



European Council of Civil Engineers

E - JOURNAL 7

DECEMBER 2014

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ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak speech at the 2nd European Engineers' Day



Distinguished Members of the European Parliament, Representatives of the European Union Authorities and Institutions, Leaders and Members of the National and European Engineers' Organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

Speaking as the third one I have a privileged position. My esteemed previous speakers have already said enough so that I could limit my speech just to welcome you. However, I have decided to take up some of your precious time and share with you some of my personal thoughts.

We, the organizers of the 2nd European Engineers' Day feel honored to host here in Brussels, the administrative heart of the European Union so many distinguished guests. Your kind presence here is a tangible evidence that the issues so vital to the European Engineers Community are not completely unfamiliar and insignificant to you.

We are about to listen to six presentations given by eminent European engineers. All these presentations are closely related to practicing engineering profession in the European Union. All

the speeches bring up issues which are highly up to date and important I think not only for us, engineers.

I might sound a little bit unorthodox to you asking this question: can you imagine our present life without all these buildings, roads, bridges, means of transportation, communication and all the domestic appliances we use on daily basis? To say last but not least very difficult, am I right? This all we owe to engineers who in response to the needs and expectations provide with solutions.

On many occasions I have been asked: what does it take to be an engineer? To my mind it takes being a visionary as well as being able to give your vision a physical shape. But it is not enough, the solid educational foundation is necessary. This path is a painstaking process, but the outcome could be outstanding.

Engineers, in particular civil engineers make their very unique contribution to the surrounding world, shaping the environment in which we work, live and pass our free time, and making our world a better and safer place to

live. The results of their activity remain with us throughout decades and centuries. Therefore civil engineering has gained its due status of the Public Trust Profession. To prove oneself worthy of this trust each and every civil engineer has to undergo probably one of the most demanding, challenging and one of its kind educational path.

On this special day it is my desire to bring it home to you, the value of engineering education. I do believe, that engineers feature specific set of qualities just like for example in Special Forces. These people throughout years are trained in precision and logic of reasoning and solving seemingly unsolvable problems. In the wake of it, the future engineers develop both confidence in their intellectual abilities and intellectual curiosity, which allows them to challenge the world order as we know it today, again on the other hand, maintain the entire technical infrastructure in which we live, and which surrounds us on all sides.

The engineers, because of their thorough knowledge, based on comprehensive understanding of mathematics, physics and other exact science, which for the overwhelming part of society seem to be kind of "black magic", ought to be treated as the "national treasure" and most valuable asset of every state in the world.

But that would be merely scratching the surface to say that, because according to the report entitled The Vision of Civil Engineering 2025, published a few years ago by the American Society of Civil Engineers

(ASCE): "In 2025, civil engineers, entrusted by society to create a sustainable world, and enhance the global quality of life, will serve competently, collaboratively and ethically as master builders, environmental stewards, innovators and integrators, managers of risk and uncertainty, and leaders in shaping public policy. As used in this document, to be "master" means to possess widely recognized and valued knowledge and skills and other attributes acquired as a result of education, experience, and achievement. But it sets new tasks engineers will have to take on such as mastering entirely new skills,

apart from these, that are and always will be - the backbone of their professional training.

At this point I wish to emphasize one thing; it has never been my intention to depreciate the significance of other professions which make equally important contribution to functioning of sustainable society. Nonetheless, especially on this day it is my obligation to highlight the role and meaning of engineers.

To conclude with, I wish to remind you one, short and commonly known story. For ages, people watching birds envied their marvelous ability to fly. One day two dare-devils ventured to challenge the

nature and soared up into the sky. I am talking about two citizens of Ancient Greece named Icarus and Daedalus.

But what about today...Today, at any time we can go to the airport, buy a ticket, board a plane and - fly.... where to? Even here, to Brussels, just to take part in The 2nd European Engineers' Day. But it is not only that, we can arrange it all without leaving the comfort of our armchair at home or in the office, simply by means of a computer or a mobile phone.

This all we owe to engineers! Therefore let's show them our appreciation. They truly deserve it.

2nd European Engineers' Day: "Mobile Engineers build an Innovative Europe"

20 November 2014, Sofitel Brussels Europe, 1 Place Jourdan, Brussels



From left to right: ECEC President Črtomir REMEC, FEANI President José Manuel Pereira VIEIRA, ECCE President Włodzimierz SZYM CZAK

The 2nd European Engineers' Day was held on 20th November 2014, in Brussels with great success. The European Engineers' Federations ECCE, ECEC and FEANI, together with EFCA, ENAEE, CLGE and CLAIU organized this unique event wishing to extend the public knowledge and appreciation of the engineering profession, their education and professional concerns and the capacity to solve the arising problems in a changing world. The event was attended by 150 participants from industry, academia and professional organizations and it was the first time the federations have come together to make such an appeal.

European Union policymakers have been urged to support European engineers in addressing a range of "critical" issues. European Council

President Herman VAN ROMPUY sent a very warm opening video message which can be watched [here](#). Martin FROHN, Head of Unit in the unit "Free movement of Professionals" in DG Internal Market and Services, delivered a presentation during the morning session "Mobility and Regulation" which can be watched [here](#). Jaroslav KRAČŮN, European Commission, Directorate General Internal Market and Services, Unit C3 - Public Procurement Legislation and Enforcement, responsible for the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia + Innovation Policy, delivered a presentation in the afternoon session "Delivering Client Value" which can be watched [here](#).

The opening of the event was made by the Presidents of the three main organizers; ECCE President Włodzimierz SZYM CZAK, ECEC President Črtomir REMEC

and FEANI President José Manuel Pereira VIEIRA who delivered opening speeches. Also, the WFEO President Marwan ABDEL-HAMID had a welcome speech. At the links below you can watch the opening speeches:

[Herman Van Rompuy message](#)

[ECCE President Speech](#)

[ECEC President Speech](#)

[FEANI President Speech](#)

[WFEO President Speech](#)

The two lecturers on the ECCE side were ECCE Immediate Past President Fernando BRANCO in the morning session with the presentation "Engineering Challenges for a future Europe" and ECCE Former President Vassilis ECONOMOPOULOS in the afternoon session with the presentation "Internationalization of Engineering Activities". Their presentations can be watched at the links below:

[Fernando Branco presentation](#)

[Vassilis Economopoulos presentation](#)

Also, ECCE President Włodzimierz SZYM CZAK participated in the Round Table at the end of the morning session and ECCE former Vice-President/ Honorary Treasurer Vincentas STRAGYS participated in the second Round Table at the end of the afternoon session. The



From left to right: Vassilis Economopoulos, Martin Frohn, Włodzimierz Szymczak

links below provide access to watch the Round Tables:

[Round Table morning session](#)

[Round Table afternoon session](#)

Other ECCE Members that attended the event are the following:

BENKO Vladimir (Slovakia), CHATZIDAKIS Aris (Greece), ENDRIKSONE Helena (Latvia), LACHINOV Mikhail (Russia), MATERNA Alois (Czech Republic), MEYER Zygmunt (Poland), MONDA Nicola (Italy), NATCHEV Dimitar (ECCE ExBo member, Bulgaria), ORESKOVIC Mirko (Croatia), PASKA Ivan (Croatia), POPOVIC Svetislav (Montenegro), SAEZ RUBIO Jose Francisco (ECCE ExBo member, Spain), SEVER Zvonimir (Croatia),

STYLIANOU Platonas (Cyprus), SUMARAC Dragoslav (Serbia), SZOLLOSSY Gabor (Hungary), THEODOTOU Andreas (Cyprus) and ZANOCCO Melissa (U.K.).

The brochure of the event is available [here](#) and the Press Release/Resolutions are available [here](#).

Please find in the link [here](#) the filmed contents of the “2nd European Engineers’ Day” (production of IB-PROCADD and Slovenian Chamber of Engineers) which are now available for watching on the e-education platform of the Slovenian Chamber of Engineers.

For more information and material on the event please visit the ECCE website [here](#).



From left to right: Nicola Monda, Vassilis Economopoulos, Włodzimierz Szymczak, Fernando Branco, Vincentas Stragys, Jose Francisco Saez Rubio, Platonas Stylianou

Reception at the Bavaria House hosted by “Bundesingenieurkammer” and “Ingenieurkammer-Bau”



The German Federal Chamber of Engineers

“Bundesingenieurkammer” and the Bavarian Chamber of Engineers “Ingenieurkammer-Bau” together with ECEC organized a Reception on 19th November after the 11th ECEC General Assembly and before the 2nd European Engineers’ Day at the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union. ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak, Dimitar Natchev ECCE ExBo Member and Vassilis Economopoulos Former ECCE President, as well as many ECCE members participated in this event which provided an excellent opportunity for an exchange between profession and politics. During this event it was highlighted the contribution of the Engineering Profession to the growth and development of Europe serving the pub-

lic interest.

During the Reception the ECEC Medal of Honour 2014 ceremony took place. ECEC Executive Board decided to establish the Medal of Honour as a sign of appreciation to all those people who have contributed and will continue to contribute to topics that connect engineers all over Europe. ECEC Medal of Honour 2014 was awarded to Mrs Etelka Barsi-Pataky who is the President of the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers (ECCE Member also) and Former MEP for her supportive and active attitude towards the Liberal Profession.

You can watch the speeches that were given according to the Agenda of the Ceremony at the following links:

[Mr. Michael Hinterdobler](#), Director of the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union

[Mr. Rainer Wieland](#), Vice President of the European parliament

[Mr. Hans-Ullrich Kammeyer](#), President of the German Federal Chamber of Engineers and Vice-President of the ECEC

[Mag. Črtomir Remec](#), President of the ECEC

[Mrs. Etelka Barsiné Pataky](#), ECEC Medal of Honor 2014 Give over

[Mrs. Etelka Barsiné Pataky](#), Award winner of ECEC Medal of Honor in 2014 President of the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers, former MEP.



From left to right: Włodzimierz Szymczak, Vassilis Economopoulos, Dimitar Natchev



From left to right: Nicola Monda, Włodzimierz Szymczak, Vassilis Economopoulos

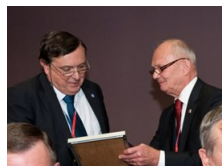
60th ECCE General Assembly Meeting and International Conference “Modern solutions in the bridges construction”

The 60th ECCE General Meeting was held on 17th – 18th October 2014, in Warsaw, in Poland, hosted by the Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers (PCCE). The International Conference “Modern solutions in the bridges construction” was held on 17th October 2014, organized by ECCE and PCCE, as part of the 60th ECCE GAM.



The President of the Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers, Mr. Andrzej R. Dobrucki opened the 60th ECCE GAM with a welcome speech and Mr. Janusz Piechociński, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Mr. Olgierd Dziekoński, Secretary of State in The President's Office, honoured with their presence the event giving opening speeches. Among the distinguished guests that also attended the event were the following: Mr. Pawel Ziemiński, the Deputy General Inspector of Building Control, Mr. Leszek Rafalski, General Director of the Road and Bridge Research Institute, Mr. Wojciech Radomski, Chairman of the Committee of Civil Engineering Polish Academy of Sciences, Mr. Ryszard Trykosko, President of the Polish Society of

Civil Engineers and Technicians, Mr. Jaromir Kušmider, President of the Publisher of the PCCE, representatives of the insurance company Ergo



Hestia, with board member Mr. Adam Roman and from the PCCE members of the National Council, conference speakers and last but not least the Chairmen of regional chambers.

During the 60th ECCE GAM, former ECCE president Prof. Fernando Branco, received from the Polish Government a diploma “In recognition of the active building of Europe's relations with particular emphasis on Polish Organization of Engineers, shaping the ethical and moral attitudes and contribution to the promotion of quality in European Engineering”.

The main materials from the 60th ECCE General Meeting can be found at the following links:

[60th ECCE GAM Agenda Presentation](#)

[60th ECCE GAM Opening Presentation by Fernando Branco](#)

[ECCE Brief Activity Report June - October 2014](#)

[Two years of work in ECCE Presentation by Fernando Branco](#)

The presentations from the International Conference “Modern solutions in the bridges construction” can be found at the following links:

[Opening presentation by Prof. Fernando Branco](#)

[Opening presentation by Prof. Henryk Zobel](#)

[Innovation in Portuguese bridges “Thirty years of bridge construction in Portugal” by Prof. Fernando Branco](#)

[Road infrastructure in Poland since 1989 by Prof. Janusz Rymysza](#)

[Bridges in the south-western Poland by Prof. Jan Biliszczuk](#)

[Bridges in the south-eastern Poland by Prof. Tomasz Siwowski](#)

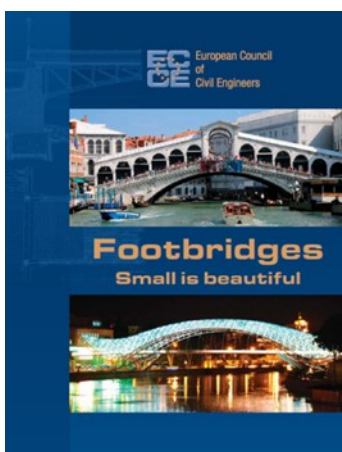
[Bridges in the north-eastern Poland by Prof. Henryk Zobel](#)

[Bridges in the north-western Poland by Prof. Krzysztof Żółtowski](#)

[Presentation of the ECCE book “Footbridges - Small is beautiful” by Gorazd Humar](#)



New ECCE book “Footbridges – Small is beautiful”



The second book prepared by the European Council of Civil Engineers on the subject of cultural and technical heritage in civil engineering and architecture is the book “Footbridges – Small is beautiful”. The book “Footbridges – Small is beautiful” which is the outcome of the hard work of the Task Force on Civil Engineering Heritage as well as of all the ECCE Members, is finally accomplished and published.

The official presentation of the book took place during the 60th ECCE General Assembly Meeting

in Warsaw. The book is now available for purchase.

Some details about the book:

- the book contains 416 pages
- a total of 196 footbridges (179 in Europe and 17 in Japan) are presented in words and pictures
- the book contains a total of 613 photographs, including 43 two-page spreads
- important events in the history of bridge building are covered in a

34-page section

- more than 70 different authors from Europe and Japan have contributed to the book
- the book presents a rich and diverse selection of footbridges of various kinds, many of them world record holders

- both historic and modern bridges are included
- the key criteria for the selection of individual bridges were their technical and architectural features and characteristics, while some are simply attractive

Our book "Footbridges - Small is beautiful" is a great coffee table hardcover book, a perfect gift and ideal to sit on a coffee table or similar surface in an area where guests sit and are entertained.

To order the book please follow the instructions and use the order forms that are provided [here](#).

Why Be An Engineer

Why choose engineering? – What are the attributes of this profession that make it attractive to a young person to choose it?

To 'engineer' literally means to "make things happen". Engineering is about the design and production of useful products and services. Engineering know-how converts scientific knowledge into technology and then technology into successful innovation. Many seemingly simple aspects of our daily lives have been conceptualised, designed and developed by an engineer.

Top 10 reasons to become an Engineer:

1. Engineers work to solve global problems such as world hunger, clean water, protecting the environment and improving the quality of everyday life.
2. Engineering allows you to use your creativity every day.
3. Engineering gives you the chance to collaborate with other professionals such as lawyers, doctors, government officials, scientists, statisticians and more.
4. Engineering is a global endeavor, frequently affording the opportunity for travel.
5. Engineers have the opportunity for rapid advancement in their companies.
6. Engineers frequently have a high level of responsibility and autonomy in their positions
7. Engineering salaries remain high.
8. Engineering degrees provide excellent preparation for other professional degrees such as medicine, law or business.

9. While working as a scientist frequently requires advanced degrees, engineers are very employable with a bachelor's degree.
10. Engineering has more impact on the world than any other profession.

In the United Kingdom, the Institution of Civil Engineers created the "[Engineering Happiness](#)" film to show the public – especially young people - how happy they are to be engineers and the diverse and fun careers on offer through choosing maths and science subjects at school.

ICE London Director, Miranda Housden, said: "We know many young people – boys and girls alike - enjoy the activities that sit at the heart of engineering – using the latest technology, designing and creating things, learning how things work and solving problems. They also enjoy and excel at maths and science subjects.

"Yet only half of 11-14 year olds would consider a career in engineering, and less than one in ten plans to be an engineer once they finish their education. This is because they don't know enough about the profession and the exciting and rewarding careers that are in their grasp, and also carry the perception that engineering is uncreative and boring.

"We want to bust that myth, showcasing the awe inspiring projects that civil engineers are delivering in our capital, and importantly, showing who our people really are – creative, smart, diverse teams whose work makes a difference to our lives every single day – protecting us from flooding, getting us to work, ensuring we have clean wa-

ter and energy, and designing and building magnificent sporting venues like the Olympic Velodrome.

"What better way to do this than a tribute to Pharrell Williams' 'Happy' hit– an upbeat and infectious song that people all over the world can't stop singing. We encourage everyone to watch and share our "Engineering Happiness" film and help us inspire the next generation of engineers." (Source: [ICE website](#))

The film was commissioned by ICE in association with Bechtel.

In the USA a big campaign has started in order to inspire students to pursue careers in Engineering, an initiative to help inspire a bright, new generation of engineers.

Be An Engineer...where changing the world is part of the job description.

Watch videos about Be An Engineer at the following links:

[Video about Be An Engineer](#)

[Video America's future Engineers](#)

[Video Why be an Engineer](#)

(Source: [Be An Engineer website](#))



Know your EU: Directorate — General for the Environment (DG ENV)

The Directorate-General for the Environment set up in 1973 is one of the more than 40 Directorates-General and services that make up the European Commission. Commonly referred to as DG Environment, the objective of the Directorate-General is to protect, preserve and improve the environment for present and future generations. To achieve this it proposes policies that ensure a high level of environmental protection in the European Union and that preserve the quality of life of EU citizens.

The DG makes sure that Member States correctly apply EU environmental law. In doing so it investigates complaints made by citizens and non-governmental organisations and can take legal action if it deems that EU law has been infringed. In certain cases DG Environment represents the European Union in environmental matters at international meetings such as the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity. In international forums, the DG tries to agree international policies to stop the ongoing loss of biodiversity, reduce waste and air and water pollution, and strengthen the ecosystem services that make life on Earth possible.

The DG also finances projects that contribute to environmental protection in the EU. Since 1992 some 2,600 projects have received some financing from LIFE, the EU's financial instrument for the environment.

The Commissioner for Environment for the period 2014 – 2019 is [Mr. Karmenu Vella](#).

Environment Action Programme to 2020



Living well, within
the limits of our planet
7th Environment Action Programme

Over the past decades the European Union has put in place a broad range of environmental legislation. As a result, air, water and soil pollution has significantly been reduced. Chemicals legislation has been modernised and the use of many toxic or hazardous substanc-

es has been restricted. Today, EU citizens enjoy some of the best water quality in the world and over 18% of EU's territory has been designated as protected areas for nature.

However, many challenges persist and these must be tackled together in a structured way.

[The 7th Environment Action Programme \(EAP\)](#) will be guiding European environment policy until 2020. In order to give more long-term direction it sets out a vision beyond that, of where it wants the Union to be by 2050:

"In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society."

It identifies three key objectives:

- to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's **natural capital**
- to turn the Union into a **resource-efficient**, green, and competitive low-carbon **economy**
- to **safeguard** the Union's citizens from **environment-related pressures** and risks to health and wellbeing

Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these goals:

- better **implementation** of legislation
- better **information** by improving the knowledge base
- more and wiser **investment** for environment and climate policy
- full **integration** of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies

Two additional horizontal priority

objectives complete the programme:

- to **make** the Union's **cities more sustainable**
- to help the Union **address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively**.

The programme entered into force in January 2014. It is now up to the EU institutions and the Member States to ensure it is implemented, and that priority objectives set out are met by 2020.

For further information on the DG Environment please visit the dedicated website [here](#).

NEWS FROM EU & OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

100th Anniversary of JSCE – Japan Society of Civil Engineers Tokyo 19-21 November 2014



The occasion of JSCE 100th Anniversary was the precious opportunity to show the future direction of JSCE for the next 100 years. JSCE started the preparation for the anniversary events nearly a decade ago, which includes various international events as follows:

1. International Forum on "Contributions of Infrastructure to Life of Affluence" on 20th November 2014
2. International Workshop on Sustainability and Resilience of Infrastructures Based on Maintenance and Management on 20th November 2014
3. 3rd Roundtable Meeting on Disaster Management on 19th November 2014
4. International Workshop for Young Civil Engineers on 10th – 13th September 2014
5. Korea · Japan · Taiwan Joint Conference on Civil Engineering on 29th August 2014

In 2012 JSCE established the International Activities Center. In the statement to explain the necessity of establishment of International Activities Center, a sentence reads, "JSCE is expecting that 50% of its activities would be related to international matters". The 100th Anniversary International Events was the starting point towards this expectation.

ECCE has been invited to participate in the JSCE 100th Anniversary Celebration. ECCE Past President, Mr. Gorazd Humar, was appointed to represent ECCE in this prestigious event. JSCE invited many organisations of Civil engineers worldwide. Among the invited organisations were ASCE (with 5 members present), ICE was represented by ICE President Mr. David Balmforth, Korean Society of Civil Engineers, Chinese SCE, Australian SCE, etc.

The program of the JSCE 100th Anniversary was divided in different activities as follows:

Day 1 - Wednesday 19th November: International Conference and Round table of Natural disasters management

Day 2 - Thursday 20th November: International Forum on Contributions of Infrastructure to Life of Affluence

Day 3 - Friday 21st November: Official celebration Ceremony and Banquet

Day 4 - Saturday 22nd November: Technical visit



Mr. Gorazd Humar participated in all events except for the technical visit on the last day.

On Day 1 he participated with a technical contribution with the title ICING 2014 on natural disasters. In a 20 minutes long presentation he presented the consequences of a very rare natural event called Icing which hit Slovenia in February 2014 causing a total black out in a big part of Slovenia. The presentation was prepared together with Mr. Branko Zadnik from Slovenia. The presentation was accepted with extremely big interest as such natural disasters are very rare even on world scale.

On Day 2 he participated in the Round table Meeting which was part of the International Forum. He participated in the discussion presenting also the role of the 2nd European Engineers' Day that took place on the same day in Brussels. During both days he expressed ECCE best wishes to the JSCE celebration. He forwarded to the JSCE President Mr. Masahiko Isobe three copies of the ECCE book "Footbridges – Small is beautiful" as ECCE gift for the occasion. On day 3 there was a solemn celebration of the 100th Anniversary prepared by JSCE. The event got a particular significance with a presence of His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito who addressed all with a speech. Experts say that such important and rare imperial presence was a special confirmation of JSCE.

The ECCE presence at this occasion was very well accepted and appreciated by JSCE.

[JSCE Centennial Declaration](#)

9th General Assembly of the World Council of Civil Engineers 21- 25 November 2014, Lisbon

The 9th WCCE General Assembly was held between 21st and 25th November, in Lisbon, hosted by Ordem dos Engenheiros on the occasion of an international work-

shop on Heritage Building restoration at the same venue.



Prof. Fernando Branco, ECCE Immediate Past President was present in the Executive Committee Meeting and in the General Assembly, in representation of ECCE. In these meetings the annual activities were analyzed, including the discussion of recent publications, namely a report on water policies, financed by UN, and an international report about Corruption.

On Monday morning a workshop about Corruption was held by Emilio Colon and in the afternoon a Conference about Urban Rehabilitation was also presented. Here Eng. Massimo Mariani (ECCE President Elect) presented "Several Cases of Rehabilitation in Italy" and Fernando Branco (ECCE Immediate Past President) presented "New Strategies for Rehabilitation". Fernando Branco had the opportunity to meet WCCE President Tomas Sancho and the WCCE President Elect Alfonso Gonzalez from Mexico to discuss the evolution of both organizations and their collaboration.



Work Programme of the new Commissioner for Internal Market



The incoming Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Elzbieta Bienkowska,

highlighted in a recent speech her priorities and announced some initiatives for the construction sector. Her main priorities will be the following:

1. The deepening of the Internal Market as it is a main driver of for growth and competitiveness in Europe. She aims to create single market that is fair, that supports trade, investments and productivity, and that promotes freedom of choice, hence creating new opportunities for citizens and businesses alike. She wants to propose a renewed strategy for the internal market setting priorities for legislative and non-legislative actions based on thorough economic analysis.
2. The strengthening of the EU's industrial base. The set of measures she intends to prepare in order to make the EU's industrial base fit for a globalised economy and for technological, demographical and ecological changes could focus on four key areas: (1) access to key resources for industry, including finance, raw materials, affordable energy, and a skilled labour force; (2) access to markets; (3) investment in new technologies; (4) and the business environment.
3. The delivery of a growth- and innovation-friendly business climate in Europe, supporting entrepreneurship and SMEs. Her intention is to ensure thorough implementation of the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan and to renew the vision of the Small Business Act for Europe aiming to ensure that the time and costs of setting up a business will be radically reduced.
4. A fourth area of great importance for industry and SMEs alike is the external dimension of the internal market and access to non-EU markets.

[Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska's entire speech.](#)

Juncker's €315bn investment plan

The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, has revealed the mechanism for his €315 billion investment plan in an effort to kick-start the European economy.

On 26th November President Juncker told the European Parliament in Strasbourg, "we need to send a message to the people of Europe and to the rest of the world: Europe is back in business".

In an effort to boost solidarity the new fund reveals that the cash will be funnelled towards Europe's crisis-ravaged south, away from the wealthier north.

The team of Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, formed the idea to create a new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), with €5 billion coming from the European Investment Bank and an €8 billion guarantee from existing EU funds designed to secure a contribution of €16 billion in total from the institutions.

The resulting EFSI fund totalling €21 billion is expected to generate €240 billion for long-term investments and €75 billion for SMEs and mid-cap firms over the period 2015-2017.

Eurozone countries will be offered the opportunity to invest further top-up amounts into the fund, to be spent in their countries, which will then be discounted from the calculations of their deficits within the European Semester.

A dedicate [website](#) has been launched, [click here](#).

2030 framework for climate and energy policies



On 23 October, EU leaders reached an agreement on the 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy Policies. Member States have committed to: 1) Reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% below the 1990 level by 2030; 2) Increasing the share of renewable energy to at least 27% and 3) Increasing energy efficiency by at least 27%. A special "flexibility clause" was added to the final text, making it possible for the European Council to return to the targets after the UN summit in December 2015. The energy efficiency target is not legally binding at the national level or EU level and will be reviewed in 2020, having in mind a 30% EU-level target, according to the summit conclusions. This decision of the Council is disappointing insofar as the EU Commission proposed a 30% energy efficiency target, and the EU Parliament a 40% target.

[Learn more about the agreement on the Commission website.](#)

Energy policy must be European to succeed

The new European greenhouse gas emission targets are encouraging, but this is not yet enough Europe has made substantial progress in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions - by almost 20 per



cent compared to 1990 - since the Kyoto protocol was signed in 1997. The EU's share of global greenhouse gas emissions has decreased and is forecast to fall even further from the present level of some 11 per cent, even if this is partly due to the enduring economic slowdown and to the increase in greenhouse gas emissions from emerging economies.

However, the challenges ahead, as presented by the intergovernmental panel on climate change, are all the more serious and require urgent action. The European economic and social committee (EESC) broadly agrees with the objectives set for the EU's climate and energy policies up to 2030, including the 40 per cent greenhouse gas reduction target and the 27 per cent renewables share. However, the committee is convinced that Europe must go further on some points.

Read the entire article [here](#).

The EU has increased its emissions



Why, in spite of huge efforts, has so little been achieved in international climate politics? In addition to the absolute increase in emissions, a relative failure during the Kyoto period can also be observed.

The EU hasn't been successful either, although able to cut emissions according to its own targets, the increased imports outweigh the achievements in domestic reductions. Hence, if consumption is taken into account, the EU has increased its emissions. The basic mistake of our climate strategy is that it does not pay attention to consumption, just production. We have outsourced our emissions and also, sadly, the related jobs.

"The main environmental problems are still caused by overpopulation, poorly planned land-use and over-exploitation of natural resources. Our efforts should be targeted at these challenges"

Read the entire article [here](#).

**Local governments key actors in fight against climate change
Heads of state and government will be leading the COP20 discussions, but cities and regions have an important role to play in the process**

Unless we significantly reduce our carbon emissions by 2100, temperatures could soar by 4.8 degrees centigrade and sea levels could rise by 82cm. This is why all eyes are on the next UN climate talks in Paris (COP 21) next year and expectations are running high. Ahead of the crunch talks, negotiators will meet in Lima in December to thrash out the details. World leaders must now draw up an ambitious blueprint strategy that focuses equally on mitigation, adaptation and implementation. Crucially, we need a shared vision based on partnership. Given the urgency one question remains - can national governments afford to ignore those who are ultimately responsible for making the goal of cutting emissions a reality? Can they afford not to formally involve and recognise local government in deciding how we, as a human race, tackle climate change?

As a UN development programme report has pointed out, local and regional authorities are responsible for 70 per cent of climate mitigation and 90 per cent of adaptation measures. In Europe, the success of programmes such as the covenant of mayors - whereby over 6000 local and regional authorities have agreed to meet and exceed the EU's 20 per cent CO2 reduction objectives by 2020 - demonstrate the level of ambition shown locally. Mitigation is of course half the sto-

ry. We need to learn to live and adapt. The EU's mayors adapt initiative has shown how Europe's local and regional governments are already preparing communities to learn how to live with the consequences of climate change. This is why the Committee of the Regions (CoR) is holding two events with the climate alliance and the European economic and social committee in Lima. We hope to share these local experiences and



knowledge globally. Read the entire article [here](#).

Access to Finance - Navigating the EU funding forest

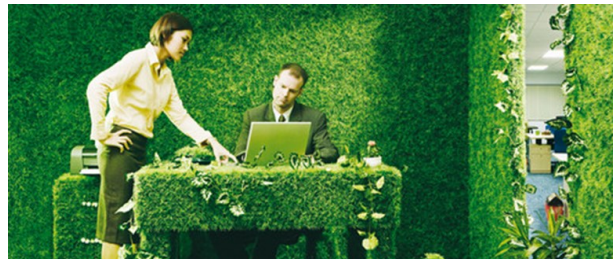
Like a tree with many branches, the European Commission has multiple facets which offer financial support to needy SMEs. However, for those not in the know, figuring out how to get access to that cash may seem like navigating an overgrown forest. With this in mind, Enterprise & Industry Magazine has written this guide to help you understand EU financing possibilities.

The EU finance portal, www.access2finance.eu, helps SMEs and entrepreneurs manoeuvre the EU funding jungle. It provides easy and up-to-date information on how they can apply for finance supported by the EU via

one of approximately 1 000 banks and other institutions.

Read the entire article [here](#).

Green Action Plan for SMEs - Turning green challenges into a gold mine



The European Commission has adopted a Green Action Plan (GAP) for SMEs: Enabling SMEs to turn environmental challenges into business opportunities. The plan presents EU actions that will turn the transition to a green economy, a financially beneficial venture for moderately sized enterprises.

To give small businesses better value for money, whilst improving environmental impact, the GAP for SMEs sets out a series of objectives in five sections:

1. Greening SMEs for more competitiveness and sustainability
2. Green entrepreneurship for the companies of the future
3. Opportunities for SMEs in a greener value chain
4. Access to the markets for green SMEs
5. Governance

Read the entire article [here](#).

NEWS FROM ECCE MEMBERS

SLOVENIA

Collapse of infrastructure network in February 2014 in Slovenia
The nature is the master. Unfortunately, we as the human society very often forget this fact. The nature permanently changes our surroundings, or better to say the human life is too short to recognize, to accept or also to memorize this basic rule. There are many facts which confirm this thesis. Civil engineering is the human tool to "control the nature". Cultivating the earth, constructing villages, towns, roads and bridges, agricultural utilization of virgin land and water are, looking through the geological history, only short-term actions of

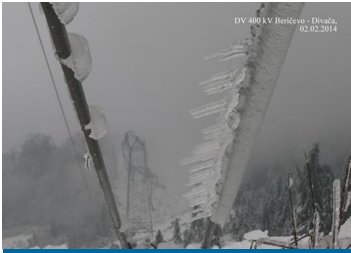
the humanity. We have to respect the natural forces. The nature shows us its power in a different modes and time intervals. Earthquakes, volcanos, floods, landslides and erosion, fire and icing and ..., are for civil engineers known events or influences, which have impact on our structures with different return periods.

This year in Slovenia, we experienced the power of nature in the unexpected force. At the first glance, nothing special happened, nothing spectacular, only few days of light rain in freezing conditions (air temperature was slightly under 0°C). This was enough for icing to

happen. We are familiar with this phenomenon, but at this time, in early February 2014, icing hit a large part of Slovenia and caused a catastrophic damage to the electricity transmission network of all voltage levels, to the railway infrastructure as well as to the forests and roads. The load on the transmission lines exceeded up to 12 times the normal and design loads. Thus, we can speak of a natural disaster. A large number of transmission towers collapsed, partly also the whole segments of transmission



Roads were blocked because of fallen trees



In time of the event on the 400 kV, smashed tower behind and conductors on the floor

lines and low-voltage grid. About 10% of Slovenian population was without electricity for up to few weeks. You can imagine what this means for today's living stile (no light, no modern cooking, no heating, and no telecommunications – mobile network collapsed ...). The industry and the normal life of society stopped. Fortunately, our self-defense forces performed in these critical days very well. Especially the firefighters, police and army forces did a great job with helping

the population to normalize the everyday live in a very short time. Due to the collapse of the overhead electricity lines, the local island



energy sources were established. Different sizes of diesel powered electrical aggregates were used as a temporary power supply for vil-lages, bigger houses and public institutions. Through the EU mechanism of civil protection and some bilateral agreements, we received also a support in form of additional aggregates for the time of need. Repairing and reconstruction actions on overhead lines started immediately. Whole electro supply

system needed three months of very hard work in order to normalize the situation on the transmission grid.



Prepared by Branko Zadnik, Chair of MSG IZS

SPAIN

EQF-7 Master Degree Equivalence to Ingeniero de Caminos, Canales y Puertos degree



Verification of Compatibility of MECES (the Spanish Qualifications Framework for Higher Education) with the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (FQ-EHEA)

The Cabinet recently approved the Royal Decree 967/2014, of 21 November, by which the requirements and procedures for approval and declaration of equivalency diploma and official university academic level set and the recognition of studies foreign higher education, and the procedure for determining the correspondence to the levels of Spanish qualifications framework for higher education in the official titles of Architect, Engineer, Graduate, Technical Architect, Engineer and Diplomado.

After more than eight months in development and on the initiative of

the Ministry of Education, the Spanish Government approved on Friday the Royal Decree 967/2014 by which "establishes the procedure for determining the correspondence to the levels of Spanish qualifications framework for higher education (MECES) official titles Architect, Engineer, Graduate, Technical Architect, Technical and Diploma Engineer".

Such regulation had drawn the attention of many professionals, including engineers, who are at a disadvantage compared to their foreign counterparts when seeking work outside of Spain. Equivalence "is a compelling need", explained in the preamble to the rule, "to facilitate the exercise of academic rights by graduates of the previous management, both within and outside our borders". The legislature also recognizes that these professionals "are encountering difficulties in the recognition of the true level of their studies." The royal decree regulates, among other things, approval of foreign higher education by the corresponding Spanish university education. Furthermore, the declaration of equivalence to MECES could take six to nine months from the initiation of the proceeding, as is clear from reading the royal decree, published in the BOE on Saturday and in force since Sunday.

You may also be interested Half engineers migrate by 45,000 engineers may not be architects officials join engineers and reject the formula to standardize their titles These are the stages of the procedure and can begin to assign to each of the above 140 degrees to the Bologna current levels of technical degree and master.

Don Alvaro del Portillo, a civil engineer beatified in Madrid



The beatification of Alvaro del Portillo, the first successor of St. Jose maria as head of Opus Dei, took place on Saturday before a massive crowd, in a ceremony presided over by the delegate of Pope Francis, Cardinal Angelo Amato, who was accompanied by Cardinal Antonio Maria Rouco, emeritus archbishop of Madrid and the bishop prelate of Opus Dei, Javier Echevarria.

He studied civil engineering and after obtaining his doctorate at the

University of Madrid taught at its School of Engineering. He briefly worked with the Bureau of Highways and Bridges in the provinces crossed by the rivers Júcar, Duero and Ebro.

In 1935, he joined Opus Dei and was subsequently ordained to the priesthood on June 25, 1944 by Bishop Leopoldo Eijo y Garay of Madrid as one of the first three men ordained for Opus Dei. He continued his studies to obtain a doctorate in Philosophy and Letters in history in 1944 from Central University of Madrid, with a dissertation entitled Discoveries and Exploration on the California Coast. In 1948 he earned a Doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Angelicum

He then dedicated himself exclusively to the ministry and government of Opus Dei as its Secretary General. During the pontificate of Pope Pius XII (1939–1958), he worked in several Dicasteries of the Holy See.

In 1963, he was named by Pope John XXIII as a consultant on the Pontifical Commission for the revision of the Code of Canon Law. Pope Paul VI named him consultant on several post-Conciliar commissions. In 1975, he was chosen general president of the Opus Dei and successor of Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer, and in 1982, the Holy See appointed him as the first Prelate of Opus Dei. In 1991, he was consecrated a bishop by Pope John Paul II, with Archbishops Giovanni Battista Re and Justin Francis Rigali serving as co-consecrators.

He has written extensively about pastoral and ecclesiological matters that examine among others, the role of the lay faithful in the Roman Catholic Church, the human side of priestly formation, the dynamics and functionality of pastoral structures. As Prelate, he also served as Grand Chancellor of the University of Piura in Peru.

Shortly after his 80th birthday, he returned to Rome on a pilgrimage from the Holy Land. He died shortly thereafter. He had celebrated his last Mass at the Church of the Cenacle.

Transposition of EU Procurement Directives: An open discussion



Colegio organized a workshop on 'Procurement' on past October to analyze the change process models and standards in the fields of engineering, construction and concessionaires in Spain, which, like the other members of the European Union, must transpose before April 2016 Community directives adopted in 2014.

Pilar Platero, undersecretary of the ministry of Finance and responsible for opening the conference, said the reform government seeks to satisfy the demand of citizens for this administration is "more modern, agile and, above all, efficient." She was accompanied at the opening by Juan A. Santamera, president of the Colegio, and Mario Garcés, Undersecretary of Public Works. Colegio's President Juan Santamera declared that recovery must be based on a model of sustainable growth, "without generating debt and using best budgets to stimulate private investment in the real economy.

Garcés, meanwhile, said the public-private partnership: "We should push it together, creating an effective model for administrative, financial incentives, ... Undoubtedly, the law must look to the future and in this sense it opens a window very important opportunity. "Also, Pilar Platero chaired the session devoted to the transposition of EU Directives, stressing the need to fulfill this process whose deadline is April 2016. "The process is quite complex by the number of actors involved as well as its incidence in society. We will try to have written two draft law later this year. We hope that the new rules will help improve public action in search of modern and efficient administration and achieve regulatory stability ". According to the undersecretary of finance "is to try to reduce red tape and shorten deadlines. Also, it will

divide the subject of the contract into several lots to enhance the presence of SMEs, and to assess

the price of contracts, other aspects such as environmental character and commitment to innovation will be considered shall stand ". It aims to achieve what might be called a better 'value' in public procurement, as a global concept more useful and modern than the traditional 'most economically advantageous tender', used so far in excess. Thus, the price of its relevance yields more reliable parameter selection as those promoting excellence by using quality criteria, environmental or social interest and innovation. The president of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) and Mayor of Santander, Iñigo de la Serna, claimed yesterday flexible spending ceiling set for Local Government, speaking at a roundtable on Government Procurement held at the Colegio of Civil Engineering, Channels and Ports in Madrid. De la Serna justified this request on the need for local governments to channel part of! Budget surplus in the first half of the year was 1,048 million, up 052% of GDP, productive investments that contribute to the economic revitalization in the municipalities and job creation.

Juan Lazcano, president of the CNC, led the discussion on hiring in the sectors of construction and concessions, highlighting that "employment will not recover without construction recovers. I am confident that what the Government was doing to transpose directives will be okay, but we need the government is sensitive to construction. It seems that recovers a bit in the budgets of 2015. It is also necessary that case is made to IMF on the need to boost the economy. "

Pablo Bueno Tomás, president of FIDIC, moderated the discussion on hiring in the sector engineering. "the consulting engineering repre-

sents the smallest of the investment part, and has the most impact on the final result of the product. the engineering has more impact as soon as it is carried out in the project implementation. the engineering the most expensive is the one that is not. in other countries the technical bid ahead of price premium, in Spain it's the opposite. "Gonzalo Ferre, President of ADIF, said the price is the essential element of the contract because he seems to offer maximum transparency. "I understand that the compe-

tion is very uncomfortable but the development of society would not be what it is if that competition does not exist." in addition to the secretaries of Finance and Development at the opening of the conference, participated in the closing ceremony, Jaime Haddad, undersecretary of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "We must end the automation of public investment, should be a structuring tool to serve the welfare and social development of our country," said the undersecretary. "The transposition

of directives will review the rules simplifying, modernizing and improving the efficiency of procurement procedures," he said. He was accompanied by the vice president of the Colegio,

José Manuel Loureda: "The school is offered to government to transpose feasible, transparent, operational and clear", to which he concluded: "We need to revive investment to recover the economy".

61st ECCE MEETING & CONFERENCE

29-30 May 2015, in Naples, Italy

Save the date



The 61st ECCE General Meeting will be held on 29-30 May 2015, in Naples, Italy, hosted by the National Council of Engineers (Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri - CNI).

The celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the European Council of Civil Engineers will be celebrated!

More information will follow soon at the [ECCE website](#).





The European Council of Civil Engineers sends you Season's Greetings
and best wishes for 2015!

Looking forward to our fruitful collaboration.



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**“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.