

FIEC is the European Construction Industry Federation representing, via its 32 national member federations in 27 countries (24 EU & Norway, Switzerland, and Ukraine), construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e., small, and medium-sized enterprises as well as “global players”, carrying out all forms of building and civil engineering activities.



PRESS RELEASE

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EUROBRIDGE 2023: TACKLING EUROPE’S BRIDGE MAINTENANCE DEFICIT

On 14th April, FIEC co-organised the 2nd annual conference dedicated to the maintenance and safety of bridges in Europe, as well as other standard criteria to meet the EU Green Deals objectives and decrease the carbon footprint.

“Bridging” EU institutions with the sector

The Eurobridge 2023 conference, co-organised by FIEC gathered officials from the EU institutions, representatives of national authorities, research and innovation experts and the private sector and developed around **3 roundtables**:

- ✓ inspection and management
- ✓ environmental impacts of bridges
- ✓ new professions for bridge management

The discussions highlighted that the maintenance of a bridge begins with a thorough knowledge of its condition. A complete diagnosis allows the definition of corrective measures. The **monitoring and management methods** are diverse. The presentation of **sample cases** from some selected European countries inspired a debate on the challenges linked with the implementation of those EU policies and flagships put in place to facilitate the **green and digital transitions**.

“It is important that Construction Associations help companies on the path toward decarbonisation also by means of operational tools”, highlighted **Piero Petrucco**, FIEC Vice-President ‘Sustainability’ and CEO of ICOP (Italy), in his intervention during the roundtable on the **environmental impact** of bridges presenting **best practices** in terms of management approaches to contribute achieving **carbon neutrality** by 2050.

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Ensuring a well-maintained infrastructure

*“FIEC has repeatedly advocated on the importance of a regular maintenance of the existing infrastructure, the uptake of **innovative infrastructure**, and the swift implementation of these projects. All this is vital to meeting the EU Green Deal goals”* – said **José-Michael Chenu**, FIEC Vice-President. He also reported how *“**malfunctioning bridges**”* could lead to *“**higher economic costs**”* and *“**negative consequences on traffic flows**”*. Well-known examples include the recent closure of a 50-plus year-old bridge in Northwest Germany, severely disrupting traffic in the area, or the collapse of the *Morandi Bridge* in Italy.

FIEC has been very active in pushing for the most ambitious legislation as possible in this field, with a particular focus on the revision of the guidelines for the **Trans-European Transport network** (TEN-T). FIEC considers that the new TEN-T rules could be an important step in the right direction in terms of tackling Europe’s maintenance deficit.

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