



European Council
of
Civil Engineers

ECCE BRIEF ACTIVITY REPORT

OCTOBER 2019 – OCTOBER 2020

by Aris Chatzidakis, ECCE President

&

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23 October 2020





European Council
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70th ECCE General Meeting

25 September 2019, Lisbon, Portugal

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- The 70th ECCE General Meeting was held on 25th September 2019, in Lisbon, Portugal hosted by the Engineers Association (OEP - Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal).
- The 70th ECCE General Meeting was held in parallel with the [Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit 2019 \(CES2019\)](#) that was organized from 24 to 28 September 2019, at LNEC - The National Civil Engineering Laboratory.
- 40 delegates from 20 countries attended the meeting.





- OEP Bastonario Eng. Carlos Mineiro Aires honored us with his presence in the 71st ECCE GM.
- A common session between the European Council of Civil Engineers and the World Council of Civil Engineers took place during the meeting when a number of initiatives and activities of both associations were presented.
- A proposal about the establishment of an International Network of Civil Engineers on Safety Construction (INESCO) was presented by the Portuguese OEP. The founding organizations of INESCO would be the WCCE-World Council of Civil Engineers and ECCE – European Council of Civil Engineers, and the national full members that they represent. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis and the WCCE President Carlos Mineiro Aires during the ECCE – WCCE Gala Dinner on 25th September 2019.





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Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit (CES 2019)

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24-28 September 2019, Lisbon, Portugal



- In the year in which the Portuguese Engineers Association (OEP - Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal) celebrated its 150th Anniversary the Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit 2019 (CES2019) was organized.
- This international event aimed to discuss, with a global and integrative approach, the main issues that currently affect the community of civil engineers, who seek solutions to new and also old challenges, in which its role will have a major impact, as climate change, food and water security, safety construction and all the other UN Sustainable Development Goals.





- Over 400 participants from all over the world listened to speeches and lectures from over 150 experts.
- ECCE President Aris Chatizidakis had the opportunity to moderate the Civil Engineering Heritage Plenary Session on 25th September and to hold a speech on “Guiding Principles for the Future of Civil Engineering” as part of the Plenary Session Civil Engineering 2030 that was held on 27th September.
- Also, the ECCE ExBo members as well as a number of ECCE delegates participated as speakers during the Technical Sessions of the CES2019 contributing with their knowledge and expertise in the various fields of discussion.



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ECCE's participation in meetings/events





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ECCE participates in the Thematic Group 1 meeting

8 November 2019, Brussels, Belgium



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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

Sustainable Industry and Mobility

Circular economy and Construction

- ECCE has been participating in the Thematic Group 1 “Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation” since its establishment. In the latest Thematic Group 1 ECCE was represented in this meeting by its **Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner**.
- The meeting consisted of the following parts:
 - Part 1 – Investing in affordable and sustainable built environment
 - Part 2A – Digitalisation and innovation
 - Part 2B – Digitalisation and innovation
 - Part 3 – Beyond Construction 2020
- The minutes of the TG1 meeting can be found [here](#).



ECCE participates in the Day of Liberal Professions 2019 (LPD2019)

13 November 2019, Brussels, Belgium



- ECCE participated at the Day of the Liberal Professions organised by the EESC's Liberal Professions Category represented by the **President Aris Chatzidakis**.
- The event, entitled **Trust in liberal professions in the age of digitalisation and artificial intelligence**, aimed to gain fresh insight into the impact of artificial intelligence on the exercise of professional services and on clients' and patients' rights.
- Issues that were addressed by speakers: transparency, communication and trust in professionals, regulators' awareness of the challenges linked to the opportunities offered by artificial intelligence, the consequences on the quality of professional services and their capacity to protect public interest

ECCE Meeting with MEP Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou

13 November 2019, Brussels, Belgium



- ECCE **President Aris Chatzidakis** met MEP Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou not only in her capacity as Member of the European Parliament but also as member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).
- ECCE President presented to and discussed with MEP Asimakopoulou all the latest ECCE actions:
- **ECCE Proclamation of 2020 as the Year of the 3S Approach Safe-Sound-Sustainable** which stresses the need for integrating Structural / Seismic upgrade of existing buildings, with Energy Efficiency improvements.

- **Declaration for the Protection of Engineers Chambers**
- **CONSTRUCTION 2050 “Building tomorrow’s Europe today” paper and Press Release**
- **ECCE’s Position Paper on “Appropriate regulation for the practice of civil engineering in Europe”**
- **European Engineers’ Day initiative**
- MEP Asimakopoulou showed great interest in ECCE’s activities and initiatives and is willing to cooperate with ECCE and try to promote its positions.

ECCE participates in the 18th ECEC General Assembly

27 September 2019, Lisbon, Portugal



- ECCE was invited to the 18th General Assembly of the European Council of Engineers Chamber (ECEC) and was represented by its **Vice President/ Treasurer Dimitar Natchev**.
- Dimitar Natchev made a welcome speech highlighting the importance of the cooperation between ECCE and ECEC because both organizations have common goals and interests and should be on the same team for positioning in Europe. The message of his speech was accepted with great enthusiasm by ECEC and ECEC President Klaus Thürriedl gave his oral approval regarding the signing of an Agreement of Cooperation between ECCE and ECEC.
- ECCE and ECEC Executive Boards held a bilateral meeting to discuss their future common initiatives.

ECCE participates in the 14th WCCE General Assembly and WCCE-ECCE ExBo Meeting *23-26 September 2019, Lisbon, Portugal*



- ECCE was invited to the 14th WCCE General Assembly and was represented by the ECCE **Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brander**.
- ECCE is an international member of WCCE.
- On 25th September a bilateral meeting between the Executive Boards of WCCE and ECCE was held at the Library of the OEP premises. The leaders of the two Councils discussed their current fields of activity and explored possible common actions and initiatives.

ECCE participates in the EAMC General Assembly and ExBo Meeting *27 September 2019, Lisbon, Portugal*



- The General Assembly of the Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries (EAMC) was held on 27th September 2019, in Lisbon, Portugal.
- **ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis** participated in the EAMC General Assembly and ExBo Meeting. ECCE is an International Member of EAMC and Aris Chatzidakis is member of the EAMC ExBo representing ECCE.
- During the EAMC General Assembly the new ExBo elections were held during which Aris Chatzidakis was re-elected as representative of the International members.

ECCE participates in the 10th AECEF Symposium

20-23 November 2019, Wroclaw, Poland



- The 10th AECEF (Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties) Symposium "Cooperation between Universities and Industry in the Education and Employment of Civil Engineers: Current Expectations, Future Challenges" was held from 20 to 23 November 2019, at the Wrocław University of Science and Technology, in Poland.
- ECCE supported the 10th AECEF Symposium and nominated the **ECCE Immediate Past President Włodzimierz Szymczak** to participate in the Conference Committee. Włodzimierz Szymczak participated as a keynote speaker with a speech titled "Can the Civil Engineers rescue the existence of human beings on earth?".

ECCE participates in the VIII National Civil Engineering Congress of Spain *17 – 18 February 2020, Madrid, Spain*



- The VIII National Civil Engineering Congress of Spain was held on 17-18 February, 2020, in Madrid, Spain hosted by the Colegio de Ingenieros de Camines, Canales y Puertos (CICCP).
- The main objective of this Congress was to reflect, among other topics, on mobility of the 21st century, the electric vehicle and the urban agenda, digital transformation, climate change, energy storage, circular economy and management, financing and Innovation of public works.
- **ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis** was invited by the CICCP President Juan A. Santamera to be member of the Honorary Committee of the Congress. Aris Chatzidakis had a presentation during the first day of the Congress within the Panel for the Cultural Heritage conservation. His presentation was titled “Challenges for the structural engineer dealing with heritage structures”.





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ECCE participates in the 8th meeting of the High Level Tripartite Forum

17 June 2020, virtual meeting



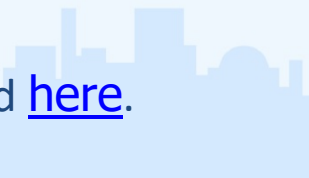
“Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector
and its enterprises” (COM (2012) 433 final)

High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum, 8th meeting

17 June 2020

#Construction2020

- **ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis** represented the European Council of Civil Engineers in the 8th meeting of the High Level Tripartite Forum that was held on 17th June 2020 virtually.
- In the opening of the meeting took place the inauguration of the Construction 2050 Alliance whose member is ECCE.
- The topics discussed during the meeting were:
 - Construction and the Built Environment: State of play
 - The Renovation Wave in support of a green recovery
 - COVID-19, its impact on construction and how to revitalise the sector
 - The EU’s Recovery Fund to support Europe’s economy
- The presentations that were delivered during the meeting can be found [here](#).



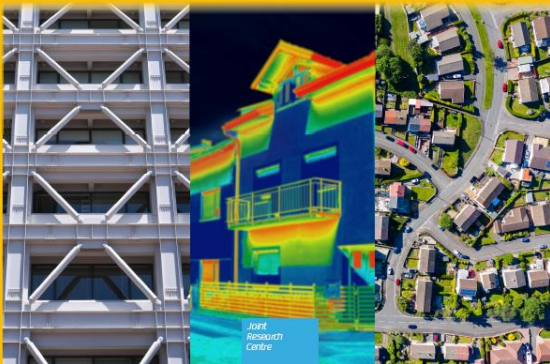
ECCE participates in the European Commission's JRC event 'Seismic and energy retrofit of buildings'

20 October 2020, virtual meeting



EUROPEAN PILOT PROJECT

INTEGRATED TECHNIQUES FOR THE
SEISMIC STRENGTHENING AND
ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF EXISTING BUILDINGS



- The European Commission's Joint Research Centre organised the side event 'Seismic and energy retrofit of buildings' within the 18th European Week of Regions and Cities.
- This event presented the [pilot project 'Integrated techniques for the seismic strengthening and energy efficiency of existing buildings'](#), which aims to support initiatives under the Green Deal (e.g. Renovation Wave) and make EU regions safe and resilient.
- **ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer Dimitar Natchev** and **ECCE ExBo Member Platonas Stylianou** represented the European Council of Civil Engineers in this event. The Agenda of the JRC event can be accessed [here](#).
- Prior to this event **ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis** had a meeting with the Project Officer, Mr. Georgios Tsionis, to discuss ECCE's campaign and to explore possible ways of cooperation.





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ECCE's initiatives and partnerships





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ECCE's 3S Initiative: 2020 The Year of the 3S Approach Safe – Sound – Sustainable



- The European Council of Civil Engineers has declared the Year 2020 as the Year of the 3S Approach Safe – Sound – Sustainable. The launching event was held on 14th December 2019, at Nicosia, Cyprus during the 27th General Assembly of the Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers.



- Important Human Right to have Safe, Sound and Sustainable buildings (3S).
- Significant amounts of money are invested in improving the shell of buildings, ignoring the static adequacy of the bearing structure of these buildings, especially in countries located in earthquake-prone areas.
- A uniform policy should be drawn up for the static or seismic upgrading of the structural wealth of European States, along with the wider sustainable environmental upgrading, approaching the problem in a holistic way.



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ECCE's 3S Initiative: 2020 The Year of the 3S Approach Safe – Sound – Sustainable



- The new trend nowadays is...smart financing for smart buildings. But a building can only be called smart... once it fulfills the 3S approach “safe, sound and sustainable”.
- As part of the 3S Initiative ECCE has published the **3S Approach Manifesto** and the **Position Paper on "The Need for integrating Structural / Seismic Upgrade of Existing Buildings, with Energy Efficiency Improvements"**
- More on ECCE's 3S Initiative can be found on the ECCE website **here**.



Joint IABSE – ECCE webinar: Characteristic Seismic Failures

3 July 2020, virtual event



IABSE - ECCE WEBINAR
3 July 2020, 14-15hrs CET.

Stephanos Dritsos
is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Patras, specialising in earthquake engineering and seismic retrofitting of structures.

Andreas Lampropoulos
is a Principal Lecturer in Civil Engineering at the University of Brighton, specialising in novel high performance materials and strengthening/retrofitting of existing structures.

Eftychia Apostolidi
is a civil engineer from the University of Patras, Greece, and a PhD from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria, where she works as a research associate.

Christos Giarlelis
is a structural engineer with expertise in the fields of seismic design, soil-structure interaction, and seismic isolation and damping systems, both as a consultant and as a researcher.

Characteristic Seismic Failures

- The International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) organized a joint webinar with ECCE on the “Characteristic Seismic Failures”.
- The speakers of the webinar were Stephanos Dritsos, Emeritus Professor, University of Patras, Greece; Andreas Lampropoulos, Principal Lecturer, University of Brighton, UK; Eftychia Apostolidi, Boku University, Vienna, Austria; and Christos Giarlelis, from Equidas Consulting Engineers.
- There were over 500 registrations for the Webinar which was also broadcasted live on Facebook, which gathered over 1200 viewers.
- You can watch the webinar [here](#).



ECCE joins the “Construction 2050 Alliance”



- The “Construction 2050 Alliance” is a newly established group of 46 European organisations working together to advance the needs and priorities of the wider construction and built-environment sector at EU level.
- The European Construction Forum (ECF) members in which ECCE has been participating for many years now recognized the need for a more structured and proactive approach as well as the need for strengthening the visibility of the construction sector and reinforcing the cooperation between the various stakeholders of the whole value chain.
- The Construction 2050 Alliance has been established because the sustainable Europe of tomorrow cannot be achieved without all the actors involved in the construction process. For this to happen at the EU level in Brussels, the Construction 2050 Alliance aims at coordinating common political messages of the construction value chain and raise the political importance of the sector at the European level.
- The initiators of the idea of the “Construction 2050 Alliance” were CECE (Committee for European Construction Equipment), CPE (Construction Products Europe), EBC (European Builders Confederation) and FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation).



ECCE contributes to the Renovation Wave Initiative Public Consultation

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- The **Renovation Wave initiative** is a priority under the European Green Deal and the recovery plan for the EU, aimed at **increasing the rate and quality of renovation of existing buildings and thereby help decarbonise the building stock**.
- Given the relatively labour-intensive nature of renovation work and the way in which this matches the “green, digital and resilient” ambition of the Commission recovery package, the Next Generation EU Communication talks of regulatory and financial support to “at least doubling the annual renovation rate of existing building stock”.

The Renovation Wave Initiative is one of the most important topics that engineers and ECCE will be focusing on over the next few years.

- ECCE contributed to the Public Consultation on the Renovation Wave Initiative. ECCE’s response to the Public Consultation can be accessed [here](#).
- ECCE has also addressed an additional statement to the DG ENERGY which highlighted the need of a holistic approach to the buildings’ renovation following the Sustainable Structural Design (SSD) methodology principles.



ECCE's statement regarding the EU Commission's "Renovation Wave Initiative"

The European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) welcomes the new initiative of the European Commission to launch a 'Renovation Wave' for public and private buildings to address the twin challenge of energy efficiency and affordability.

As the communication states "An integrated approach to building renovation means boosting energy performance of buildings by applying the 'energy efficiency first' principle, deploying renewables, preparing for climate impacts, deploying urban green and blue infrastructure and incorporating circular economy, waste treatment and pollution prevention principles."

Although we agree with the concept of a wider and integrated approach of renovation, we have to remark that it is still far from a holistic view of the problem of maintaining and upgrading the performance of existing buildings and infrastructure. We would like to state that renovation and retrofitting works need to be done in parallel with other necessary interventions so that the essential requirements established in the construction products Directive are also respected.





ECCE's statement regarding the EU Commission's "Renovation Wave Initiative"

We would like to remind that according to the existing Directives structures shall fulfill the following essential requirements:

- Structural resistance and stability
- Safety in case of fire
- Hygiene, health and the environment
- Safety and accessibility in use
- Protection against noise
- Energy economy and heat retention
- Sustainable use of natural resources

The vast majority of the existing European building stock has been built without modern provisions for earthquake resistance and energy efficiency, resulting in seismic vulnerable and low energy performance buildings.

Europe's basic traffic (road and railway) infrastructure was built mainly between the years 1950-1980. It counts already 40-60 years of life. When the infrastructure was designed and constructed, technical knowledge was quite different as far as several factors of outmost importance in designing are concerned. That is durability matters, earthquake risk and seismic loads, analysis methods and modeling facilities, pollution impact on ageing process of structures and completely different, less heavy, traffic loads.



ECCE's statement regarding the EU Commission's "Renovation Wave Initiative"

These assets of European countries need urgent maintenance and retrofitting to keep their value and meet today's functional and safety standards. They need to be upgraded if Europe wants to maintain its productive and human life respect standards.

This represents a huge renovation and maintenance volume which Europe has to deal with during the next years. And what is more, this has to be carried out in a sustainable and innovative way. The application of research based, advanced asset and risk management methodologies, is necessary in order to further increase the efficiency of interventions.

Additionally, in the Directive (EU) 2018/844 of 30 May 2018, in Article 7, it is stated that:

'Member States shall encourage, in relation to buildings undergoing major renovation, high-efficiency alternative systems, in so far as this is technically, functionally and economically feasible, and shall address the issues of healthy indoor climate conditions, fire safety and risks related to intense seismic activity.'





ECCE's statement regarding the EU Commission's "Renovation Wave Initiative"

Sustainability has become one of the most ambitious challenges for Europe's growth, according to 2020 Europe Strategy. The construction sector bears a huge responsibility in relation to sustainable development because of several impacts that derive from its three dimensions: environment, economy and society.

A building has to fulfill its own performance not only in the abovementioned common triple-bottom line of sustainability, but also in usability, capacity, reliability, safety and comfort. In this context, designing a sustainable construction turns out to be a very complex issue and therefore a holistic approach is the key for sustainability in the construction sector.

The construction sector needs to develop new ways and methods from the conception to the construction of structures, aiming to achieve a competitive sustainable building market. In order to obtain this European objective, a new design methodology is needed, focusing on a multi-performance and life-cycle oriented approach. Sustainable Structural Design (SSD) methodology addresses the possibility to include environmental aspects from the very beginning of the project in structural design, so that proper decisions with regard to design options can be made in the most influential stages of design. The new generation of Eurocodes will enlarge our understanding for sustainability.



ECCE's statement regarding the EU Commission's "Renovation Wave Initiative"

For existing buildings SSD means that when renovation projects of a certain scale are undertaken, structural upgrade should be considered and funded jointly with functional and energy efficiency upgrade.

It is reasonable to state that investing in siloed energy efficiency renovation schemes overlooking building's safety is unwise to say the least, even more in seismic hazard regions, where the first seismic episode after renovation may bring down all the energy-efficient renovated unsafe buildings.

So, we would like to state that this renovation wave shall promote and fund interventions according to the holistic approach of upgrading the existing buildings and infrastructure and of course structural safety shall be the first target of renovation.

ECCE's statement regarding the EU Commission's "Renovation Wave Initiative"



ECCE contributes to the Public Consultation (1) for the EU climate ambition for 2030 and for the design of certain climate and energy policies of the European Green Deal



- The European Commission opened a public consultation which invited citizens and organisations to contribute to the assessment of how to increase the EU 2030 emission reduction ambition in a responsible way. The consultation aimed to collect opinions on the desired ambition level of climate and energy policies, necessary actions in different sectors and specific policy design to increase climate ambition by 2030. It also aimed to gather further information, including roadmaps, policy briefs and studies relevant for deeper greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- Building on the existing 2030 legislation and the upcoming comprehensive plan, the Commission will review and propose to revise, where necessary, the key relevant energy and climate legislation by June 2021. This will include a coherent set of changes to the existing 2030 climate, energy and transport framework, notably related to the EU Emissions Trading System Directive, the Effort Sharing Regulation and the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation, CO Emissions Performance Standards for Cars and Vans and, as appropriate, the Renewable Energy Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive.

ECCE contributes to the Public Consultation (2) for the EU climate ambition for 2030 and for the design of certain climate and energy policies of the European Green Deal



- The European Council of Civil Engineers participated in this Public Consultation which was closed on 23 June 2020. ECCE's response to the Consultation can be found [here](#).
- The ECCE Executive Board identified the importance of associating the EU Climate ambition for 2030 strategy with the [3S Approach "Safe, Sound & Sustainable"](#) for buildings.
- The ECCE Manifesto on the 3S Approach was annexed to the Consultation together with an intervention focusing on the building sector as a main producer of greenhouse gas emissions, not only energy consumption but also building materials. The text of the intervention can be found [here](#).





ECCE Statement on the COVID-19 crisis

- The European Council of Civil Engineers call upon the entire construction industry, trade unions, public and private clients to actively support the EU in getting the important part starting again and finding its way to normality. A clear interpretation of set up regulations by the industry should help the government. All involved parties and planners need legal certainty!
- ECCE supports the operation of construction sites, but demands clear regulations for the employees, for engineers, for construction industry and clients.
- As a political representative of the interests of European Civil Engineers - an important professional group for the construction industry - we expressly support efforts to keep the economic consequences of the Corona crisis as low as possible. This also includes continuing work on construction sites where this can be done safely. However, agreed general measures are not suitable for creating clear and legally secure conditions on each single site – they need to be adapted to every single site.
- ECCE calls on the European Commission to set up quickly the rules and legal basis for handling these issues not on National level but on a European level, as COVID-19 is not a national but a global challenge.

[READ THE ECCE STATEMENT ON THE COVID-19 CRISIS](#)

Covid-19: declaration of the European Construction sector



Covid-19 crisis

The European construction sector calls for urgent measures to protect workers' health, support economic activity and accelerate the recovery

The European Council of Civil Engineers together with the undersigned European associations, representing the construction sector, in light of these difficult times the world is fighting facing the Covid-19 outbreak, wish to reiterate our commitment to supporting public authorities as well as our dedication to our most fundamental asset, our workers' wellbeing.

Jointly, we call upon the European Commission to support the sector to:

- Ensure health of its workers
- Maintain economic activity
- Accelerate the recovery

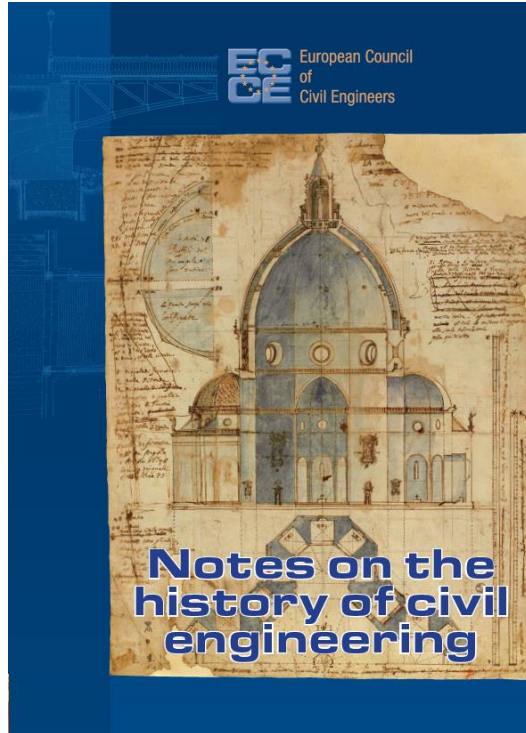
We ask the European Commission to open a dialogue as soon as the circumstances allow it, in order to jointly identify and implement appropriate measures to limit the downturn and facilitate a rapid recovery of all construction activities.

The joint statement that can be found [here](#) was sent to the European institutions (President, VP of the EU Commission, EU Council and EP).





ECCE Publications



- Reprinting of the book “Notes on the history of civil engineering” with an assigned ISBN, after increased interest by ECCE members to purchase additional copies of the book.
- Reprinting is finished and orders are ready for dissemination.
- A number of copies will be kept by ECCE.
- Second volume of the book “Notes on the history of civil engineering” is being prepared and will be printed in 2021.
- Contributions for the second volume received by France, Malta, Spain, Turkey and U.K.





ECCE Executive Board Works

- ECCE Executive Board has been meeting monthly in a virtual environment since its election in October 2018.
- Twelve ECCE ExBo meetings were held during this period.
- **The main topics on which ECCE ExBo concentrated over this period are the following:**
 - ☐ Organization of the 71st ECCE GM
 - ☐ 3S Approach Initiative (Manifesto, Position Paper, promotion, Public Consultations, etc.)
 - ☐ Financial issues (Membership Fees, Budget, etc.)
 - ☐ ECCE Publications
 - ☐ ECCE partnerships
 - ☐ ECCE E-journal





- An initiative of ECCE, the issuing of periodic e-journal.
- The goal is to bring together periodically the European Civil Engineers and to be aware of their problems and their realizations, organizing a forum of ideas and of news.
- The e-journal may also act as a mean to send ideas for discussion in Brussels.
- Next ECCE e-journal will be in DECEMBER 2020
- Find the ECCE e-journals at our website
<http://www.ecceengineers.eu/newsletter/index.php?id=621>

GET INVOLVED WITH THE ECCE E-JOURNAL BY SENDING YOUR IDEAS AND NEWS!



THANK YOU

