



# ECCE MANIFESTO

## 2024

ECCE calls on future EU policy makers to ensure a safe, sustainable,  
and prosperous future for all European citizens

EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT  
ELECTIONS  
6-9 JUNE 2024

## ECCE MANIFESTO FOR ACTION FOR THE EU TERM 2024 - 2029

The **European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE)** since its establishment in 1985, promotes the cooperation of European civil engineers as being of significant value not only to engineers but also for European society.

ECCE supports and enables European civil engineers to advance a more sustainable built environment and to protect the natural environment. It does this by working with its national member organisations from 23 countries and partner organisations at the European level to promote the highest technical and ethical standards for engineers, to positively influence the development of the profession and the construction industry, and to be a force for good in European society.

### ON THE OCCASION OF THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2024

Europe stands at a pivotal moment in its history, confronting immense challenges that require decisive and strategic action. As the European Council of Civil Engineers, we are dedicated to addressing these critical issues head-on. Our manifesto outlines the essential demands and principles necessary to ensure the safety, sustainability, and prosperity of our continent.

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#### 1. ADDRESSING AGEING AND DILAPIDATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILDINGS

Europe's infrastructure is the backbone of its economic vitality and social cohesion. However, much of this infrastructure is ageing and in urgent need of maintenance and modernization. We call for:

- **Common Legal Regulations:** Establishing unified legal frameworks for the inspection, maintenance and safety of infrastructure and buildings. Consistent regulations across Europe will ensure that all citizens benefit from the same high standards of safety and reliability.
- **Adequate Funding:** Securing sufficient funds and financing tools to support the comprehensive assessment, inspection, and maintenance of infrastructure. Public and private investment must be mobilized to bridge the funding gap and safeguard our built environment.

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#### 2. TACKLING THE SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED ENGINEERS

The engineering profession is facing a significant shortfall in qualified personnel, which jeopardizes the quality and safety of construction projects. We advocate for:

- **Continuous Professional Development (CPD):** Recognizing the importance of highly qualified engineers with up-to-date knowledge. Ongoing professional development should be mandatory to ensure engineers are equipped with the latest skills and expertise.
- **Adequate Fees for Qualified Engineering Services:** Ensuring that the fees for engineering services reflect the high level of expertise and responsibility required, to provide the best services for the citizens and the society.

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### 3. COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time, with profound implications for every aspect of our lives. Civil engineers play a crucial role in mitigating its effects through sustainable design and construction practices. We demand:

- **Quality-Based Service Awards:** Engineering services should be awarded based on quality, not merely the lowest price. Quality-driven procurement ensures that projects are durable, safe, and environmentally sustainable, enhancing quality both for the projects and the consumers.
- **Holistic Approach to Sustainability:** Adopting a comprehensive view of sustainability that integrates safety as a fundamental component. Without safety, true sustainability cannot be achieved.

#### OUR VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT EUROPE

The European Council of Civil Engineers envisions a Europe where infrastructure is robust, resilient, and capable of supporting future generations. To achieve this, we must act with urgency and determination, implementing the following measures:

- **LEGAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** Advocate for legislation that supports infrastructure maintenance and provides financial mechanisms to fund necessary projects.
- **INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING:** Promote the continuous education and professional development of engineers to ensure a steady supply of highly qualified professionals.
- **SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES:** Champion engineering solutions that prioritize safety and sustainability, addressing the pressing issue of climate change.

By adhering to these principles, Europe can rise to meet its challenges, ensuring a safe, sustainable, and prosperous future for all its citizens. The European Council of Civil Engineers is committed to leading this effort and calls on policymakers, industry leaders, and the public to join us in this crucial endeavor.

Together, we can build a stronger Europe.

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