

FIEC is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 31 National Member Federations in 27 countries (24 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.



PRESS RELEASE

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FIEC welcomes the increased turnout in the EU election and presents its main requests to the new Commission

“The increase in voter turnout is encouraging and perhaps shows that people have started to understand that the EU has an impact on their lives” said Kjetil Tønning, President of FIEC, as he started his speech at the annual conference *Construction Manifesto for EP and EC mandates 2019-2024*.

Coming less than two weeks after the announcement of the EU election results, FIEC held a conference for its members, to consider the impact of the new European political term and the new Parliament in particular on the construction industry. The conference also reflected on FIEC’s main requests in its manifesto, in the context of these results. Linking the manifesto to the changing political climate in the EU, Tønning continued that the document was timely in view of the evident *“enthusiasm for change, openness to a more digital life, concerns for the environment and re-engagement in politics, particularly by young people.”* He added that the worst fears about a significant shift towards extremism and populism had not been realised in the end and that the European Parliament remains workable, albeit with some changes in the traditional axis of power. *“This broadly pro-European Parliament is a very encouraging development and the concentration of power around traditional and experienced parties will ensure continuity for the next five years”*.

Speaking specifically about the manifesto, he continued *“The construction industry impacts every single citizen in the EU”* stresses Tønning. *“We need the built environment for every single aspect of our profession and private lives.* Tønning remained upbeat, showing how FIEC’s manifesto can help to deliver the most important EU policies and create a better built environment for citizens.

Ending with one last request, Tønning concluded *“We want to see a Vice President in the new European Commission with a specific mandate for ensuring efficient and co-ordinated collaboration of all departments involved in any policy development that affects our industry.”* Find our manifesto here: [www.fiec.eu/FIEC positions](http://www.fiec.eu/FIEC_positions)



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