

European Commission
GD ENTR.E.3
Crafts, small businesses, cooperatives and mutuals
Head of Unit
Ms Sylvia Vlaeminck
B-1049 Bruxelles
e-mail: sylvia.vlaeminck@ec.europa.eu

Re: Small Business Act – ECEC /ECCE Preliminary opinion / position paper

Dear Ms Vlaeminck!

23 February 2009

The **European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC)** – founded in 2003 - is an umbrella organization for 13 national Chambers of Engineer based on national laws. It represents the interests of academic European Chartered Engineers. The **European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE)** – founded in 1985 – represents the Civil Engineers in Europe by their professional organisations from 22 States.

ECEC and ECCE both want to stress the importance of the European Commission's initiative to set up framework principles, recommendations and legal proposals to strengthen and support SMEs in Europe. As the engineering market in Europe is dominated by small engineering consulting enterprises – 96% have less than 20 employees – the Small Business Act and all related activities are of utmost importance to both our organizations.

In regard to the present difficult global financial situation these activities gather even more significance.

We have the strong intention to contribute to and to participate in these activities very actively with the aim to assure that as many European engineering SMEs as possible will profit from this strong initiative.

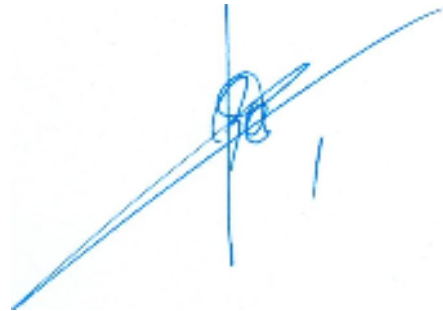
Therefore we would like to ask you to take the **enclosed ECEC/ECCE preliminary opinion** – which we are planning to specify in certain aspects that are especially important for Engineers – into consideration.

We are at your disposal for any questions relating to the sector of Civil Engineers / Chartered Engineers in Europe and do hope that this is the starting point of a fruitful future dialogue.

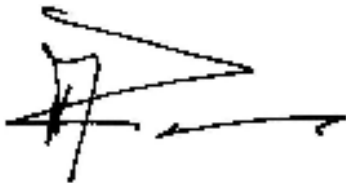
Best regards,



Mirko Orešković
ECEC President



Vassilis P. Economopoulos
ECCE President



Josef Robl
ECEC Secretary General



Diana Zlatnanska
ECCE Secretary General

Enclosures:

- **ECEC /ECCE Preliminary opinion / position paper on SBA**
- Short Presentation of ECCE (European Council of Civil Engineers) + ECCE Code of conduct
- Short Presentation of ECEC (European Council of Engineers Chambers) + ECEC Code of Conduct