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Kjetil Tønning, President of the European Construction Industry (FIEC), is coming to Vilnius and will report to the construction industry community at a conference on Digital Construction 2019 tomorrow.

Europe is undergoing a major digital transformation in the construction industry. On this issue, Europe is not homogeneous - one digital building is well advanced while elsewhere it is far behind, so it is necessary to speed up these changes in Europe. Kjetil Tønning, president of the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC), is confident about this. He will develop this topic in his report for the eighth consecutive year of the conference "Digital Construction 2019 Vilnius".

"We are pleased that a person with a broad market coverage of over 43 million people has come to the conference. We expect exceptional insights and valuable observations not only on the European scale, but also on the Lithuanian scale in particular" says Dalius Gedvilas, Head of Public Institution "Skaitmeninė statyba" and President of the Lithuanian Builders Association.

Kjetil Tønning, an engineer and economist, has over 30 years of experience in leading positions in national and international construction and design companies, as well as in the Norwegian army. FIEC's Steering Committee, besides Kjetil Tønning, consists of 12 other Vice Presidents from different European countries.

FIEC, together with other major European construction industry associations, developed and published the European Construction Industry Manifesto for Digitalisation "Smarter Construction, Stronger economy, Inclusive Society". It aims to encourage the European Union to take strong political leadership, to create an appropriate legal environment for data

management, to ensure that the EU budget focuses on the development of digital skills, research activities and the development of IT infrastructure. "Digital construction can help to implement all key EU priorities - digital economy, energy efficiency, circular economy, climate change, demographic change, health and safety, education, training, etc.", says Kjetil Tønning.

Speakers will also be invited to discuss the challenges facing the Lithuanian construction sector at different stages of digitisation and how this led to urgent changes in legal regulation.

"This year we have to be happy: we will not find any companies among the leaders of the Lithuanian construction sector that would not work with the BIM methodology. Lithuanian construction companies exporting their services abroad have been using BIM for several years already. Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) is already issuing the third generation of postgraduate students to apply BIM. So, it's nice that the private sector goes hand in hand with an innovative world. There is, however, a stretch: the public sector is far behind. Every day we delay digitalisation is unjustifiable because it leads to state hindrance and economic slowdown. Without applying the principles of Building 4.0, we condemn the state for the ice age." says Gedvilas.

The final highlight of the conference is the awards of the creators with the best Lithuanian BIM projects.