

FIEC is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 29 National Member Federations in 26 countries (23 EU & EFTA and Turkey) 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.
Recognised "Sectoral Social Partner" (employers)



EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY FEDERATION

Press Contact: Sue Arundale

Tel. +32-2-514 55 35 / e-mail: info@fiec.eu

FIEC Press Release

19-06-2017

FIEC against over-prescriptive execution standards

■ Some standards for structural works feasible but others useless

"Let's be clear. We are not refusing to accept any European execution standards whatsoever" says Kjetil Tønning, President Elect of FIEC, also responsible for the Technical Commission. *"Framework execution standards at European level that are consistent with Eurocodes, compatible with voluntary national construction provisions and take into account local and regional practices may well be feasible. With the full involvement of contractors in the development of such standards, we are open to the possibility. However, we emphatically reject execution standards for finishing and equipment - and any that are so prescriptive that they prevent contractors from using viable alternative methods and products"*.

■ Exacerbating the standardisation burden will harm competitiveness

In general, European product standards help to improve quality, safety and consistency throughout Europe when they are developed by the industry, for the industry, taking into account the needs of users and any specific national requirements, which can be included in the harmonisation process. In contrast, European execution standards have a different purpose and by their very nature are difficult to develop. Differences in national construction methods, national legal systems, insurance and liability rules, not to mention the education and knowledge of construction professionals, mean that construction processes – installation, assembly etc. are not and cannot be uniform across the EU. *"In our experience, existing execution standards tend to be too vague, because they have to reflect all possible execution methods in all European countries"* says Tønning.

■ Start on a case-by-case basis

If new European execution standards are to be developed, FIEC recommends that this be done on a case-by-case basis and only where a real and immediate need has been identified by contractors, or in cases where both manufacturers and contractors agree that there are only slight differences in the various methods applied across European countries. Furthermore, as well as ensuring that contractors are involved in the relevant standardisation work, National Standards Bodies, which are members of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) should establish – with the full agreement of contractors – that there is a clear need for the standard, in order to ensure its legitimacy and credibility.