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ECEC News



European Council
of Engineers Chambers



Dear ECEC Members,

As this is the last Newsletter of the ECEC this year, allow me to have a few first words in this letter and at the same time the last ones as the President of the ECEC.

My 6-year period of being *primus inter pares* of the ECEC will end with this year. I would like to express my pleasure working with you, sharing and debating the ideas, problems and thoughts.

I am proud of having been entrusted to represent the ECEC in various events on EU-wide and even a worldwide level. During this period the ECEC has also become a member of the WFEO. I admit this has been a great experience and challenge at the same time as we were striving to achieve as much as possible for Engineers in the EU area to be part of the Liberal Professions. All together we have achieved the founding of the ECEC as a legal entity under Belgian law and started the year 2018 as ECEC AISBL.

With your help and support, the ECEC has evolved considerably since the time it was established.



Thank you for your fruitful work and cooperation throughout the years.

I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

mag. Črtomir Remec
ECEC President

ECEC Elections 2018

At the 16th ECEC General Assembly Meeting in Zagreb the ECEC General Assembly elected its new Executive Board for the Period 2019-2021.

Klaus Thürriedl (Austria) got elected as the new ECEC President after two periods as Secretary General. Zygmunt Meyer (Poland) got re-elected for the second period as Vice-President. With Hubertus Brauer (Germany) and Mile Dimitrovski (Macedonia) as Vice-Presidents, the ECEC welcomes two new Faces to the Board. Hansjörg Letzner (Italy) will take over the role as Secretary General and Gábor Szöllösy (Hungary) has been re-elected by acclamation as ECEC Treasurer.



The new ECEC Executive Board 2019-2021. From left to right: Gábor Szöllösy, Zygmunt Meyer, Klaus Thürriedl, Hubertus Brauer, Hansjörg Letzner, Mile Dimitrovski

16th ECEC General Assembly Meeting

On 17 November 2018 the ECEC General Assembly met at the Palace Hotel in Zagreb. The 16th GAM was kindly hosted

For the upcoming EP elections, the ECEC Executive Board has prepared a Manifesto which has been approved unanimously by

by ECEC Member organisation HKIG, the Croatian Chamber of Engineers.

Among other topics, both ECEC Working Groups (Public Procurement for Engineering Services and Building Information Modelling) have presented a finalized paper for national and EU wide distribution. Please see the article below for detailed information and in order to download the files.



the General Assembly. It is a mean to transport the ECEC ideas to candidates, to other politicians and the public in a very comprehensive way. It is focused on three topics: The necessity for adequate professional regulation, for fair procurement procedures and for a fair use of BIM.

The ECEC also welcomed a new associate member, the Ukrainian Council of Civil Engineers.



ECEC Position Papers

ECEC Policy Paper “BIM for Politicians – ECEC Statement on Building Information Modelling”

The idea behind the paper: In political processes the use of BIM for (engineering) projects often seems to be regarded as a “magical solution” to many problems. Therefore the ECEC WG BIM wanted to stress very clearly that the potential of BIM can only be realized if a number of basic requirements are fulfilled and that otherwise BIM application can lead to political disasters.

The paper shortly explains what BIM is and what it is not, the basic requirements that essentially need to be fulfilled in order to realize the potential positive effects of its use, the common misunderstandings in regard to the problem-solving potential of BIM and the chances and dangers of BIM. A special focus is on the importance of guaranteeing an “Open BIM” as the most essential criterion to keep the market open for SME and to avoid dependence from software products. The information is divided in the topics of definition of status and importance of BIM, basic requirements for the successful use of BIM and BIM requirements in public procurement procedures.

The paper was drafted by the ECEC WG BIM (chairman Vladimir Benko) and approved by the GAM on 17 November 2018.

[Download the paper HERE](#)

ECEC Position paper “Public Procurement of Engineering Services – fair procedures ensure successful projects”

The idea behind the paper: Inappropriate procurement procedures have a strong impact on quality and successful implementation of a project. The focus of this position paper is

on very basic principles that procuring authorities of the member states should comply with in order to ensure fair procedures and successful projects. The paper addresses public procurement authorities as well as political representatives. One focus of the paper is the definition of quality criteria as this in fact decides about whether a decision is really based on quality or is de-facto based on a price competition due to the ineffectiveness of the defined criteria. Another focus is on the description of adequate measures to guarantee fair evaluation without the possibility of subjective and opportunistic influence distorting the competition. Additionally the paper describes the most adequate methods of price assessment in quality procedures.

The paper was drafted by the ECEC WG Public Procurement (chairman Hansjörg Letzner) and approved by the GAM on 17 November 2018

[Download the paper HERE](#)

EU NEWS

European Professional Card (EPC) / Common Training principles (CTP) for Engineers

On 22 November 2018 Martin Frohn, competent for qualifications and skills within the European Commission, reported to the EP Internal Market Committee about the experiences with the implementation of the European Professional Card. The three year experience with five professions proved to be good, the IMI based process of EPC led to about 6000 applications and the satisfaction among member states as well as stakeholders. Therefore it is the aim to implement the EPC for further professions. Among the professions in discussion are also architects and engineers.

The ECEC has actively lobbied for the implementation of the EPC for Engineers since 2011. A fact that was stressed by German MEP Evelyne Gebhardt who pointed out that the Engineering profession is trying hard to get access to simpler recognition procedures such as EPC and CTP for Engineers since a long time. Martin Frohn explained that one of the reasons why the profession was not part of the first group of professions to get the EPC was that form and degree of regulation differ very much and member states in which the profession is not regulated are not fully willing to provide the necessary infrastructure for the EPC system. So Martin Frohn explicitly expressed that also now the chances to reach fast results in regard to the implementation of the EPC are much better for sectoral professions with automatic recognition such as the architects. He also stressed that the project on CTP for engineers (which was conducted by the ECEC in 2016) very clearly showed that even among professional associations and stakeholders it is not possible to find an agreement about a common qualification minimum.

The stream is still available – please see Martin Frohns presentation and the following discussion starting at 10:00:40: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/committees/video?event=20181122-0900-COMMITTEE-IMCO>

Proportionality test

The implementation of [Directive 2018/958](#) of 28 June 2018 on a proportionality test before adoption of new regulation of professions is currently discussed on national and European level. The implementation deadline is 30 June 2020.

The [Directive](#) defines a proportionality test that has to be applied before the adoption of any new professional regulations. Nevertheless the Directive stresses that it does not affect the Member States' competence and margin of discretion to decide whether and

how to regulate a profession within the limits of the principles of non-discrimination and proportionality.

Single Digital Gateway

The [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1724](#) on the Single Digital Gateway was published on 21 November 2018, the implementation period ends on 11 December 2020. It says that until 2023 all procedures must be done online also in the field of professional recognition. For technical and organisational aspects there will be further implementing acts (probably mid 2019).

EVENTS



Global Engineering Congress

From 22nd to 26th of October, the ICE together with WFEO hosted the GEC in London, where thousands of Engineers from around the world shared their ideas of how to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

ECEC President Remec moderated one of the panels in his double function as WFEO Vice-President, and several ECEC Board members represented the ECEC at the event.

[Read more](#)

Day of Liberal Professions

On 27 November the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) held an event under the title "*Liberal Professions 4.0: Sustainable Transformation of Professional Features*", that aimed to gain fresh insight regarding a future-proof definition of the liberal professions in a digitalised professional world.

The discussions were divided into three thematic panels:

- Moving away from the cliché of 'protectionism' and adapting the definition of 'public interest' to societal developments;
- Does digitalisation change the essential needs of mankind and how does this affect the liberal professions?



Day of the Liberal Professions

Liberal Professions 4.0: Sustainable Transformation of Professional Features

27 November 2018 | JDE 51 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Jacques Delors Building | Rue Belliard 99 | Brussels

- Restrictions on equity participation: no longer required or more necessary than ever? Investor interests vs. professional regulation requirements

The discussions showed the important role of the liberal professions as builders of trust and growth engines within the EU.

Rudi Kolbe in his role as spokesperson for the liberal professions category in the EESC stressed the potential of liberal professions to adapt to changed conditions in a digitalized world while at the same time offering high quality services based on ethical principles.

Following the event he attended a meeting with EP President Tajani in order to discuss methods to infiltrate an adequate common definition of liberal professions into the European law making process.

[Read more](#)

ECEC Members News



Hrvatska komora
inženjera građevinarstva

The Croatian Chamber of Engineers (HKIG) has elected Mrs. Nina Drazin Lovrec, as the new President of the Chamber.

zt: Bundeskammer der
ZiviltechnikerInnen | Arch+Ing



The Austrian federal Chamber of Architects and chartered Engineering Consultants had its elections on 5 October in Vienna, where Mr Rudolf Kolbe was elected as new President for the period 2018-2022.

UPCOMING

66th ECEC Executive Board Meeting

The first ExBo meeting in the new period will be held on Saturday, 09 February 2019 in Vienna.

ECEC GAM in Spring

President Remec has offered to host the next ECEC GAM in the course of the World Construction Forum, which will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 8th to 11th of April. The GAM is planned to be on 11th or 12th of April.

AVISO ECEC GAM in Autumn

At the last GAM in Zagreb, ECEC associated member Ordem dos Engenheiros Portugal has kindly offered to host the GAM in Lisbon, Portugal, on 27th of September 2019.

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