

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.



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FIEC welcomes the extension and reinforcement of Investment Plan for Europe

■ **“This is very good news for all project promoters, as well as SMEs!” said FIEC President Jean-Louis Marchand after the European Parliament adopted the EFSI 2.0 Regulation on 12th December. “The continuity of this Investment Plan builds real confidence amongst potential private investors.”**

“As Vice-President Katainen stressed it towards FIEC members when the first phase of the “Juncker Plan” was launched, the construction sector can play a key role in addressing the long-term societal challenges that Europe faces”, added President Marchand.

“But for construction enterprises to play our role in the economy, we need a stable investment strategy, as no investment means no growth, no jobs and no future!” he continued. “Prolonging and reinforcing the current Investment Plan is therefore very much welcomed by FIEC! This investment plan goes in the right direction and FIEC is contributing to promoting it amongst its members.”

In particular, the European Investment Project Portal (EIPP) and the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) are key instruments for the success of this Investment Plan.

He warned however: “The rationale of the Investment Plan is to mobilise private money. This is desperately needed, but many essential projects for EU competitiveness are not able to attract private money, as they do not offer acceptable returns or any return at all for private investors... At some point, public money must also be mobilised in as smart and efficient ways as possible!”

In this sense, FIEC regrets that only 9% of EFSI projects are transport infrastructure projects, while the Connecting Europe Facility contributed quite significantly to the EFSI guarantee.

Therefore, FIEC recommends safeguarding and reinforcing those EU budget lines which successfully grant money to projects (i.e. Connecting Europe Facility and “Horizon 2020”).



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