

ECEC Newsletter 04 December 2010



Dear colleagues!

As my first year as ECEC President is already over, I would like to thank all for the support I have received from you. It is extremely important as we all know, ECEC can only achieve results if the member organisations actively support its policies. A very good example for this is the new "ECEC Code of Quality" which was adopted at the GAM in Ljubljana. The Code is an addition to the "ECEC Code of Conduct" (adopted in 2008): The two Codes together comprise a set of standards for high quality engineering services and therefore are important instruments to promote the quality of European Chartered Engineers. To make them work, we all have to get back to our members, inform them about these instruments and encourage them to make use of them as "trade marks/quality marks" for their services.

One of the information duties of services providers according to the Services Directive is to make all codes of professional conduct to which they are subject, easily accessible for their clients. So if we succeed to motivate our members to present not only their national codes but also the ECEC Codes they will soon become a strong sign of quality throughout Europe.

Another important thing to which I would like to draw your attention is the review of the Public Procurement legislation, as this is a topic so extremely important for our profession. The time frame in which we can communicate the ECEC opinion to the commission is very brief, so I would like to invite you again to send an expert to the ECEC WG Public Procurement, which will take up its work soon next year.

NEWS FROM EUROPE

Review of the Public Procurement Directives:

After the currently ongoing evaluation of the European Procurement Legislation the European Commission will present - in 2012 at the latest - legislative proposals to simplify and modernize the European Procurement Regime. The aims of this review are better and less complicated procurement procedures, a better use of the public procurement as a political steering instrument and particularly a better understanding for awarding intellectual engineering services. In February 2011 the Commission will present a **Green Paper on the modernization of the public procurement directives**. The first step of modernization is the new **Green Paper on e-procurement**, for which a public consultation is still open until **31 January 2011**.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2010/e-procurement_en.htm

Late payment directive: At the end of October 2010 the EP has accepted the review of the Directive. The

aim is to raise the payment behaviour and thus enhance liquidity for companies. Especially for the invoices to public entities there will be stronger regulations in 2013. The payment deadline is 30 days for public clients and not more than 60 days for business between companies if not anything else is agreed in the contract. In case of late payment 8% interest of delay falls due. The debtee can also demand refund of reminder charges.

Green Paper on the future of VAT– Towards a simpler, more robust and efficient VAT system:

Public Consultation is still open until 31 May 2011
http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/consultations/tax/2010_11_future_vat_en.htm

ECEC DATE PREVIEW 2011

Friday, **4 March 2011**, Panel Discussion "Quality and Fees of Civil Engineering Works in Europe", in Bratislava

Saturday, **5 March 2011**, ECEC EB in Bratislava

Saturday, **18 June 2011**, ECEC EB in Madrid

Saturday, **3 September 2011**, ECEC EB in Prague

Thursday, **17 November 2011**, ECEC EB in Brussels

Friday, **18 November 2011** ECCE/ECEC "Common Engineering Day" in Brussels

Saturday, **19 November 2011**, ECEC GAM in Brussels.



**To all of you Merry Christmas
& a happy, healthy and successful
New Year!**

Josef Robl - ECEC President
on behalf of the ECEC Executive Board