaus Thurriedl



Participants in 12th ECEC General Assembly Meeting

The 12th ECEC General Assembly was held on 25th and 26th of September 2015, in Rome, Italy. It was significant meeting, because ECEC summed up their 3-year term of activity and elected new Executive Board. ECCE was represented on that meeting by the President, Włodzimierz Szymczak.

The main topics of the plenary session were as follow:

- ECEC Activities 2013-2015,
- Common Training Frameworks as a chance for European Chartered Engineers,
- ECEC declaration entitled: "Independence of engineering services saves people's money"
- Continual Professional Development (CPD) for Chartered Engineers: common standards for CPD in ECEC Members States,

Taking the opportunity of ECEC GA, President Szymczak had a few important, bilateral meetings there:

- with President Remec - on the necessity and possibilities of close cooperation between Civil Engineering Organizations in Europe taking as an example ECCE and ECEC,
- with President Kammeyer - on progress in realization of the agreement for Germany's membership to ECCE that was discussed in Berlin,
- with Klaus Thurriedl – on possible Austrian membership in ECCE,
- with Nikolay Kirjukhin, President of the Union of Scientific and Engineering Associations of Ukraine (SNIO) - on situation of Ukrainian Civil Engineers and possibilities of cooperation between them and ECCE,
- with Prof. Adil I. Alhadithi, Secretary General Federation of Arab Engineers and CNI Commissioner Nicola Monda - on the idea of Engineering Association of the Mediterranean Countries,

The newly elected ECEC Board is composed of:

- President: Crtomir Remec
- Vice-Presidents: Zygmunt Meyer, Hansjorg Letzner, Dragoslav Sumarac
- Secretary General: Klaus Thurriedl
- Treasurer: Gabor Szollossy

ECCE participates in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Convention in New York



Left to right: ASCE Executive Director Thomas W. Smith III, outgoing ASCE President Robert D. Stevens, ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak, ASCE President Mark Woodson

On 10th - 14th October 2015, ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak participated in the American Society of Civil Engineers 2015 Convention that took place in New York, USA.

ASCE it is really big enterprise now, founded in 1852, and counting today over 150.000 members in 177 countries.

ASCE 2015 Convention was also a big venture, attended by civil engineers from 35 countries.

Convention Agenda consisted of more than 70 lectures, concurrent sessions, closed meetings, official celebrations, plenary sessions, technical tours and cultural events (for more detailed information please see the [ASCE website](#) or the [ASCE Convention website](#)).

During the Convention President Szymczak held an official meeting with the President of ASCE Mark W. Woodson. The meeting was also attended by the outgoing ASCE President Robert D. Stevens and ASCE Executive Director Thomas W. Smith III. The topic was how to make cooperation between the two organizations alive and more dynamic.

ECCE President held also two other important meetings there. The first one was with delegation of Finnish Association of Civil Engineers RIL and the second one with the President of Engineers Ireland.

President Szymczak left New York impressed by the grand scale of the Convention and professionalism of its preparation and carrying out.

ECCE visits Lassonde School of Engineering, York University, Toronto Canada



Left to right: ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak, Prof. Janusz Kozinski Founding Dean of Lassonde School of Engineering

ECCE President using the opportunity of his presence at the ASCE Convention in New York, he visited Lassonde School of Engineering of the York University, in Toronto, Canada where he had a meeting with Prof. Janusz Kozinski Founding Dean of this school.

The Lassonde School of Engineering is a professional engineering school of York University located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The school's stated goal is to create so-called "renaissance engineers" entrepreneurial engineers with a social conscience and a sense of global citizenship. Lassonde also incorporates crossover programming with York University's Schulich School of Business and Osgoode Hall Law School to study law, business and entrepreneurship alongside the engineering program.

The Lassonde School of Engineering was established in November 2011 with funding from founding donor Pierre Lassonde, the Government of Ontario and York University. Former students in

Engineering, Computer Science and Earth & Atmospheric Science programs from the Faculty of Science and Engineering formally joined the Lassonde School of Engineering on May 1, 2013. The School will start operating fully in March 2016.

ECCE President discussed with Prof. Kozinski regarding the specific and unique approach of education of the young engineers that this School provides and they established cooperation.

ECCE participates in the European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI) Conference and General Assembly in Lisbon



FEANI organized in Lisbon, on the 8th of October, associated to its General Assembly, an International Conference with the Theme: Lisbon Strategy – Engineering the Future. Remembering Lisbon declaration from 2000, the goal, at that time, was to make EU in 2010 “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world”. The conference presented various presentations with high tech technologies related to “Opto/Bio/Electronic devices”, “Engineering human tissues with marine biomaterials”, “The possibilities of the connected world an Innovation Leadership in Europe”.

This format with a conference before the GA was very interesting, with a high attendance, and followed the idea already in application at ECCE General Meetings, since the Lisbon ECCE Meeting.

On the 9th of October FEANI organized its GA, with the presidency of Prof. José Vieira from Ordem dos Engenheiros. After a remembering of members that recently passed away, including our great friend Vassilis Ecounomopulos, the agenda presented the following high lights:

- Activities of lobbying for the Mobility/professional recognition directive;
- Activities related to EUR-ACE and University Index;
- Activities of the European Monitoring Committee (EMC);
- Activities of the Common Training Framework (CTF), aiming to establish a training platform for engineers;
- Situation of the title of Eurlng (already 30.000 titles);
- Situation of the Eng Card (152 cards in 2015 from 7 countries);

ECCE was represented at the Conference and at the General Assembly by Prof. Fernando Branco, ECCE Immediate Past President. The presidents of ECEC and of BEST were also present.

ECCE Immediate Past President became President of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE)



On 22nd – 25th September 2015, ECCE Immediate Past President Fernando Branco participated in the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) Conference 2015 that took place in Geneva, Switzerland.

During the elections that were held Fernando Branco was elected IABSE President for the period 2016 – 2019.

“IABSE – The International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering” was

founded in 1929, in Zurich, being today the oldest international association of structural civil engineers, with members from more than 100 countries. During the XX century it had among its members the great names of engineering, from all around the world that have been associated to the major constructions of our planet and contributed to the development of innovative technologies in civil engineering. The Association, besides the publication of technical documents from its working groups, presents every year, at the annual Congress, awards to distinctive engineering personalities of the world and the gives OSTRAC Prize to the most distinctive construction built in the world, what is considered as the “Nobel of Engineering”.



ECCE GENERAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

61st ECCE General Meeting – 30th ECCE Anniversary and Conference “Artistic and Monumental Heritage – Restoration, Safeguard and Enhancement”



Group photo of the 61st ECCE General Meeting participants

The 61st ECCE General Meeting – 30th ECCE Anniversary was successfully carried out. It was held on 29th – 30th May 2015, in Naples, Italy hosted by the National Council of Italian Engineers (CNI).

This festive General Meeting was combined with the Conference “Artistic and Monumental Heritage – Restoration, Safeguard and Enhancement” organized by CNI with the collaboration of the [Order of Engineers of Naples](#) and the scientific collaboration of the International

Council on Monuments and Sites ([ICOMOS](#)). The Conference took place on Friday 29th May 2015, at the [Basilica di San Giovanni Maggiore a Pignatelli](#) which is a cultural monument itself. The Conference was opened by Mr. Nicola Monda CNI Councilor for International Affairs and from Mr. Włodzimierz Szymczak ECCE President. It was a well-attended Conference and many persons from Italian as well as International Engineering Organizations honored us with their presence. In particular among the distinguished guests were the following: Mr. Armando Zambrano CNI President, Mr. Luigi Vinci President of the Order of Engineers of Naples, Mr. Gaetano Manfredi Rector of the University of Naples Federico II, Mr. Marwan Abdelhamid WFEO President, Mrs. Yussef Tahani WFEO Executive Director, Mr. Thomas Sancho Marco WCCE President, Mr. Jose Manuel Pereira Vieira FEANI President, Mr. Adil Al Hadithi FAE Secretary General, Mrs. Ann Van Eycken CLAIU Secretary General, Mr. Giandomenico Massari ExCo Member of the Nigeria Society of Engineers and Mr. David Caro ESBA President.

On Saturday 30th May the 30th ECCE Anniversary Celebration took place. The 61st ECCE General Meeting was officially opened by the ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak. The [History of ECCE since 1985](#) was presented by Mr. Vassilis Economopoulos ECCE Former President and then the [ECCE Future Perspectives](#) was presented by Prof. Fernando Branco ECCE Immediate Past President. As part of the 30th ECCE Anniversary, ECCE President awarded the two founding Members of ECCE, the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE, U.K.) and the Colegio de Ingenieros de



Conference "Artistic and Monumental Heritage – Restoration, Safeguard and Enhancement" at Basilica di San Giovanni Maggiore a Pignatelli

Caminos, Canales y Puertos (CICCP, Spain) for their outstanding contribution and services for the ECCE since its establishment, as well as the host organization Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri. The CICCP President Mr. Juan Santamera received the award and honored us with his presence. The Late ECCE Honorary President Prof. Jose Medem was also commemorated during the 61st ECCE General Meeting with a memorial presentation that was delivered by Mr. Vassilis Economopoulos in honor to this significant man, Civil Engineer and friend.

Thank you all for having been a part of this magnificent and memorable event at this

important moment in the history of the European Council of Civil Engineers.

For further information on the 61st ECCE General Meeting please visit the link [here](#).



ECCE President awards CICCP.

From left to right: CICCP President Juan Santamera, ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak, ECCE Immediate Past President Fernando Branco, ECCE Vice President - President Elect Massimo Mariani



ECCE President awards CNI.

From left to right: ECCE Vice President - President Elect Massimo Mariani, CNI Councilor for International Affairs Nicola Monda, ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak, ECCE Immediate Past President Fernando Branco

62nd ECCE General Meeting – 30th ECCE Anniversary



Workshop at UCEEB

The 62nd ECCE General Meeting – 30th ECCE Anniversary was held on 30th – 31st October 2015, in Prague, in Czech Republic, hosted by the Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians (CKAIT). The 62nd ECCE General Meeting consisted of three parts. The first one was a short workshop that took place on Friday 30th October at the University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings ([UCEEB](#)) organized by the hosts, then it was the regular General Meeting of ECCE and the third part was the celebration

of the 150th Anniversary of the founding of “the Society of Architects and Engineers of the Kingdom of Bohemia (SIA)” that took place on 31st October at the Bethlehem Chapel.

ECCE President, Włodzimierz Szymczak officially opened the 62nd ECCE General Meeting welcoming all the participants and especially the ones that joined our meeting for the first time: the ICE General Director and Secretary, Nick Baveystock and the WCCE new President Ing. Alfonso Alberto Gonzalez Fernandez. In his opening speech he highlighted that we were about to conclude the year of the 30th ECCE Anniversary but this year would also be remembered for another very sad and unfortunate reason which is the unexpected passing of our friend and ECCE Past President Vassilis Economopoulos. A moment of silence was observed by all the participants as a gesture of respect to the recently deceased friend.

During the first part of the ECCE General Meeting, a lecture was delivered by Prof. Ing. Petr Hájek, Head of Department Research Programme Architecture and Environment, about Research in Czech Republic. Prof. Hájek also introduced and described UCEEB and their activities to the audience and following the lecture there was a guided tour to the UCEEB’s premises including the laboratories, where people had the chance to get a better understanding of the concept of UCEEB and the projects they undertake.



From left to right: ECCE President awarding Nick Baveystock ICE Executive Director & Secretary

The second part of the ECCE meeting was attended by 50 delegates and invited guests. Črtomir Remec ECEC President, Klaus Thurriedl ECEC Secretary General, Nikolay Kiryukhin President of the Union of scientific and engineering associations of Ukraine and Emilio Colon WCCE Past President were among the invited guests. During the second part of the meeting a memorial presentation for Vassilis Economopoulos was delivered by the ECCE President and following this friends and colleagues that wished to say something about Vassilis took the floor. Also, ECCE President awarded the ICE as one of the founders of ECCE 30 years ago. During the meeting of the ECCE General Assembly a number of important issues were discussed and several significant decisions were

taken regarding the strategy and the future of ECCE. Firstly, the Update/Change of our Articles

of Association was finalized and voted by the General Assembly. The major changes that were introduced concern the following subjects:

- Opening of Individual Membership to ECCE (with the status similar to Associate Membership).
- Introduction of the ECCE Civil Engineering Card as an ECCE membership card (the card is connected with the ECCE Individual Membership).
- Extension of the Executive Board mandate from two years to three years after 2018.



From left to right: ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak and CKAIT President Pavel Křeček

Another important change for the future of ECCE is related with the termination of the ECCE Standing Committees during the 63rd ECCE General Meeting, in March 2016. Instead of focusing on Standing Committees, ECCE will focus on the production of solid and good quality Position Papers that will reflect ECCE's positions and that will be brought forward to Brussels. In this way ECCE will boost its visibility and our goal of influencing the EU Authorities will become more likely. A detailed document regarding these changes and the new procedures for the tendering and production of ECCE Position Papers will be published in the close future. In addition, important discussions were held about the financial matters in ECCE (budget and membership fees)

and following up these initial discussions further steps will be taken in order for ECCE to cope with the new circumstances. Last but not least, the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations were discussed and brought to the attention of ECCE members.

On Saturday afternoon, all the participants attended the 150th SIA Anniversary. Before the ceremonial opening of the event there was an exhibition about the 150 years of SIA. During the event the results of the survey on TOP TEN personalities of Civil Engineering and Architecture 1865 – 2015 were announced. Also, the "Tree of Life" associations working in the field of construction and architecture which operated between 1865 - 2015 in the Czech Republic was presented to the public. This festive meeting was organized in cooperation with the leadership of the Czech Technical University in Prague. The event was attended by invited leaders of government, local authorities, professional associations and professional schools, architects, designers, building contractors and manufacturers of building materials. At the end of the meeting a reception was organized for all the participants.



From left to right: Nicola Monda (CNI, Italy), Gabor Szollossy (HCO, Hungary), Alfonso Alberto Gonzalez Fernandez WCCE President, Włodzimierz Szymczak ECCE President, Črtomir Remec ECEC President, Emilio Colon WCCE Past President, Gorazd Humar ECCE ExBo Member and Past President



ECCE WORKS

ECCE New Members

One of the ECCE President's goals during his tenure of office was to try to enlarge the ECCE family by attracting more new members and also bring back to ECCE members that had decided to leave. In this direction he visited and he established contacts with a number of associations during 2015.

Romanian Association of Civil Engineers (RACE)



The Romanian Union of Civil Engineers Associations (UAICR) was an ECCE Member since 1997 but the last few years it had stopped its activity in ECCE due to financial difficulties. Prof. Panaite Mazilu, Honorary member of the Romanian Academy, President of the Union of Associations of Civil Engineers of Romania (UAICR) celebrated his 100th Anniversary in March 2015. Knowing about the big celebration the Romanian community of civil engineers was preparing for the centenary of Professor Panaite Mazilu, Prof. Iacint Manoliu (Chairman of ECCE Standing Committee on

Education & Training) kindly informed ECCE President, Włodzimerz Szymczak about this event and suggested addressing him a message. Prof. Manoliu's suggestion was promptly followed

and he had the pleasure to read the following message at the celebration which took place in the beautiful aula of the Central University Library in Bucharest on Friday 20th March 2015.

"Dear Professor Panaite Mazilu, I am very pleased and honoured to convey you, on my



ECCE President presenting the two delegates from the Association of Civil Engineers of Romania who became ECCE Associate Member, left to right: Daniel Bitca, Radu Vacareanu, Włodzimerz Szymczak

behalf and on behalf of the Executive Board of the European Council of Civil Engineers-ECCE, my warmest congratulations on the occasion of your splendid 100th anniversary. The community of civil engineers of Romania is certainly proud and lucky to have you, a great professor and a

bright engineer, as leader. Your anniversary gives me the opportunity to underline your major interest for the development of cooperation among European civil engineers. Due to your vision and efforts, in May 1996, at the 23rd ECCE General Assembly in Madrid, Romania became the

first, among the former socialist countries, to be represented in ECCE. The Union of Associations of Civil Engineers of Romania numbered among the most active members of ECCE. Our colleagues keep recalling the ECCE General Assemblies marvelously organized and hosted by UAICR in May 1998 and May 2007, when they could meet you and admire your spirit, your unlimited energy. Happy anniversary, Professor Panaite Mazilu!”

On 16th April 2015, Professor Mazilu sent to ECCE President, Włodzimierz Szymczak, a letter of thanks, in which expressed also his interest in the continuation of the representation of Romanian civil engineers in ECCE and informed that he advised the Association of Civil Engineers of Romania (AICR) to become Associate Member of ECCE. On 27th April 2015, ECCE President, Włodzimierz Szymczak, responded to Professor Mazilu and greeted enthusiastically his efforts to have Romanian civil engineers back to ECCE.

On 21st May 2015 Prof. Panaite Mazilu passed away. Learning about the decease of Prof. Mazilu, ECCE President sent to UAICR and to AICR a letter of condolences. Prof. Panaite Mazilu despite his age became the bridge to connect again the Romanian Civil Engineers with the European Council of Civil Engineers which probably was one of his last achievements in life. The Association of Civil Engineers of Romania (AICR) became officially an ECCE Associate Member during the 61st ECCE General Meeting, on 30th May, in Naples.

ECCE Standing Committees’ function support and enhancement

ECCE President has started to put into practice his idea that was presented during his first speech as President regarding the assessment and enhancement of the current work and formula of functioning of the ECCE Standing Committees. ECCE President has been trying to support the activation and involvement of all our members to the works of the existing ECCE Standing Committees with the intention to promote the spirit of team work that will lead us to achieve and produce solid results for ECCE and for the Civil Engineering profession.

In this direction, a letter on behalf of the ECCE President has been sent to all ECCE delegates encouraging their active participation in the ECCE Standing Committees and also asking for the creation of a “support group” in each ECCE Member organization related to the works of the Standing Committees. Another goal that has been set and is already in process is the creation of at least one position paper by each Standing Committee per year. Also, ECCE President has been in direct communication with the ECCE Standing Committees’ Chairmen regarding all these matters.

ECCE President had the idea that the SCs must become more effective and productive with concrete and significant results for ECCE and for Civil Engineering. Starting from the beginning of his tenure and for almost a year ECCE President tried to promote the importance of involvement, cooperation and voluntary work from all the ECCE Members for the benefit of the Civil Engineering community.

Update of ECCE Articles of Association

The process of Updating and Changing the ECCE Articles of Association started during the 61st ECCE General Meeting in Naples, according to the decision of the newly elected ECCE Executive Board in Warsaw. Appreciating the importance of this issue for our organization and our members, ECCE President has established a Preparatory Group for Updating and Changing the ECCE Articles of Association that functions under the direction of Immediate Past President Prof. Fernando Branco. The Group consisted of Fernando Branco, Massimo Mariani, Vassilis Economopoulos and Gorazd Humar. After close cooperation of this group together with the President a draft proposal was prepared which after the ExBo's approval was disseminated to all ECCE Members for comments. The process of updating the Articles of Association was completed during the 62nd ECCE General Meeting in Prague where the final version of them was voted by the ECCE General Assembly.

The main points that were changed in the ECCE Articles of Association are the following:

- ECCE Associate Membership is open to individuals.
- Voting National Delegates must be engineers and preferably civil engineers.
- Elections for ECCE Executive Board shall be held every three years starting from 2018.
- Every member shall have one vote, which shall be cast provided all the annual financial contributions are paid, till that moment (new members) or for the last 3 years, since its last registration as member.

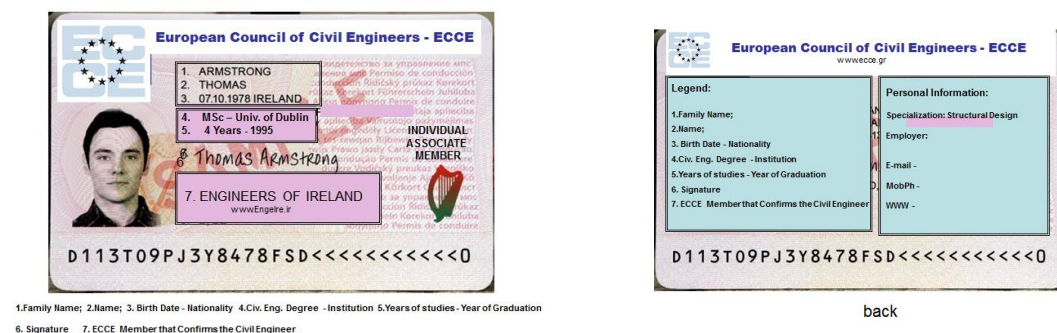
ECCE Individual Membership and card

One of the main changes in the updating of the ECCE Articles of Association is opening the ECCE membership to Individual civil engineers with the status of Associate Member. The Individual ECCE Associate Membership and the ECCE Membership card ideas were firstly presented from Fernando Branco just at the finish of his term as ECCE President and were developed over the year 2015. These two ideas were elaborated together and were treated as part of the update of the ECCE Articles of Association. The leader of the working group for this project was Fernando Branco.

During the ECCE ExBo meeting in Naples in May 2015, a first draft of the updated ECCE Articles of Association was discussed within the ECCE ExBo and some important decisions were taken. It was unanimously agreed by the ExBo the idea of opening ECCE Membership to individuals. The reasoning behind the proposal of providing the ECCE Individual Membership was introduced by Vassilis Economopoulos. The main reason is for ECCE to have another income resource and at the same time to provide services to the broader ECCE members, i.e. the members of the National Associations that are members of ECCE.

Fernando Branco described the idea of what the ECCE Card is. Each Civil Engineer has a card from his National Association in his own country, but now, based on this information, we as a European Association tell that he is a European Engineer. There is no additional information in the card but it provides European recognition. The information that will appear on the card was presented. Any person that has a card from their Chamber with this information can have an ECCE card issued.

FB said that in order for the ECCE card to be implemented we need to have a commercial agreement with the National Organizations and part of the money that we will receive will be sent to the National Organizations.



First draft of the ECCE Card presenting the information to appear on the card presented in May 2015

In May 2015, it was decided to go forward with the proposal for the ECCE Membership Card and the final version of this proposal would be presented in the October General Assembly. A group consisted by Fernando Branco, Vassilis Economopoulos and Jose Francisco Saez Rubio would work on this subject and would present a draft ECCE card in the October General Assembly. Maria Karanasiou and Vassilis Economopoulos would find a designer in Greece to elaborate the design of the card, prepare a draft one and get an offer for the October General Assembly.

During the October General Assembly in Prague Fernando Branco presented the concept of the ECCE Card and especially the content of the ECCE Card, what data should appear on it. The presentation can be found [here](#). He explained how the ECCE Card will be implemented in the regulated countries, in the non-regulated and in the countries that are not ECCE Members and he also described the procedure that an individual should follow in order to become ECCE Member and obtain the ECCE Card. He clarified that this card will be an ECCE membership card and not a professional card, like the FEANI card.

European Council of Civil Engineers	
	
	
Personal data 1. Family Name 2. Name 3. Birth Date 4. Nationality 5. National ID no	BRANCO Fernando 27/01/1953 Portugal 2522984
Professional Data 6. Chamber / Organization 7. National Professional Title 8. Membership Number Signature ECCE No 00 00000	Ordem dos Engenheiros Civil Engineer OE13818 
Academic Data 9. Civ. Eng. Degrees SCInt ■ Bsc □ Msc ■ PhD ■ 10. Years for Each Degree 5 2 3 11. Year of completion 1976 1982 1985 12. Institution of Higher Degree IST - Lisbon University	
ECCE www.eccengineers.eu ecce_sps@otenet.gr Tel.: +30 210 8623992 National Organization www.ordemengenhieiros.pt secretariageral@ordemdosengenheiros.pt Tel: +351 213132600 Member fernando.branco@tecnico.ulisboa.pt Tel: +351 917575056 ECCE No 00 00000	

Second draft of the ECCE Card presented in October 2015

The final version of the ECCE Card as well as the details about the ECCE Individual Membership was finalized in 2016.

“Lifelong learning in civil engineering profession in Europe” - A Workshop in Prague on 20-21 April 2015

The ECCE Standing Committee Education & Training organized the Workshop “Lifelong learning in civil engineering profession in Europe”, that took place in Prague on 20-21 April 2015. The Workshop was kindly hosted by CKAIT (Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians in Construction) at its headquarter premises. The Workshop was intended to give the opportunity to ECCE members’ representatives to be engaged in an ample exchange of views and experience in a matter of major importance for the profession: the continuous professional development of European civil engineers. ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak strongly endorsed the organisation of the Workshop in Prague. The Workshop started with a working session on Monday 20th April 2015 from 9.00 to 13.00. In the afternoon of the same day a visit to the laboratories of [UCEEB](#) (University Centre of Energy Effective Building) located near Prague was planned, followed by a dinner offered by CKAIT. The second working session took place on Tuesday 21st April from 9.00 to 13.00.



STANDING COMMITTEES

SC Education & Training



Prof. Iacint Manoliu

- Organization with the support of CKAIT of the first workshop of the ECCE SC E&T with the theme "Lifelong learning in civil engineering profession in Europe", Prague, 20-21 April 2015
- Preparation of the framework for the ECCE Position Paper "Continuous professional development of European civil engineers- major field of cooperation among academic institutions, construction industry and professional associations", discussed at the Workshop in Prague and of a draft to be discussed at the SC E&T meeting in Naples
- Preparation of the programme for the "Study on the practical placements/internships of civil engineering students and on the support given by ECCE members to this activity", launched at the SC E&T meeting in Naples
- Report on the "Study on the practical placements/internships of civil engineering students", jointly undertaken in 2015 by the ECCE Standing Committee of Education and Training and the EUCET Association.
- Launching of the "Survey on the support of civil engineering professional associations and chambers to the organization of practical placements/internships of civil engineering students".
- Discussion on the ECCE Position Paper "Continuous professional development of European civil engineers, major field of cooperation among academic institutions, construction industry and professional associations", prepared by the ECCE Standing Committee on Education and Training.

SC Environment and Sustainability



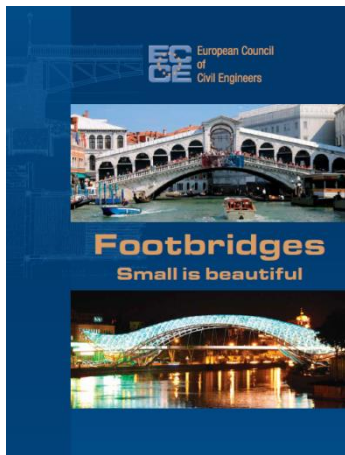
Prof. Carsten Ahrens

- Cooperation with VDI, February. and May 2015, Düsseldorf
Carsten Ahrens discussed common interests of ECCE and VDI (Verein Deutscher Ingenieure) with CEO Ralph Apel concerning topics of E&S.
- European University of Cyprus-workshop, April 2015, Cyprus
George Demetriou (Vice Chairman) participated in this discussion, which strongly touched issues of desalination of seawater and sewage water treatments – connecting with concerns about energy use and gain.
- Position Paper about water energy nexus, since 60th GA in Warsaw
The title is “Energy for water – energy from water – water for energy”, which is the longer expression of the “water-energy nexus”. European-wide and worldwide this nexus is a very actual topic of essential future looking considerations to bring together these two limited resources. The position paper has been elaborated by the chairmen and sent by the ECCE Secretary General to the ECCE national members.
No comment has been received. So the position paper is still valid and should/could be distributed by the ExBo in Prague.
- Questionnaire on environmental problems
Based on the former questionnaire on water the vice chairman George Demetriou elaborated an interesting and professional questionnaire on environmental topics and problems. It has been distributed by the ECCE Secretary General to all ECCE national members.
The questionnaire is special insofar as George Demetriou has worked it out to use and answer it online. Up to now many, but not all members have given their answer and contribution to it. George has started the statistical evaluation procedure.

Task Force Civil Engineering Heritage



Gorazd Humar



The ECCE Task Force Civil Engineering Heritage completed in October 2014 a very big and important book project titled "Footbridges – Small is beautiful".

The project was running almost 4 years with intensive work. The main goal was to prepare a book similar to the previous one on civil engineering heritage in Europe but this time dedicated to the presentation of most interesting footbridges in Europe. Based on agreement between ECCE and JSCE the Japanese colleagues participated in the project too presenting 17 footbridges from Japan.

The book project was successfully presented during the 60th ECCE General Assembly in Warsaw in October 2014 when the first books were also distributed to ECCE members.

The book was distributed to those ECCE members who ordered the book. Till the end of January 2015 only 1.350 copies of 2.500 books (54%) that were printed were distributed to different clients.

Not all ECCE members decided to buy the book. There are still some countries even that have not ordered any books.

During 2015 it was necessary to continue with the marketing activities to sell the books in order to cover the costs of the preparation and printing of the book. This activity was performed by the Task Force CEH with the help and support of ECCE ExBo. The efforts were focused on the involvement of all the countries that had not bought the book yet. The book project Footbridges will only be completed when the costs for preparation of the book will be reimbursed.

SC Development & Business Environment



Mr. Hamish Douglas

The activities of the SC D&BE were on a halt during 2015 as the Chairman, Mr. Hamish Douglas, being the National Delegate of the ICE (UK) was not involved in ECCE's activities due to ICE's resignation from ECCE. However, Mr. Hamish Douglas participated in the Naples meeting in May 2015 where the special circumstances were clarified.

SC Knowledge & Technology



Prof. Ruben Paul Borg

1 Introduction

The Knowledge and Technology Standing Committee has been active in the field of Sustainable Construction, Energy Efficiency and Green Buildings, technological Innovations in Civil Engineering and Smart Buildings. Prof. Asko Sarja who was Chairman of the Standing Committee for a number of years, retired during 2013. Dr. Ruben Paul Borg was nominated and elected Chairman by the Executive Board.

The Standing Committee action plan was planned to address the effective organisation and actions of the group by targeting well defined deliverables attainable within reasonable timeframes and with reasonable resources. The action plan was intended to set the rhythm for concrete action through a holistic strategy for the future development of the Standing Committee within ECCE. To this effect, a set of objectives were set and a strategy to guide the activities of the Standing Committee was proposed, to support and inform the ECCE's longer term action.

To attain these aims, the strategy of the Committee and its programme are based on the following basic principles:

1. Information – Knowledge & Technology.
2. Communication & Knowledge Transfer.
3. Management & Organisation.

2. Information – Knowledge & Technology.

The Standing Committee set out to identify the state of the civil engineering profession and the state of the construction industry. In this regard, ECCE can effectively address not only the present needs of the Civil Engineer in Europe but also future needs. The Construction Industry is a major driver in the economy which evolves at a fast pace with new emerging technologies and innovate materials. The Civil Engineer as a key player in the industry has a critical role in supporting this advancement. The Civil Engineer must not only adapt to a changing industry, but also has a responsibility to help lead this change. The challenge for the Civil Engineer is to lead the construction industry to excellence, by understanding current and future needs as well as expectations in a dynamic world of change. The Engineer must anticipate the new challenges with vision and leadership.

The ECCE Vision 2025 Survey was launched successfully and led to a successful exercise which was completed in 2013. The aim of this survey is to identify priority areas for the future

development of Civil Engineering, in view of the advancement of the Profession for tomorrow's challenges. In the first stage the survey was circulated to ECCE members, and it was then circulated to a larger number of engineers throughout Europe, attracting a wide participation. The Survey results were presented to the Executive Board and to the ECCE General Assembly. The results of the survey were published on the ECCE website, and considered to be useful to main stakeholders in the building industry including professional associations and educational institutions.

The Survey Methodology ECCE Vision 2025, also allows for an Analysis of Trends in Civil Engineering, and therefore was proposed as a new ongoing activity in the tasks of the Standing Committee. The Analysis of Trends serves as an important reference point for different stakeholders including Civil Engineering Associations, Education Institutions and the Construction Industry itself. Through this exercise, key emerging areas can be identified including energy and transport, existing infrastructure and building stock, retrofit and repair, life cycle engineering and Building Information Modelling (BIM).

The definition of priority areas justified the setting up of a focused Task force within the Standing Committee, active on Life Cycle Engineering and BIM.

3. Communication & Knowledge Transfer.

A Basic Platform intended to facilitate Information and experience exchange was proposed and successfully set up. The new ECCE LinkedIn Group was therefore created formally during 2014, by the Knowledge and Technology Standing Committee in order to promote Information and data exchange between civil engineers. The ECCE LinkedIn Group set up, is intended to be open to Standing Committee ECCE Members but to reach out also to Civil Engineers Members of the respective organisation members of ECCE and other Civil Engineers. The aim of the group is to be an effective tool to facilitate knowledge transfer and communication, but also to serve as a window onto ECCE for Civil Engineers members of the country organisations in each member country. The group facilitates the dissemination of information on research initiatives, education and the profession.

4. Management & Organisation.

4.1 Work Group – Task Force Organisation

In order to successfully manage the organisation of the Standing Committee Task Force initiatives were launched. The aim of the Task Force Initiatives was to address specific tasks, and perform as a focused group over a defined period of time with a clear deadline and deliverable. The Specific tasks proposed and set up during the past year include;

Task Force 1: VISION 2025 Civil Engineering: Survey and Analysis of Trends; definition of key areas in Civil Engineering.

Task Force 2: BIM and LCA (Building Information Modelling and Life Cycle Analysis)

These initiatives have led to significant developments during the first year of activity and proven to be very effective within the structures of the Standing Committee Activities, to address the priorities and support ECCE.

4.2 Involvement of Civil Engineers members of Country Associations

It is felt that the mission of the Knowledge and Technology Standing Committee is to extend knowledge and information to civil engineers, members of the National organisations belonging to ECCE, and also to the European Civil Engineer in general. The membership of the Task Force was extended to nominated and other members from European Countries, experts in the specific field. This model ensured a wider participation and dissemination of ECCE activities and initiatives. Regular Skype conference meetings were organised on a regular basis in between ECCE General Assemblies, with the active participation of the members of the Task Force.

5. Task Force: VISION 2025 Civil Engineering: Survey

The aim of the survey was to identify priority areas for the future development of Civil Engineering, in view of the advancement of the Profession for tomorrow's challenges. In the first stage the survey was circulated to ECCE members, and it will then be circulated to a larger number of engineers throughout Europe. The method was based on an online questionnaire tool. The survey questions were developed within the standing committee with wide consultation to literature and other studies for other regions. The survey results were published on the ECCE Website and disseminated through the national organisations.

Action Plan

Survey Phase 1	First survey (Completed)
Survey Phase 2	Second Europe Wide Survey and Identification of Indicators
Survey Phase 3	Trends: regular survey by SC Knowledge and Technology

The first survey conducted summarizes the most common needs in Civil Engineering. ECCE is therefore carrying out a much useful and relevant Europe-wide exercise to obtain indications of the likely developments and emerging needs in Civil Engineering in Europe during the coming years

6. Task Force: BIM and LCA (Building Information Modelling and Life Cycle Analysis)

In 2013 Building Information Modelling (BIM) was identified and approved as a relevant and important topic to focus on from the results of the ECCE survey of trends in Civil Engineering. BIM and LCA are a recent development due to emerging needs in Civil Engineering and therefore the task can lead to useful contributions of ECCE to the Civil Engineering profession and the Construction Industry. The Task Force is piloting a new approach, with much success, of including national experts, as well as National Delegates, who are not necessarily civil engineers, as members of the Task Force.

The work is conducted in two areas:

- State of BIM; Based on a survey covering BIM in Europe
- Extending BIM for LCA Application; Based on a review of the use of BIM, possible gaps in addressing life time engineering and LCA.

The aims of the Task Force are:

- To create a network of European experts in LCA and BIM.

- To collect best-practice case studies on LCA and BIM from across Europe and collate them into a peer reviewed publication.
- To identify other opportunities arising from the activities of the task force.

7. Conclusion

The standing Committee has set the pace to address priority areas through focused activities with clear deliverables. The activities support the short term and long term strategy of the standing committee to inform the Executive Board and the general Assemblies of ECCE on the direction and position to be taken in key areas.

Dr. Ruben Paul Borg

Chairman, ECCE Knowledge and Technology Standing Committee

SC Associate Membership



Mr. Vassilis Economopoulos

- Information on various contacts for New Full and Associate Members.
- Information on the important Event for the Honorary Award to Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker (President of the European Commission) within the European Senate Meeting of the Network/Group of Associations of SMEs - "We Entrepreneurs" by the initiative of our ECCE Honorary Vice President Mr. Hermann Sturm on 16.04.2015 at Dusseldorf/Neuss.
- The awarding to our ECCE President Mr. Włodzimierz Szymczak as Honorary Senator in the above event. Many ECCE contacts and discussions in the frame of this event with European and other Organisations of SMEs and important personalities participating in this meeting.
- Networking and activation of the ECCE Members already awarded as Honorary Senators of European Economic and by the above Group, coordinated by Hermann Sturm and President Szymczak for promoting the SMEs positions and interests in EU by ECCE side.
- Information on the ETEK (Cyprus Chamber of Engineers) Activities and Events for 2015 Engineering Days with the final awarding Event on 11.05.2015 - main speech by the ECCE Former President Economopoulos on "Engineering Regulated Profession in Europe & Worldwide - Challenges and Perspectives".
- Information on "Juncker Investment Plan" which will unlock Public and Private Investments in the real economy of at least 315 billion euros over the next three years (2015-2017). ECCE Position on the reallocating of CEF and HORIZON 2020 funds for Transport investments.
- ECCE Draft Position Paper on "Supporting and Promoting the Sustainable Growth of SMEs in Europe".

The activity of the SC AM ended abruptly due to the passing of Vassilis Economopoulos.

New ECCE Secretariat address

From the beginning of the year 2016 the ECCE Secretariat is hosted by the
Association of Civil Engineers of Greece at the following address:

Ippokratous 9, 10679, Athens, GREECE

Tel.: +30 210 9238170

Fax: +30 210 9235959



European Council of Civil Engineers

Secretariat:

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Web: www.ecceengineers.eu

**“Civil Engineers at the Heart
of Society Building Life
Quality and a Sustainable
Environment”**

The European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) was created in 1985 out of the common concern of the professional bodies for Civil Engineers in Europe that the Civil Engineers working together across Europe could offer much more to assist Europe advance its built Environment and protect the natural environment.

At the European Union level, ECCE aims to promote the highest technical and ethical standards, to provide a source of impartial advice, and promote co-operation with other pan-European organizations in the construction industry. ECCE also advises and influences individual governments and professional institutions, formulates standards and achieves a mutual compatibility of different regulations controlling the profession, and formulates standards for a European Code of Conduct of the Civil Engineering Profession and disciplinary procedures applicable throughout the Union.