

ECEC Newsletter 05 July 2011



Dear colleagues!

A lot is going on in Europe at the moment: The review of the professional qualifications directive, the proposal about the improvement of the European standardization system, the review of the European public procurement policy and legislation and many other things that have considerable influence on our profession on European as well as on national level.

Therefore it is extremely important that we, as ECEC and as national Chambers, actively participate in these developments via public consultations, meetings with the Commission, with members of the European Parliament and with our ministries on national level etc. Even if European solutions – due to the manifold different interests – finally are compromises: in the end it is often possible to change at least one or the other thing in the interest of our profession.

A good example is the discussion about the Common Platforms. Since many years ECEC has repeatedly expressed to the Commission that Common Platforms could be a good way to improve the mobility of Chartered Engineers and at the same time ensure a certain quality level. At the beginning the Commission was not very happy with this solution and has declared the concept of Common Platforms “dead”. After further discussions and support from other professions the Commission has finally “revived” the concept again as you can see in the newly presented Green paper. It now seems that access will be improved and made easier, so the Common Platform for Chartered Engineers seems to be more realistic than ever!

A current project that is very dear to the Commission is the professional card. During the last weeks and months I have spent a lot of time to discuss this concept with Jürgen Tiedje from the Commission, we also had a common meeting with FEANI and Joachim Jobi is representing the ECEC in the steering group on professional cards. It was always clear for ECEC that such a card can only be issued by the competent authority of the home country. Fortunately this approach is now presented in the Green Paper. Nevertheless the added value for Chartered Engineers is still to be doubted. Therefore in the consultation of the Green Paper we will explain again the ECEC position already expressed in the last consultation: professional cards for Chartered Engineers should be linked to the already existing national card/database systems!

Wishing you all nice and recreative summer days!

Josef Robl

ECEC President

NEWS FROM EUROPE

Review of the Public Procurement Directives

The European Commission presented the Greenpaper on the modernisation of the European public procurement policy which questioned the current structure and legal situation massively. Topics were for example the raise of thresholds, the enforcement of the use of negotiation procedures as the standard procedure for services, the proportionality of selection criteria, the abolishment of mere price competitions etc. The results of the public consultation on the Green Paper and the evaluation of the cost efficiency of the directive were presented on 24 June 2011.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/modernising_rules/evaluation/index_en.htm / http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/modernising_rules/consultations/index_en.htm

The Commissions legal proposal is expected for December 2011.

Late payment directive

On 24 January 2011 the European Council accepted the new Directive 2011/EU. It has to be implemented into national law until 16 March 2013. The aim of the directive is to raise the payment behaviour and thus enhance liquidity for companies. The payment deadline is generally 30 days for public clients and not more than 60 days in business between companies if not anything else is agreed in the contract. In case of late payment interests of delay falls due and the debtee can also demand refund of reminder charges.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:048:0001:0010:EN:PDF>

Single Market Act (SMA)

On 13 April 2011 the European Commission presented a communication in which 12 priorities for the future development of the Single Market are defined. Among them are many topics that are relevant for the engineering profession: professional recognition and the implementation of the European professional card, modernisation of the European procurement legislation, review of the European standardization system.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/smact/index_en.htm

Standardization in Europe

On 1 June 2011 the EC presented a proposal for a regulation on European Standardization and a „A strategic vision for European standards“. The regulation shall replace the current directives which regulate the cooperation between European legislation and private standardization, which shall become more transparent in the future. The proposal for the regulation contains – in contrary to the current directives – also standards for services. EC Communication:

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<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0311:FIN:EN:PDF> EC Proposal for a regulation:

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0315:FIN:EN:PDF>

Review of the PQD / professional cards

The Green Paper on the modernisation of the PQD was presented on 22 June 2011. Among other things it suggests a review of the general recognition system in the directive. The five levels of Art. 11 shall be replaced by the eight level system of the European Qualifications framework.

Additionally the Commission suggests making the establishment of a Common Platform easier.

The public consultation on the Green Paper is open until 20 September 2011. Further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2011/professional_qualifications_directive_en.htm

Energyefficiency plan 2011:

In March 2011 the European Commission presented the new Energy efficiency plan 2011 with extensive measures to further reduce energy consumption with special emphasis on building and industry. On 22 June 2011 the Commission presented the legislative proposal for a directive on energy efficiency in which many of the proposed measures are made obligatory.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/action_plan/action_plan_en.htm

NEWS FROM THE ECEC MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Slovenian Chamber of Engineers

In March 2011 we have published a Handbook on public procurement on the field of construction and presented it to public and public investors.

General Assembly of Slovenian Chamber of Engineers accepted two new chamber's acts in April 2011:

- Detailed guidelines for the preparation of project documentation
- Indicative criteria for the evaluation/assessment of engineer's services

11th Day of engineers will be held on 25th October 2011. Presentations on the theme of public procurement will be given by professionals from Slovenia, Austria, Croatia and Serbia.

Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers

Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers, in cooperation with ECEC, organized the Panel Discussion "Quality and Fees of Civil Engineering Works in Europe" on March 4, 2011 in Bratislava. The event was chaired by Vladimir Benko, 1st Vice-President of our Chamber.

The current problems in the area of public procurement in Slovakia and Europe and the necessity to proportionate the quality of constructions and the fees of civil engineering works were the main topics discussed among the forum of Chartered Civil Engineers, representatives of companies in construction sector, foreign experts from ECEC member organizations from Austria, Bulgaria, Germany and Greece and the representatives of the Slovak Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Antimonopoly Office and the Office for Public Procurement. Photos from this event can be seen at the following website:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/102052085720514549713/PanelovaDiskusiaKvalitaProjektovychInzinierskychPracAlchHonorovanieVEurope#>

Serbian Chamber of Engineers

First Serbian-Bulgarian Seminar "Seismic Design of Structures" was held in Belgrade at the new premises of Serbian Chamber of Engineers on 8th of April. The Seminar, organised by the Serbian Chamber of Engineers, brought together Serbian and Bulgarian leading scientists as lecturers, Serbian and more than 50 Bulgarian practicing design engineers as participants. Within the Program of the Seminar Engineers visited the new bridge over the Danube beside Beska.

Chamber of Engineers in the Investment Design - Bulgaria

The Chamber of Engineers in the Investment Design, region Sofia organizes this year the Second International Conference "Balkan Seminar on Earthquake Engineering" to be held on 6th – 7th of October 2011 in Sofia, Bulgaria. The motto of the Seminar is: Seismic risk reduction through safe design. The Conference will be held under the honor patronage of ECEC and ECCE.

Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers

The X th Annual Meeting of Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers was held in Warsaw on 17th and 18th of June 2011. 195 delegates from the 16 regional chambers, representing 115 thousands of Polish members participated in the Meeting.

Engineers Chamber of Montenegro

Engineers Chamber of Montenegro is pleased to announce that thanks to the activities of the President and the Board of the Chamber, as well as support from ECEC, the Government of Montenegro adopted the act on the basis of which the Chamber of Engineers returned to the jurisdiction issuing licenses to individuals and companies.

The Chamber has been also recognized as an active partner of the competent Ministry in elaboration of the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction and the corresponding secondary legislation.

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31st of October was established as the Day of the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro. This year on that day 10th anniversary of the Chamber will be officially celebrated.

ECEC DATE PREVIEW 2011

Saturday, 17 September 2011 - **ECEC EB in Prague**

Wednesday, 7 December 2011- ECEC EB in Brussels

Thursday, 8 December 2011

ECEC/ECCE Engineers Day and Presidents' meeting of European Engineering Organisations

Friday, 9 December 2011 - **ECEC GAM**