

## **ECEC Newsletter 02 June 2010**



Dear Colleagues!

The further improvement of cooperation with other Engineering Organisations in Europe is one of the aims of ECEC and a very important method to bring forward the interests of Engineers in Europe. Therefore the ECEC has organised a **Presidents' meeting of European Engineering Organisations** in the ECEC Brussels office on 10 May 2010 with the participation of ECCE, EFCA and FEANI. Main topics of the information exchange were the review of the EU public procurement policy, the visibility of Engineers in Europe, the experiences after 10 years of Bologna Accord and - connected with that - the implementation of the professional card for engineers. The opinions about the added value of such a card differ widely within the organisations and the discussion clearly showed that there are still a lot of open questions. But it was clear for all participants that the concept of subsidiarity must remain untouched and that such a card can not give automatic recognition.

From 21 to 22 May 2010 the **ECCE GAM in London** took place with focus on a "New strategic plan on influencing national governments and the EU". I have presented the strategic aims and approaches of the ECEC and the topics on which ECCE and ECEC could cooperate even closer.

The **EFCA GAM from 26 to 28 May in Rome** – where I also represented the ECEC - was combined with a very interesting conference on **Climate Change and a new Energy Balance in Europe: The Engineering Challenge**.

At the 150 year Zivilingenieur Celebration in Austria on 18 June 2010, an **ECEC, EFCA and FIDIC discussion** on the **Future Trends and Challenges for the Engineering Profession** was part of the programme.

So the cooperation is on a good way but nevertheless it will have to show even more concrete results during the next years.

For now let me wish you a recreative summer,

With best regards,  
Josef Robl

### **NEWS FROM EUROPE**

**ECEC participation in European Commissions Public Consultation on Standardization:** In the context of the Better Regulation policy of the European Union, the European Commission has initiated a process of review of the European Standardisation System. With a public consultation the Commission wanted to gain an understanding of stakeholders' view on this review. The ECEC has

participated in the public consultation and expressed - among other things - the importance of better and cheaper access to standards.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/files/public-consultation/public-consultation-replies/eccec\\_21052010\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/files/public-consultation/public-consultation-replies/eccec_21052010_en.pdf)

### **Recast of the directive on the Energy**

**Performance of Buildings:** The new energy efficiency legislation for buildings was published on 18 June 2010. The new directive brings higher energy-saving standards for new buildings and – when feasible - a better energy performance of existing buildings which are renovated. Part of the funding of these changes comes from the EU Budget. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ%3AL%3A2010%3A153%3ASOM%3ADE%3AHTML>

### **Evaluation of Professional Qualifications**

**Directive:** Barbara Skraba and Joachim Jobi have represented the ECEC at the DG Internal Market's conference on the evaluation of the Directive on 17 March 2010. The report was sent out to all ECEC member organisations. At the moment Jürgen Tiedje, head of department "professional qualifications" in the EC's internal market and services DG is expecting the results of the PQD evaluation questionnaires for September. There are sectoral questionnaires which are answered by professional bodies and competent authorities of these professions and a questionnaire regarding the general system, which will in most countries be answered by the coordinators for the PQD, so Engineering Chambers wanting to contribute should get in contact with them.

**CEN Expertise services:** In March 2010 AFNOR has proposed to CEN to start standardisation work in the area of expertise services.

### **Public Consultation on free movement of**

**services:** The European Commission is planning on having this consultation in the context of the process of mutual evaluation foreseen in the services directive. [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/consultations/docs/2010/planned\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/docs/2010/planned_en.pdf)

### **Combating late payment – current status of recast of Directive 2000/35/EC:**

As late payment in commercial transactions is still a general problem within the EU it became necessary to modify Directive 2000/35/EC and to introduce additional tools to reduce the number of late payments in commercial transactions, to shorten payment periods for public administrations and to substantially reinforce the incentives for public administrations to pay in time by recasting the Directive. It is expected that the plenary session of the European Parliament will probably discuss this topic on 7 July 2010, for 11 October 2010 a political agreement in the Council is expected.



### ECEC ACTIVITIES

**EB Meeting in Vienna:** The 27th EB meeting took place on 19 June 2010 and focused – among other things - on the recast of the ECEC statutes and the creation of internal rules of procedures, on a new approach for Chartered Engineers in the Professional Qualifications Directive and on the creation of an ECEC Code of Quality. Chairman of the new working group on the evaluation of the Professional Qualifications Directive is Vice-President Remec, the working scope of the group was defined (nominated members: Skraba (Slovenia), Oreskovic (Croatia), Jobi (Germany), Aris Hatzidakis (Greece)).

**New ECEC members:** The Technical Chamber of Cyprus (ETEK) has applied for Membership of ECEC. The Executive Board will propose ETEK to be accepted as a new member of ECEC at the next General Assembly Meeting in November 2010. Vice-President Natchev, who is responsible for ECEC enlargement, is also in discussion with Macedonia.

**ECEC Meeting with European Commission:** Josef Robl and Joachim Jobi are going to discuss the ECEC wishes and concerns in view to standardisation with Renate Weissenhorn who is responsible for Standardization at the European Commission /DG ENTR on 30 September 2010.

**Next ECEC meetings:**  
28th ECEC EB, Podgorica on 2 October 2010  
29th ECEC EB, Ljubljana on 19 November 2010  
7th ECEC GAM in Ljubljana on 20 November 2010  
Meeting of the PQD working group (date to be defined)

**ECEC representative in CEPLIS:** Rudolf Kolbe was elected Vice-President in CEPLIS at the last General Assembly meeting.

### NEWS FROM THE ECEC MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

**Montenegro:** A Meeting of Engineers Chambers of South-eastern Europe was held by the Montenegrin Chamber of Engineers in Kotor on April 8-10<sup>th</sup>. The Montenegrin Chamber has launched an initiative to regain the public authority for issuing licenses as well as to revoke certain Article of the Law based on which the licenses of foreign legal and physical persons are verified. In relation to this issue the participants agreed on and signed a declaration.

**Slovenia:** On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010 an agreement between the Slovenian Chamber of Engineers and Slovenian Institute for Standardization was signed - a

45% discount on regular prices of standards was agreed for certified engineers, members of IZS, being either self employed or employed in micro, small and medium sized enterprises.

On 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010 the General Assembly of the Slovenian Chamber of Engineers accepted its new Code of Conduct, based on that of ECEC.

On 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010 the Slovenian Chamber of Engineers will begin to issue certificates of professional qualifications to EU citizens (until this time this is in domain of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning).

**Croatia:** The *Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers* organized the *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Chartered Civil Engineers*, from 16 to 19 June 2010 in Opatija, with more than 1200 participants. Twenty seminars and round table discussions from all specialized construction fields were held. Within the round table “Development forum” the *Programme of Development Projects in the Republic of Croatia, prepared by Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers*, has been presented, where CCCE is presenting its attitude and understanding how to stimulate economy development, how to overcome the crisis and how to provide new jobs.

The regular yearly meeting of Five Chambers (members of the Agreement on cooperation within chambers: Croatia, Hungary (missing), Monte Negro, Serbia and Slovenia (missing)), as ordinary part of *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Chartered Civil Engineers*, took place on Saturday, 19.06.2010., with Bulgaria as guest. Two topics were considered: “Mutual recognition of qualification” and “Engineer service tariff and its applications”.

**Austria:** From 17 to 18 June 2010 the Austrian Engineers Chamber celebrated the establishment of the profession of “Zivilingenieur” which took place 150 years ago. This was a meeting of experts from different Engineering branches from over 10 European countries where also the FIDIC and the EFCA President participated.

### **ECEC Questionnaires:**

Please note that you can find all answered questionnaires in the Members Area of the ECEC Website – [www.ecec.net](http://www.ecec.net) - if you have no password yet, please contact the ECEC Secretariat.

**Please answer those questionnaires that you have not answered yet.**

This **ECEC Newsletter** is meant to be regular short information for the ECEC member organisations on the ongoing ECEC work and on interesting European developments.

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