



***ECEC Executive Board 2013 to 2015
A Report***

August 2015

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I. The Fundamentals 2013 - 2015

The persons:

The Executive Board was elected at the General Assembly meeting 2012 in Vienna:

Crtomir Remec, Slovenia – ECEC President
Hansjörg Letzner, Italy – ECEC Vice President
Hans-Ullrich Kammeyer, Germany – ECEC Vice President
Dragoslav Sumarac, Serbia – ECEC Vice President
Klaus Thürriedl, Austria - ECEC Secretary General
Gabor Szöllösy, Hungary - ECEC Treasurer

The internal Organisation:

General Assembly Meetings 2013-2015:

10th ECEC GAM: 12 October 2013, Athens
11th ECEC GAM: 19 November 2014, Brussels
12th ECEC GAM: 26 September 2015, Rome

Executive Board Meetings 2013:

38th EB Meeting: 9 February 2013, Ljubljana
39th EB Meeting: 20 April 2013, Vienna
40th EB Meeting: 15 June 2013, Belgrade
41st EB Meeting: 1 September 2013, Vienna
42nd EB Meeting: 10 October 2013, Athens

Executive Board Meetings 2014:

43rd EB Meeting: 25 January 2014, Vienna
44th EB Meeting: 18 March 2014, Brussels
45th EB Meeting: 4 July 2014, Bolzano
46th EB Meeting: 4 October 2014, Vienna
47th EB Meeting: 19 November 2014, Brussels

Executive Board Meetings 2015:

48th EB Meeting: 7 March 2015, Vienna
49th EB Meeting: 13 June 2015, Berlin
50th EB Meeting: 25 September 2015, Rome

Working Group Meetings:

WG tariffs – chaired by Vice President Letzner

4 October 2014, Vienna
6 March 2015, Vienna
18 July 2015, Bratislava

WG CPD - chaired by Vice President Sumarac

15 February 2014, Belgrade
All other meetings and consultations were held via conference calls

TF Common Training Framework – chaired by SG Thürriedl

30 April 2015, Vienna

The political and economic environment:

The engineering professions have faced considerable economical as well as political challenges during the term of the Executive Board:

The financial and economic crisis had a major impact on the construction sector in nearly all EU Member States. During the period 2007–13, construction output declined by more than one fifth in half of the EU Member States, while there were only four Member States — Finland, Malta, Germany and Poland —where there was an increase in activity.

The current situation in the EU is still overshadowed by these economic challenges in many member states.

In spite of very controversial expert opinions the European Commission is still a firm believer in liberalisation and deregulation as a solution for generating more economic growth. A new European Commission was elected for the period of 2014-2019. Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs is Elzbieta Bienkowska from Poland. There is no indication at all – quite to the contrary – that the new Commission is in any way changing its approach in regard to deregulation.

A positive development in regard to fighting the low price level for engineering services in many countries was the modernization of the Public Procurement Directives which considerably enforces the MEAT (most economically advantageous tender) as contract award criterion also for engineering services.

II. Activities and Achievements according to the ECEC Strategic Plan 2013 - 2015

SECURING QUALITY AND SAFTY OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION by

- **High quality education**
- **Continuous professional development**
- **Promotion of the use of price – quality based Green Public Procurement Procedures**
- **Promotion of better (professional) regulation instead of deregulation**

High Quality education:

- **Participation of ECEC during the modernization process of the European Professional Qualifications Directive**

The ECEC was involved in the process of the modernization of the Professional Qualifications Directive, that was published in December 2013, in manifold ways: ECEC Participation in two public consultation, continuous communication of ECEC positions to the European Commission, personal contacts with European Commission (Mr Tiedje, Mr Frohn, Mr Tomaras and the EP rapporteur for the Directive (Mme Vergnaud) about matters concerning Chartered Engineers, participation of ECEC representatives in EC working groups on the concept of the professional cards. The implementation of the European Professional Card will start in January 2016 and proceeded in two phases. The EPC for engineers is planned for the second phase, starting on 18 January 2018. The main aim of the ECEC, that it must be clarified that such a card can only be issued by a competent authority, was fulfilled. Another important aim of the ECEC that is now fulfilled in the new Directive was the possibility for certain engineering professions to gain automatic recognition in another country. The ECEC was already in contact with the European Commission in regard to the implementation of Common Training Frameworks for Chartered Engineering professions. The ECEC sees a university education of 5 years

as the necessary minimum for the education of Chartered engineers (level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework) and has prepared a declaration to the European Commission on the ECEC approach expressing the intention to propose – in cooperation with other Engineering organisations and other relevant stakeholders – several Common Training Frameworks for Chartered Engineering professions based on level 7 of the EQF.

Continuous Professional Development:

- **ECEC Cross border lecture programme / ECEC Guidelines on CPD**

In order to effectively facilitate the cross-border mobility of regulated professions while improving the functioning of the internal market, the ECEC GAM accepted an action plan on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and the establishment of a new Working Group on CPD in October 2013. Representatives of 13 member states are part of the WG CPD. At the 11th GAM on 19 November 2014 in Brussels, a pilot project with a plan of four Webinar lectures for 2015 was adopted.

The first lecture took place on 15 May 2015. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Rüdiger Höffer of the Ruhr-University Bochum in Germany gave his lecture on the *Basis of structural design* (EN 1990) and the *Actions on structures* (EN 1991, Eurocode 1), the second lecture about Design of concrete structures (EN 1992 – Eurocode 2) held by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Benko will take place on 16 September 2015. Two more lectures are planned for autumn/winter 2015.

Because some technical problems appeared using GoToMeeting Webinars ECEC ExBo decided to look for a new way how to provide CPD in the next years. On the basis of its instructions ECEC CPD Academy proposal has been prepared and will be presented at the GAM 2015. Guidelines/Common standards of continual professional development program of ECEC has been prepared as well and will be presented at the GAM for approval.

Promotion of the use of price – quality based Green Public Procurement Procedures

- **Participation of ECEC in the modernization process of the European Public Procurement Directives**

The ECEC was involved in the process of the modernization of the Public Procurement Directives, that were published in March 2014, in manifold ways: After answering the questions in the Greenpaper in 2011 the continuously communicate the ECEC positions to the European Commission and the European Parliament.

The topic of the price-quality relationship was also a priority of the Engineers Day 2014 and was thus communicated to a broad audience including politicians and European Commission employees. There was also a continuous exchange with other European Engineering Organizations; the ECEC SG is also a member of the EFCA Internal Market Committee which is very much focused on the Public Procurement Directives.

Among other things the main important success for ECEC and other Engineering organisations is that for intellectual services like engineering services the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) has taken priority over the cheapest price as award criterion in the Directives. With this a long term aim of ECEC has been fulfilled. Further steps will very much depend on the national implementations of the Directives that are still ongoing.

- **Explaining the connection between price and quality**
ECEC declaration Performance profiles for Engineering Services:
Cost optimization and quality assurance

In addition to making the price-quality relationship a priority of the Engineers Day 2014 there was also an ECEC WG active on that topic. The WG tariffs chaired by Hansjörg Letzner started its work on 4 October 2014. The WG has collected information on the fee scale situation in all ECEC member countries and on any statistical data / experiences in regard to the relation of low quality projects and low prices. The main results were included in an argumentation paper for politics and society, which is especially important in regard to the current infringement procedures against the HOAI and other fee scales. AHO chairman Dr. Erich Rippert is also participant of this WG. In addition to HOAI, the argumentation paper also presents the Italian (Parametri) and Austrian (LM.VM) solutions as practice examples. The paper will be presented at the GAM 2015 for approval.

Promotion of better (professional) regulation instead of deregulation

During the term of office of the EB the “attacks” against professional recognition were manifold. The peer review in regard to the national implementations of the services directive, that finally led to several infringement procedures; the transparency initiative based on the professional qualifications directive, that is still ongoing; the country-specific recommendations in view to the Europe 2020 Growth Strategy in which the Commission year after year recommends measures “to enhance competition” for regulated professions; the “Report on the internal market for services” by the European Parliament that made a very strong appeal to Commission and Member states to remove existing regulatory burdens for service providers.

As European Institution see liberalisation and deregulation as a solution for generating more economic growth the ECEC has developed and promoted documents to show why this approach is wrong and especially unsuitable for liberal professions:

- In its “9 arguments” the ECEC clearly shows why professional regulation is essential for Europe. The printed paper was promoted and distributed to the European Commission, to MEPs and other politician at several occasions and is available on the Website.
- Additionally before the EP elections in 2014 the ECEC developed a Memorandum “Let Engineers Build Europe” that was distributed to the EP parties and the leading candidates.
- The WG tariffs has developed an argumentation paper for politics and society in which the relation between price and quality is explained. The paper will be presented to the GAM 2015 for approval.

SECURING SUSTAINABILITY OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION by:

- **Guidelines on sustainable construction**
- **Cross border exchange of knowledge**

Guidelines on sustainable construction

- **Ljubljana Declaration on Sustainable Buildings and Infrastructure**

The ECEC committed itself to the Declaration that was signed in Ljubljana in 2012:

<http://www.ecec.net/about-ecec/tools-of-reference/>

Cross border exchange of knowledge

- **ECEC Partnership for Promotion of Green Building Policy**

In June 2015, the World Green Building Council (WGBC) hosted the Europe Regional Network Leadership Awards for the second time. The awards were established by the WGBC's Europe Region Network to promote leadership and inspire best practices in green building policy, construction projects and corporate initiatives. For the second time, ECEC was 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. Vice-President Hans-Ullrich Kammeyer represented the ECEC in the jury procedure this year.

- **European Commission – Strategy for Sustainable Competitiveness of the Construction Sector**

On 25 March 2015, President Remec participated in the European Commission's 3rd High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum on construction, grouping the European Commission, Member States and construction stakeholders. 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.

- **CPD Lecture: Energy Efficiency**

The 4th lecture organised by the WG Continuing Professional Development which is planned for autumn/winter 2015, will focus on Energy Efficiency of Buildings.

ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY by

- **Defining common standards of ECEC members**
- **Electronic professional card as a useful and trustworthy tool**
- **Good implementation of Eurocodes**
- **Enlargement of ECEC**
- **Enhancing communication with other Engineering organisations**

Defining common standards of ECEC members

An important aim of the ECEC that is now fulfilled in the new Directive was the possibility for certain engineering professions to gain automatic recognition in another country by the way of fulfilling defined common standards. The ECEC was already in contact with the European Commission in regard to the implementation of Common Training Frameworks for engineering professions.

The ECEC sees a university education of 5 years as the necessary minimum for the education of Chartered engineers (level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework) and has prepared a declaration to the European Commission on the ECEC approach expressing the intention to propose – in cooperation with other Engineering organisations and other relevant stakeholders – several Common Training Frameworks for Chartered Engineering professions based on level 7 of the EQF.

The ECEC is currently seeking cooperation with other Engineering organisations in regard to the definition of Common Training Framework for state authorized professional engineers.

Electronic professional card as a useful and trustworthy tool

The European Professional card as an electronic tool to simplify the procedure of cross border recognition was introduced in the new Professional Qualifications Directive. The ECEC has actively participated in several EC working groups for the concept of the Professional Card. The main condition

of the ECEC, that it must be clarified that such a card can only be issued by a competent authority, was fulfilled. The implementation of the European Professional Card will start in January 2016 and proceeded in two phases. The EPC for engineers is planned for the second phase, starting on 18 January 2018.

Good implementation of Eurocodes

The Eurocodes are part of the ECEC CPD programme that was established by the ECEC WG on CPD and is provided online to the member of the ECEC member organisations (May 2015: EN 1990, Basis of structural design / EN 1991 (Eurocode 1), Actions on structures by Prof. Rüdiger Höffer, September 2015: EN 1990, Design of concrete structures (Eurocode 2)).

Enlargement of ECEC

At the GAM in 2014 in Brussels, ICE became associated member of the ECEC. Additional contacts have been built with Canada, Ireland, Estonia, Malta, Switzerland and Luxemburg.

Enhancing communication with other Engineering organisations

- **European Engineers' Day**

The good cooperation with other engineering organisations was significantly enhanced during the last three years. The 2nd European Engineers' Day was successfully co - organized by the European Council of Engineering Chambers (ECEC), the European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI) and the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) together with EFCA, ENAAE, CLGE and CLAIU.

The intention of the event was to extend the political and public understanding of the engineering profession and its importance in regard to today's manifold challenges associated to present society and environment changes. It analysed those challenges and offered opinions and a forum for critical dialogue. The event reached a high number of professionals, politicians and students.

- **Thematic cooperation**

The good cooperation with EFCA was additionally enhanced by SG Klaus Thürriedl's participation in the EFCA Committee on Internal Market. The common work was focused on important issues for the implementation of the New Directive on Public Procurement.

For the future definition of Common Training Frameworks for State Authorized Engineers the ECEC has approached several other Engineering organisations for cooperation (ECCE, FEANI, CLGE, IFLA).

It was also discussed that ECEC and ECCE could cooperate in a way that each organisation focuses on different topics and at the same time supports the work of the other organisations (e.g. CTF, TTIP etc).

- **Membership in WFEO**

ECEC has become associated member of World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) in the beginning of 2014. To express the importance of the cooperation of Engineering Associations, WFEO President Marwan Abdelhamid attended the 11th ECEC General Assembly Meeting 2014 in Brussels and will also attend the 12th GAM 2015 in Rome.

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION by

- **Representation in Brussels**
- **ECEC Website – www.ecec.net**
- **ECEC Newsletter**
- **ECEC Bulletin**
- **European Engineers' Day**
- **Regional Engineers' Day**
- **World Engineering Forum**

Representation in Brussels

After problems with the contract between the German Chamber of Architects (BAK) and the ECEC in regard to the co-use of the BAK representation in Brussels the contract was terminated per the end of June 2013.

The CEPLIS premises were selected as the new ECEC liasons office in Brussels as it has many advantages: The office is situated on the no 70 of Coudenberg, very close to the premises of the institutions and other Bodies of the EU and at the same time in the heart of the historical centre. Inside these premises, CEPLIS provides a meeting room, a part-time employee with Master degree in law or political science with emphasis on European affairs and the support and expertise of all the rest of the CEPLIS team for purposes of policy advice and information analysis. The package is cheaper than the former solution.

On 18 March 2014 the official opening of the ECEC Liaisons office took place in the presence of members of the European Parliament and guests from the ECEC member organisations. Several EB meetings and other formal and informal meetings have since taken place in the office. The office provides regular information and advice on relevant European topics and organises and supports ECEC meetings with the European Commission. Director Koutroubas has very good contacts to Commission and Parliament which is very helpful in order to communicate ECEC opinions.

ECEC President Remec and CEPLIS President Kolbe have both expressed the opinion that independently from any topics, the close cooperation between ECEC and CEPLIS has proved to be very beneficial for both organisations.

ECEC Website – www.ecec.net

The ECEC Website re-launched in 2013. The ECEC Secretariat regularly updates the website with news, reports, information about ongoing activities and upcoming events. A separated member area – accessible with a ECEC member account – provides Executive Board meeting reports, information for General Assembly Meetings and other confidential documents and news.

ECEC Newsletter

Quarterly, the electronic ECEC Newsletter is sent to all members of ECEC and people who are interested in ECEC work. Everyone who wishes to receive the Newsletter can request it at the ECEC Website. An archive of all newsletters of 2012-2015 is also available at the ECEC Website. The electronic newsletters inform about current developments and activities, review past events and pronounce upcoming events. At the moment, it reaches more than 120 persons.

ECEC Bulletin

The A5 booklet Bulletin “9 arguments – Argumentation of the necessity of the regulation of the engineering profession in 10 points” was presented at the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of ECEC at the Gala dinner on 11 October 2013 and at the GAM on 12 October 2013 in Athens. Since then, the Bulletin is distributed on events such as the 2nd European Engineers’ Day.

European Engineers’ Day

Together with FEANI and ECCE, the ECEC co-organised the 2nd European Engineers’ Day 2014 supported by ENAEE, EFCA, CLGE and CLAIU. It took place on 20 November 2014 at Sofitel Brussels Europe. The event, titled “*Mobile Engineers Build an Innovative Europe*”, was attended by 150 participants from industry, academia and professional organisations.

The two main focuses of the event were the challenges of the engineering profession to meet the expectations of society and possible ways, how EU policies can help the engineering profession to meet these expectations. Based on the presentations of expert speakers, the 2nd European Engineers’ Day offered a platform for critical dialogue and participation, analysing the challenges ahead in building the coming new world.

The event was an excellent network opportunity for politicians and all people related to the engineering profession. After the 2nd European Engineers’ Day, a film about the event (done by the Slovenian chamber), photos and the presentations of the speakers were provided at the ECEC Website and can be downloaded there.

Regional Engineers’ Days

From 2013-2015 diverse Regional Engineers’ Days on European topics have been held:

- October 2013 in Luhačovice: “V4” Meeting of Engineering Chambers and Associations of Visegrad four Countries on the topics of Public Procurement, Construction Law and EPBD (Energy Performance of Buildings Directive);
- November 2013 in Maribor: Regional Engineers Day with the participation of other ECEC member organisations of “EU Professional Engineer”;
- May 2014: The Italian Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri (CNI) organized the First Conference of the Mediterranean Engineers (EAMC) in Lecce (Salento, Italy) on 8-10 under the auspices of WFEO and the collaboration of the Federation of Arab Engineers (FAE). The EAMC First Conference in Lecce was a landmark, a starting point concerning the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation, which will have continuity and a permanent character of cooperation and networking;
- October 2014 in Košice: “V4” Meeting on Fee scales, new legal regulations in the “V4” countries and the regulated profession of Chartered Engineers in the “V4” countries and in Europe

World Engineering Forum

The ECEC Executive Board decided to enhance international exchange with other Engineering organisations and has therefore applied for associated membership in the World Federation of Engineering Organisations. In February 2014, the WFEO Executive Council has approved the ECEC membership in WFEO as Associate Member. WFEO President Marwan Abdelhamid and President Remec met at the EAMC in May 2014 in Lecce.

III. Conclusion

The ECEC Executive Board is happy that it was actually possible to reach some very important ECEC aims on the level of European legislation:

- The priority of the MEAT as award criterion in the new public procurement directives is an important step in the fight against ruinous price competition
- The concept of the European Professional Card as it finally found its way into the Professional Qualifications Directive can simplify cross border activities without endangering the quality of engineering services (issuing by competent authorities only):
- The possibility to define a Common Training Frameworks for Chartered Engineering professions is an important chance not only for a significant simplification of professional recognition procedures for Chartered Engineers, but also for raising the awareness of the European Commission in regard to the high level of knowledge, skills and competences necessary to execute the Chartered Engineering profession;

As the constant challenge of deregulation clearly shows, there is a lot of work ahead of the ECEC and it will definitely be very difficult to solve this problem (infringement procedures, national deregulation attempts etc). Nevertheless the mentioned results are certainly a good motivation to go on trying to change something for the better for Chartered Engineers in Europe. The ECEC will not be able to succeed on its own but only by close cooperation with other organisations with similar interests. So the enhancement of this cooperation and the more detailed structuring of working together with other Engineering organisations shall be a main priority of the future work of ECEC.