

Newsletter April 2015

European Commission - Strategy for Sustainable Competitiveness of the Construction Sector

ECEC President Remec participated in the European Commission's 3rd High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum on 25 March 2015 in Brussels. The Forum consists of the European Commission, high level officials of the member states and senior representatives of EU association. Representatives of the five thematic groups (TGs), established under the framework **Construction 2020** of the Communication on 'Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises' reported the activities undertaken and the progresses achieved on the key challenges stimulating investment in renovation and innovation, skills and qualifications, sustainable use of natural resources, internal market of products and services and international competitiveness. The Forum reaffirmed its main goal to unlock the potential of the sector in terms of sustainability and energy efficiency, technological innovation and market enhancement and stressed the importance of a local and regional approach to both policy-making and implementation in the construction sector.



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In the first row Deputy Director-General of DG Growth Mr Antti Peltomäki between Christophe Sykes, Director-General of Construction Products Europe, and Peter Hansford, the UK Government Chief Construction Adviser, ECEC President Remec on the right.

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Common Training Framework – a Way to Automatic Recognition for European Chartered Engineers?

Common Training Frameworks (CTF) and Common Training Tests (CTT) are foreseen in the new Professional Qualifications Directive and shall establish a new way to automatic recognition for professions currently falling under the general recognition regime. The Common Training Framework is defined as "a common set of minimum knowledge, skills and competences necessary for the pursuit of a specific profession". This will not replace national training programmes but is a commonly defined minimum for automatic recognition.

The common set of knowledge, skills and competences of a CTF must combine the knowledge, skills and competences required in the systems of education and training applicable in at least one third of the member states. It is an important fact that the directive explicitly expresses the irrelevance of whether knowledge, skills and competences have been acquired as part of a general training course at a university or higher education institution or as part of a vocational training course.

Representative professional organisations - like the ECEC - or competent authorities from at least one third of the member states may submit to the Commission suggestions for CTFs / CTTs. Therefore the European Commission is currently talking to professional organisations that have expressed interest in Common Training Frameworks, among them the engineers.

On 5 February 2015, ECEC Secretary General Thürriedl, accompanied by Theo Koutroubas from the ECEC liaisons office in Brussels, had a meeting with the European Commission to discuss the possibility of establishing a Common Training Framework for Engineers.

At its last meeting on 7 March 2015 in Vienna, the ECEC Executive Board has decided to support the establishment of Common Training Frameworks for chartered engineering professions. Further steps will be defined in a task force meeting on 24 April 2015. ECEC Member organisations will be contacted with further information after that date.

Professional (De)Regulation

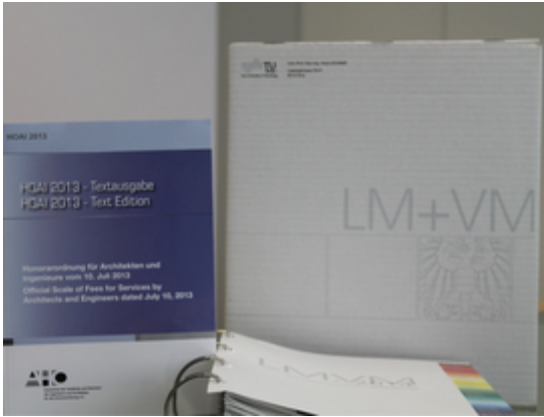
Professional Qualifications Directive: "National Action Plans" are the next step in the so called "transparency initiative" which is regulated in Article 59 of the new Professional Qualifications Directive and was further defined in the European Commission's communication on "Evaluating national regulations" from October 2013. It requires the member states to evaluate their national professional access requirements in regard to necessity and proportionality.

In the National Actions Plans the member states have to describe their national professional regulations and any planned changes / improvements in regard to access barriers. For the professions of architects and engineers the deadline is April 2015. Between April and July member states shall mutually comment on the plans. After that National Final Reports have to be presented in January 2016 (end of transposition period). They have to list the nationally regulated professions and show which requirements have been removed or made more or less stringent. When the final reports are available, other member states have the possibility to comment on them within 6 months. Finally, in January 2017 the Commission will present its overall findings as well as any follow-up measures to the EP and the Council.

It is advisable for all ECEC member organisations to get in contact with their national coordinators in order to discuss the content of the National Action Plan.

Services Directive: As a result of the European Commission's mutual evaluation of the national implementations of the services directive with special regard to Article 15, pilot procedures about some national professional regulations have been started. Pilot procedures can be followed by infringement procedures if no agreement is found between the EC and the member state. A focus of these procedures are honorary regulations and professional regulations in regard to company law.

ECEC member organisations are kindly asked to inform the ECEC Secretariat if their national professional regulations are object to a pilot procedure.



Fair Remuneration for Quality Services

The second meeting of the ECEC Working Group on Tariffs took place on 6 March 2015 in Vienna.

The Working group is preparing an argumentation paper to raise the awareness of politics and society. The paper will demonstrate the importance of guaranteeing the quality of engineering services and explain that adequate minimum performance profiles are a minimum requirement for getting quality services. It will show different best practice examples on how the necessity of such performance profiles is handled in different countries (HOAI in Germany, Parametri in Italy, LM.VM in Austria) and explain the possible effects of the disregard of such minimum performance profiles due to dumping prices. The argumentation paper will be discussed

by the Executive Board at the next EB meeting on 13 June 2015 in Berlin.

- **Those ECEC member organisations who have not sent any information about the tariff situation in their country yet are kindly requested to do so as soon as possible (to office@ecec.at).**

ECEC Partnership for Promotion of Green Building Policy

In June 2015 the World Green Building Council (WGBC) will be hosting the Europe Regional Network Leadership Awards for the second time. The awards were established by the World GBC's Europe Region Network to promote leadership and inspire best practices in green building policy, construction projects and corporate initiatives. The ECEC is again one of the ERN Award Partners. With this partnership the ECEC demonstrates the importance of the aims of green building policy for European Chartered Engineers.

This year, the "call for nominations" opens in April and will run to the end of May. The judging will take place during the month of June 2015 and the shortlisted nominees will be taken on a roadshow during the months of September-December. ECEC Vice-President Hans-Ullrich Kammeyer will represent ECEC in the jury procedure.

ECEC Pilot Project in Continuing Professional Development

With the increasing globalization and further integration of EU internal market, the demand for mobile qualified personnel is increasing rapidly. This is particularly true for engineers who are key contributors to innovation and economic growth. Large corporations and SMEs are operating across borders and engineering service providers are becoming more and more involved in international projects. These factors – together with the imbalances in the availability of engineering skills across Europe – amplify the demand for engineers who can be deployed across EU member states.



With the recent amendment to the Professional Qualifications Directive (2013/55/EU), the EU has taken a significant step towards the reduction of mobility barriers. Nonetheless, more needs to be done to effectively facilitate the cross-border mobility of regulated professions while improving the functioning of the internal market.

In that view, the ECEC on its 10th General Assembly meeting, held on 12 October 2013 in Athens, accepted an action plan of ECEC on Continual professional development (CPD) and established a new ECEC Working Group on CPD. The main idea is that CPD systems for all European Chartered engineers are implemented by national chambers of engineers. At the 11th ECEC General Assembly meeting held on 19 November 2014 in Brussels a pilot project with a plan of lectures for 2015 was adopted.

Organizational and legal responsibility for this pilot-project is with the Serbian national chamber.

- [Details about the pilot project](#)

European Topics at International Congress of Mechanical Engineers in Vodice



ECEC Secretary General Thürriedl participated in the Congress organised by the Croatia Chamber of Mechanical Engineers from 25 – 27 March 2015. Thürriedl explained current priorities of the ECEC and the importance of cooperation of Engineering Chambers in Europe. He also had a meeting with representatives of the Croatia Chamber of Mechanical Engineers and other neighbouring Chambers and expressed the openness of ECEC to further members / associate members.

CETA / TTIP / TISA and Their Importance for Engineering Services?

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) – for which the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between EU and Canada is a model - is being negotiated since July 2013 between EU and USA. Additionally a Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) is currently being negotiated by 23 members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), including the EU. The potential positive and negative impacts of all these agreements are widely discussed. For more information please [login here](#).



Meeting at the ECEC /CEPLIS Office in Brussels

On 25 March 2015 ECEC President Remec met CEPLIS President Kolbe at the office of CEPLIS and ECEC in Brussels to discuss current common priorities of the two organisations with Professor Theodoros Koutroubas, Director General of CEPLIS and Head of the ECEC office in Brussel. A main interest for both organisations is the further development in regard to the establishment of Common Training Frameworks as a new way to automatic professional recognition. Another focus for both is further developing the CPD systems for regulated professions and exchanging best practice on the topic. Both Presidents are convinced that regardless of the specific topic the ongoing close cooperation between ECEC and CEPLIS has already proved to be very beneficial for both

organisations.

ECEC Timetable 2015

- 24 April 2015 Task Force Common Training Framework in Vienna
- 6 June 2015 ECEC WG tariffs in Bratislava
- 13 June 2015 Executive Board meeting in Berlin
- 24 September 2015 Executive Board meeting in Italy
- 25 September 2015 General Assembly Meeting / Elections in Italy