



ECEC Newsletter 03 November 2010

NEWS FROM EUROPE

Single Market Act: This Act has been adopted by the European Commission on 27 October 2010. It consists of 50 policy proposals that the Commission is proposing to re-launch the Single Market. Together they are aimed at achieving a highly competitive social market economy with sustainable economic growth based on renewed citizens and business confidence. It includes a lot of SME relevant measures. There is a public consultation on the Single Market Act open until 28 February 2011: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2010/smact_en.htm

Professional Cards: In the European Commissions Conference on the evaluation of the Professional Qualifications Directive on 29 October 2009 professional cards were an important topic: The Commission has defined – also in the Single Market Act – that for some professions including the Engineers a professional card could have an added value in view to enforcing mobility. In case of temporary services the cards could replace the duty to of temporary registration, for professions in the general system who have a common platform it could make recognition easier. The Commission is about to start a steering committee to work on the development of a professional card. European Professional Organisations are invited to participate. For EC report and national reports on PQD see: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/evaluation_en.htm

Standardization: On 28 September 2010 the IMCO Committee of the European Parliament has adopted a report on the European Standardization system as an EP contribution to the ongoing review of the System. The Report is in many aspects in accordance with the ECEC position. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/reportsCom.do?language=EN&body=IMCO>

Fee scales before the Court of Justice: The Commission has challenged maximum fees for lawyers in Italy as being in contradiction with the freedom of services and establishment (C-565/08). In his opinion from July 2010 the Advocate General considers that the Court of Justice should reject the action. In particular, he underlines that the Commission has not provided sufficient proof of the existence of an obligation for lawyers to obey maximum lawyers' tariffs. Moreover, the Italian civil code and the law on legal profession foresee that the lawyer and his/her client may agree on a higher fee than the one established by the tariffs. The Advocate General opinion, although often followed, is not binding on the Court of Justice. The first case against the Italian tariff system was decided in December 2006. In that case, the Court of Justice pronounced itself against the minimum lawyers' fees (joined

cases C-94/04 and C-202/04). Italy was thus obliged to abolish the minimum tariffs.

ECEC ACTIVITIES

EB Meeting in Podgorica: The 28th EB meeting took place on 2 October 2010 and focused – among other things - on the finalization of the ECEC Code of Quality, the new Budget, the preparation of the ECEC information brochures, the admission of new members and the PQD evaluation. The EB has also approved the Common ECEC Statement on Sustainability, prepared by the Bulgarian Chamber of Engineers. See <http://www.ecec.net/statements/>

Working Group on the Professional Qualifications Directive: Barbara Škraba-Flis and Joachim Jobi have represented the ECEC at the 2nd DG Internal Market's conference on the evaluation of the Directive on 29 October 2010. The Workgroup has met in September and October and has produced an information paper for the GAM, explaining a possible approach for a common ECEC position.

ECEC Meeting with European Commission: Josef Robl has discussed the ECEC position on the review of the European standardisation policy with Renate Weissenhorn who is responsible for Standardization at the European Commission /DG ENTR on 30 September 2010.

Work Group Public Procurement: Due to the ongoing evaluation of the European Public Procurement Policy the ECEC will establish a working group to find a common ECEC Position. The call to nominate a member is still open. The work of the WG shall be based on the results of the ECEC Questionnaires on Public Procurement. **Please note that you can find all answered questionnaires in the Members Area of the ECEC Web –**

<http://www.ecec.net/members-area/> - if you have no password yet, please contact the ECEC Secretariat. Please answer the questionnaires if you haven't yet done so.

Transparency: The ECEC is now registered in the European Commissions register of interest representatives

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/transparency/regin/welcome.do#>

Next ECEC meetings:

ECEC EB, Ljubljana on 19 November 2010

ECEC GAM in Ljubljana on 20 November 2010

Meeting of the PQD working group on 19 November 2010

NEWS FROM THE ECEC MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Technical Chamber of Greece: The new elected President is **Mr. SPIRTZIS Christos**, Electrical Engineer, and second Vice - President of the previous Executive Board. Mr. Spirtzis is 41 years old and was elected by the vast majority (82%) of the



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TCG General Assembly, for the next 3 years' period (2010-2012).

Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers: Eng. **Andrzej Roch DOBRUCKI** from Warsaw was elected as a new President at the IXth Annual Meeting of Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers, held on June 2010.

Also the new Presidium, Executive Board and organs of the Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers were elected.

Prof. **Zbigniew GRABOWSKI**, the President for the last two (4 years) terms of office, was elected as the Honorary President of the Chamber as well as a Member of the Executive Board.

Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri - C.N.I.: The Executive Board of C.N.I. has changed. The Presidents remains Mr. **Giovanni Rolando**, while the Vice President is now Mr. Pietro Ernesto De Felice and the Secretary Councillor Mr. Alessandro Biddau. The Treasurer is always Mr. Carlo De Vuono.

Austrian Chamber of Chartered Engineers: The Executive Board of the Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants has changed. New Head of the Federal Section of Chartered Engineering Consultants is Klaus Thürriegl, Vice President of the Chamber is Rudolf Kolbe.

Engineers Chamber of Montenegro: The President of the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro Arch. Ljubo Dušanov Stjepčević and the President of the Academy of Engineering Sciences of Montenegro Prof. Emeritus Arsenije Vujovic, grad.civ.eng., signed the AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION between the Academy of Engineering Sciences of Montenegro and the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro for the realization of common interests resulting from the basic activities of signatories to this Agreement, and in order to improve the fields of spatial planning and building construction. The AGREEMENT was signed in the presence of President of the ECEC Mr. Josef Robl and the members of the ECEC Executive Board on October 1st 2010.

Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers: For the purpose of implementing the policy of an ongoing provision of top-quality services, the Chamber has initiated the procedure of *establishing the Association of Consulting Companies and the Association of Construction Managers*.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia has adopted the Implementation Plan for the *Directive 2006/123/EC on Services* in the Internal Market. The Chamber has in cooperation with the representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction carried out an analysis of

compliance of the regulations within its sphere of competence with the above Directive. The Articles of Association of the Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers are fully compliant with the Directive. The drawing up of a new Professional Ethics Code of Civil Engineers is underway and the Regulation on Service Fees is being coordinated.

The Chamber has taken in charge *liability insurance* of all chartered civil engineers, and the Agreement on Multi-annual Compulsory Professional Liability Insurance of Chartered Civil Engineers in Architectural and Engineering Work and Activities in the Sphere of Physical Planning and Construction with the insurer "Croatia osiguranje d.d." has been renewed. The chartered civil engineers are obliged to pay the Chamber a liability insurance fee. Liability insurance of chartered civil engineers via the Chamber does not exclude the possibility for their additional individual damage liability insurance.

The Chamber has established long-term business cooperation with Splitska banka d.d. – Societe Generale in the sphere of card services, for the purpose of issuing a *membership-bank card*. The card will have two functions - membership/identification and payment one; the members will use it based on their individual decision.

Lider, a business weekly, and the Croatian Employers' Association are organizing the second conference titled A Day of Great Plans – How to Prepare Companies for Business Operations in 2011, which was held on 28 September 2010 in Zagreb.

The President of the Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers Zvonimir Sever has participated in the conference as a lecturer in the introductory panel titled "Sectors Facing a Challenge", dedicated to the topic of civil engineering, with special emphasis on infrastructural projects.

Serbian Chamber of Engineers: Serbian Chamber of Engineers organised a Round table of Regional Cooperation between Chambers of engineers of South East Europe at Surdulica, Serbia, on July 10th 2010. This event was held within the 25th traditional business, cultural and tourist event "Vlasina Summer 2010". The participants at the round table were: Bulgarian Chamber of Engineers, Engineers Chamber of Montenegro, Macedonian Chamber of Engineers and Serbian Chamber of Engineers. The main topics, discussed: Mutual recognition of licenses, implementation of the Bologna declaration and Engineer service tariff.

Impressum:

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