



EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION  
INDUSTRY FEDERATION



2017

# ANNUAL REPORT

Including reports of





## FIEC

Created in 1905

Legal personality under French law

26 countries (23 EU, Switzerland, Norway and Turkey)

29 national member federations representing firms:

- of all sizes (from one person SMEs through to the large firms)
- of all building and civil engineering specialities
- practising all kinds of working methods (whether operating as general contractors or as sub-contractors)

Associate members:

EFFC European Federation of Foundation Contractors

EQAR European Quality Association for Recycling e.V.

Cooperation Agreement:

NFB National Federation of Builders (UK)

### PARTNERSHIP



Social Partner in the European Sectoral Social Dialogue of the Construction Industry together with EFBWW (European Federation of Building and Woodworkers)  
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=480>



Cooperation with EIC (European International Contractors) for activities beyond Europe's borders  
<http://www.eic-federation.eu>



The European founding member of CICA (Confederation of International Contractors' Associations)  
[www.cica.net](http://www.cica.net)



Participant in the ECF (European Construction Forum)  
[www.ecf.be](http://www.ecf.be)



Member of EHF (European Housing Forum)  
[www.europeanhousingforum.eu](http://www.europeanhousingforum.eu)



Partner Organisation of CEN (European Committee for Standardisation)  
[www.cen.eu](http://www.cen.eu)



Member of ECCREDI (European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation)  
[www.eccredi.org](http://www.eccredi.org)



Associate Member of Euroskills Europe  
[www.euroskills.org](http://www.euroskills.org)

### CAMPAIGNS & PORTALS



Partner in the Renovate Europe Campaign  
[www.renovate-europe.eu](http://www.renovate-europe.eu)



Partner in the OSHA (European Agency for Health and Safety at Work) Campaign on "Healthy Workplaces for All Ages"  
[www.healthy-workplaces.eu](http://www.healthy-workplaces.eu)



Partner of "BUILD UP" ("The European Portal for Energy Efficiency in Buildings")  
[www.buildup.eu](http://www.buildup.eu)

### PROJECTS



FIEC-EFBWW website on "Posting of workers"  
[www.posting-workers.eu](http://www.posting-workers.eu)



FIEC-EFBWW website on "Construction for youth"  
[www.construction-for-youth.eu](http://www.construction-for-youth.eu)

## THE SECTOR

# 3.3

### MILLION ENTERPRISES

95% are SMEs with fewer than 20 and 93% with fewer than 10 operatives

# 14.3

### MILLION OPERATIVES

# 6.4%

OF EUROPE'S TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

# 28.9%

OF INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT

# 42.9

## MILLION WORKERS

in the EU depend, directly or indirectly,  
on the construction sector\*

Multiplier effect:

1 person working in the construction industry

=

2 further persons working in other sector\*

\* source: Communication from the Commission "The Competitiveness  
of the Construction Industry", COM(97) 539 of 4/11/1997, chapter 2

# 43.8%

## OF GROSS FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION

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# €1,278

BILLION

Total construction  
in 2016 (EU28)

# 8.6%

OF GDP IN 2016 (EU 28)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It gives me great pleasure to present the latest edition of the FIEC Annual Report, at “half-time” of my 2-year term as FIEC President. The report sets out FIEC’s activities and position papers from the General Assembly 2016 in Brussels to the General Assembly 2017 in Stockholm. In accordance with a long-standing tradition, our colleagues from European International Contractors (EIC) and the Confederation of International Contractors’ Association (CICA) also report on their activities.

## The EU – as important as ever, if not more!

Not only are approximately 80% of our national laws the implementation of EU law or based on it, but also our success or otherwise in the steadily intensifying globalisation of trade depends on these laws! In the current turbulent times, with political crisis in many regions in the world, outspoken criticism concerning “Europe” or “Brussels” seems to have become increasingly aggressive, sometimes even putting into question the entire EU project. Even if some of this criticism might be justified to a certain extent, it must not put into question the EU project as a whole. The common aim of joining forces found in the European Constitution, among which are peace, economic wealth, social well-being and sustainable development, continue to be our only chance to ensure that the EU is able to defend its values and remain competitive at the global level.

### Federations at the service of contractors!

“

*The combined efforts of our professional organisations at national and European level provide expert input to the legislative work in the EU concerning the construction industry in many different areas, in order to ensure that the legal framework corresponds to the expectations of contractors.* ”





## Tripartite Social Summit (Brussels 19/10/2016)

### Cordial welcome between Presidents Juncker and Marchand



from left to right: Jean-Claude JUNCKER, President of the European Commission; Jan RICHTER, Slovak Minister for Labour; Jean-Louis MARCHAND, FIEC President; Robert FICO, Slovak Prime Minister

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(from left to right) Jean-Louis Marchand (FIEC President), Ulrike Rabmer-Koller (President of UEAPME), Emma Marcegaglia (President of BusinessEurope), Valdis Dombrovskis (Vice-President for Euro and Social Dialogue), Marianne Thyssen (EU Commissioner for Social Affairs)...



© EU Union

## FIEC's Comprehensive Representativeness

Without discrimination, FIEC represents the interests of construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. craftsmen, SMEs, family run enterprises and global players. This is the particular strength of FIEC, the employers' representative for the Social Dialogue in the Construction Industry confirmed again by the latest "representativeness study" done by Eurofound for the European Commission. The participation of contractors and experts from the 29 Member Federations from 26 countries, as well as the specific role of our Vice-President "SME-Envoy", ensure that each issue addressed by FIEC reflects the interests of enterprises of all sizes.

## Adapted Structure, Adapted Working Methods

During recent years, it became evident that FIEC's structure and working methods would benefit from a thorough review, identifying strong points which should be further strengthened and weak points which should be improved and adapted to the requirements of developments both in the European institutions, the Member Federations and the construction industry in general. This review has achieved considerable progress and will be completed over the coming year, in order to prepare the sustainable future of FIEC, the strong voice of the European construction industry.

## Construction is the solution industry!

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our general key message:

Whether it is in preparing the ground for future growth by investing in infrastructure, dealing with the threat of climate change, fighting against illegal practices and in particular against social fraud, adapting buildings to make them more energy efficient or planning cities to meet the changing needs of future generations, the construction sector is the fundamental partner to make a bright future a reality.

As we continue to try and learn the lessons of the financial crisis, trying to find a way to change from "blind austerity" to "smart austerity", let us use the talent, expertise and dedication of the men and women in the construction industry.

## My thanks

On this occasion, I would like to extend my thanks to everybody who, during the first year of my mandate, has participated actively in our work: my Steering Committee colleagues, the Presidents and members of our commissions, sub-commissions and working groups, the contractors and staff of our Member Federations, as well as our team at the FIEC secretariat in Brussels. At the same time, I would also like to thank all our contacts in the European institutions and federations with whom we have closely cooperated on numerous themes linked to construction. Special thanks go to our social partner EFBWW, with which we have – again – successfully organised conferences and studies, as well as agreed on a number of important joint position papers.

## Contact us!

We look forward to receiving your comments or questions on the issues addressed in the Annual Report 2017, so please do not hesitate to contact us. In addition, our website [www.fiec.eu](http://www.fiec.eu) provides a wealth of information and all our position papers, plus a link to subscribe to our weekly newsletter "Construction matters".

**Jean-Louis Marchand**  
President of FIEC



### EIC General Assembly in Brussels (7-8/10/2016)



Daniel Tardy, CICA Treasurer and FIEC Honorary President -  
Per Nielsen, EIC Treasurer and  
Jean-Louis Marchand, FIEC President

### Meeting with FIEC Bulgarian Member Federation BCC in Sofia (20/09/2016)



Svetoslav Glossov,  
President of BCC and  
Jean-Louis Marchand,  
FIEC President

# FIEC STEERING COMMITTEE 2016-2018

**Jean-Louis Marchand, FR**  
President



**Thomas Bauer, DE**  
Vice-President  
ECO  
(DE)



**Maxime Verhagen, NL**  
Vice-President  
SOC  
(BE-LU-NL)



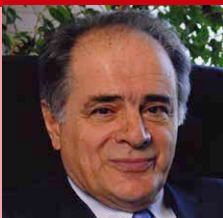
**Kjetil Tonning, NO**  
Vice-President  
TEC  
(DK-EE-FI-LT-NO-SE)



**Alexander Pongratz, AT**  
Vice-President  
Treasurer  
(AT-CH-HR-HU-SI-SK)



**Giuseppe Cafiero, IT**  
Vice-President  
Competitiveness  
(IT)



**Michail Daktylidis, GR**  
Vice-President  
ECF  
(BG-CY-GR-RO)



**María Ángeles Asenjo, ES**  
Vice-President  
MEDA  
(ES)



**Daniel Nicolardot, FR**  
Vice-President  
SME  
(FR)



**Emre Aykar, TR**  
Vice-President  
CICA  
(TR)



**Philippe Dessoy, BE**  
Vice-President  
EIC President



**Philip Crampton, IE**  
Vice-President  
Communication  
(PT-IE)





# FIEC ORGANISATION CHART

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### Steering Committee

#### Economic and Legal Commission (ECO)

President:  
Thomas Bauer, DE (02/2017-)  
Andreas Schmieg, DE (-01/2017)  
Rapporteur:  
Christine Le Forestier, FIEC

#### Working Group

**Infrastructure & Financing**  
Chairman: Jean François Ravix, FR

#### Temporary Working Groups

**EU Contract Law**  
Chairman: Wolfgang Bayer, DE

**Public Procurement**  
Chairman: Jan Wierenga, NL

#### Social Commission (SOC)

President:  
Maxime Verhagen, NL  
Rapporteur:  
Domenico Campogrande, FIEC

##### SOC-1:

##### Vocational Training

Co-Chairman: Massimo Calzoni, IT  
Co-Chairman: Jakob Krohn-Rasmussen, DK

##### SOC-2:

##### Health and Safety

Chairman:  
Cristina García Herguedas, ES

##### SOC-3:

##### Economic and Social Aspects of Employment

Chairman: Michel Gili, FR

#### Technical Commission (TEC)

President:  
Kjetil Tønning, NO  
Rapporteur:  
Sue Arundale, FIEC

##### TEC-1:

##### Directives, Standards and Quality Assurance

Chairman: Jan Coumans, BE

##### TEC-2:

##### Research, Development and Innovation

Chairman: Claude Dumoulin, FR

##### TEC-3:

##### Environment

Chairman: Lennart Henriz, SE

### Competitiveness

President: Giuseppe Cafiero, IT  
Rapporteur: Ulrich Paetzold, FIEC

#### WG "BIM"

Chairman: Kjetil Tønning, NO  
Rapporteur: Sue Arundale, FIEC

#### WG Housing

Chairman: José Michaël Chenu, FR (2016/12-)  
Rapporteur: Myriam Diallo, FR

#### EIC – European International Contractors e.V.

President: Philippe Dessoy, BE  
Director: Frank Kehlenbach, EIC

#### CICA – Confederation of International Contractors' Associations

President: Jorge Mas, CL (01/2017-)  
Emre Aykar, TR (-12/2016)  
Director General: Roger Fiszelson, CICA

# FIEC TEAM

**Ulrich Paetzold**  
Director General



**Christine Le Forestier**  
Director Economic & Legal Affairs (ECO)



**Domenico Campogrande**  
Director Social Affairs (SOC)



**Sue Arundale**  
Director Technical Affairs (TEC)



**Yasmina Koeune**  
Assistant



**Joëlle Caucheteur**  
Assistant



**Sylvie Masula**  
Assistant



**Muriel Lambelé**  
Accountant



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**The Secretariat has a double responsibility:** internally towards its member federations, and externally towards the European Institutions and other organisations both at the European and world levels. With the objective of defending and promoting the interests of enterprises in the construction sector. **So far as this "internal" role is concerned,** in the first instance it ensures the coordination and the proper functioning of internal bodies of the federation (General Assembly, Steering Committee, Commissions, Sub-commissions and working groups etc.) and on the other, ensures communications with the member federations which includes consulting them on all actions undertaken towards the European Institutions, directly or indirectly of concern to the construction sector.

**As concerns its external role,** this involves on the one hand representing the sector in its debates with the European Institutions, from the first consultative phases, ensuring the follow-up and proposing initiatives, through to individual specific actions of the organisations such as seminars and conferences. At the same time, the Secretariat takes care of the coordination of contacts and other actions with other organisations such as EIC (European International Contractors) and CICA (Confederation of International Contractors Associations).

# FIEC CONGRESS 2016 - BRUSSELS

## Opening Session 17/06/2016

“Juncker Plan – one year after” with EU Vice-President Jyrki Katainen as keynote speaker



Jyrki Katainen Vice-President of the EU Commission, keynote speaker at the Opening Ceremony

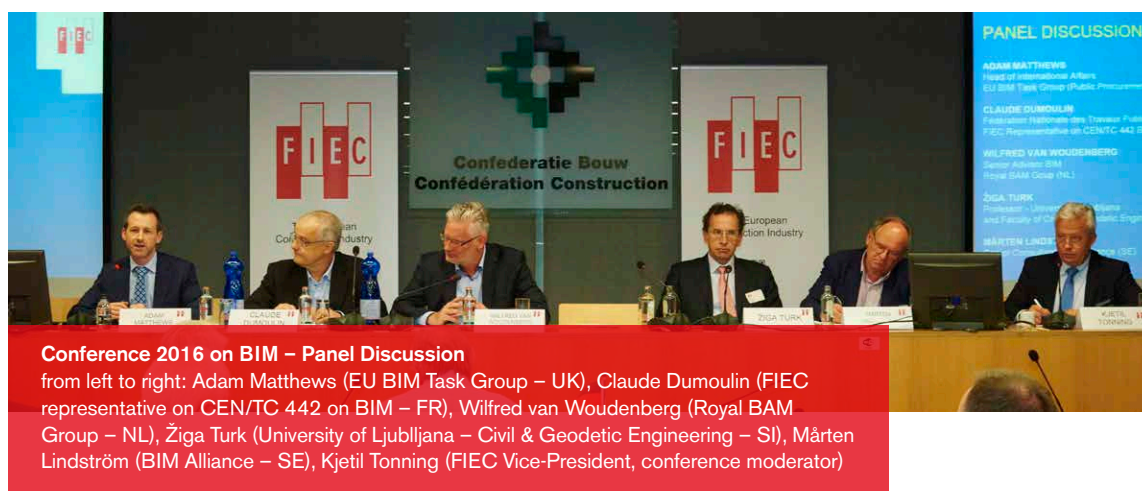


Ulrich Paetzold, Jean-Louis Marchand (incoming FIEC President), Jyrki Katainen, Johan Willemen

FIEC was honoured to have Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President of the European Commission as the keynote speaker at the opening session of the annual congress in 2016. He reported on the state of play of the Investment Plan for Europe, one year after President Juncker presented it at the 2015 FIEC Congress. In a lively discussion with the audience, Commissioner Katainen mentioned some of the initial successes of the plan in terms of financing infrastructure and energy efficiency projects. He insisted, however on the fact that the most important pillar of the Plan was improving the regulatory environment in order to unleash investment. This includes softening prudential rules imposed on insurers and bankers when they invest in infrastructure and real estate assets; clarifying accounting rules together with Eurostat,

as well as State Aid rules. However, he rejected the idea of circumventing the rules of the Stability and Growth Pact in order to boost investment. He also highlighted the launch of the European Investment Projects Portal (EIPP), which is aimed at providing more visibility for projects in the pipeline, making them known to potential private investors. Indeed, it came out of the discussions that money was available but investment remained low due to a lack of (bankable) projects in which to invest. ECO President Jean-Louis Marchand welcomed this initiative but stated that it should be replicated at regional level in order to gain momentum. Katainen finally revealed that based on this first successful year, the European Commission was preparing a proposal in order to double the Investment Plan in time and capacity.





## Conference 17/06/2016

### “BIM: Rocket Science or Common Sense?”

- BIM can deliver big EU policy results
- Building Information Modelling (BIM) goes way beyond Digital Economy

“BIM is everywhere and supports all the big policies” says FIEC President Johan Willemen, at the close of the annual FIEC conference in Brussels. He explains that BIM underpins major EU themes, from energy and resource efficiency, to jobs and skills as well as the more obvious Digital Economy. “Our message to policy makers is that BIM is not just an add-on, it needs to be brought into the frame now”. Setting an example in the conference, FIEC has launched a new Working Group on BIM to support its national member federations to help share best practice among contractors on one hand and ensure that BIM gets a high priority in the EU institutions on the other.

Mr Willemen outlines the job that needs to be done by FIEC on behalf of contractors. This includes working in partnership with the public sector to ensure that BIM is adopted in an all-inclusive market in which SMEs are not left behind and in which pioneering contractors take the lead across Europe as they have already in early adopting countries. Mr Willemen’s remarks follow an impressive, international line up of speakers and panellists from nine countries. Amongst other things, the panel calls for a strong focus on people and emphasises that IT, while critical to the sharing of data, tends to get all the attention but collaboration down the value chain is the most important success factor. With this in mind, as the Commission has already financed an initiative for the public sector, it should now support an industry-led awareness

raising effort, ensuring that the practical needs of the construction value chain get the lion’s share. Moderating the conference, Mr Kjetil Tønning, Vice President of FIEC and President of the Technical Commission explains “Norway is no stranger to BIM. We’ve long since resolved many of the challenges common to its introduction and now it is thoroughly embedded in the industry. We know that different countries are going at different speeds and we believe that FIEC can provide a common partner, bringing best practice to those contractors that are just getting started and linking contractors with other sector players, to help reduce fragmentation in the construction industry.”

Coming full circle, the conference headline question “BIM: Rocket Science or Common Sense?” is answered as the President highlights the pioneering history of an industry which is far too often erroneously criticised for perceived lack of innovation. Comparing the life changing advances made possible by rocket science, Mr Willemen celebrates the achievements of contractors, which demanded the same visionaries, great teams and investment as that other breakthrough innovation, perhaps more headline grabbing than the extraordinary impact construction has made on global economic development and the quality of our lives over thousands of years. With this in mind, BIM is but another milestone! <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> from FIEC Press Release of 20/6/2016

FIEC Conference 2016 on BIM - Introduction and practical examples



Raimar Scherer – Head of the Institute for Construction Informatics TU Dresden (Germany)



Thomas Graabæk – BIM Consultant and Partner at BIM Equity (Denmark)



Herman Winkels – Chairman BIM Task Group in the Netherlands (Rijkswaterstaat)

FIEC Congress 2016 in Brussels held in the premises of our Belgian Construction Confederation



Johan Willemen, FIEC President

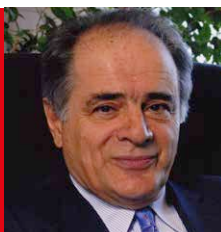


FIEC General Assembly 2016

# COMPETITIVENESS

Giuseppe Cafiero, IT  
President

Ulrich Paetzold, FIEC  
Rapporteur



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## **“Construction 2020 “ at half-time: taking stock and preparing the future**

Following Commission Vice-President Tajani's preview at the FIEC Congress 2012 in Istanbul, the High-Level Forum (HLF) and its Thematic Groups (TG) continued their work, taking stock and considering how to adapt to the needs of future challenges. This took place in the HLF meeting on 6/3/2017. This chapter uses extracts of the documents and reports presented during the above meeting.

### **The construction sector is crucially important**

“

*The performance of this sector has important impacts beyond its own area, namely on our climate and energy objectives, resource efficiency, safety and our quality of life.*

*Construction matters and I congratulate you on the work done over the past years. ”*

Mrs. Lowrie Evans, Director General of DG GROW,  
concluding the HLF meeting on 6/3/2017

## **A) Working Structure and Governance**

The overall governance structure developed by the Commission has remained unchanged:

- The High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum (HLF)
- The 5 Thematic Groups (TG), dealing with the 5 key strategic objectives
- The Secretariat, managed by the Commission's "construction unit" (DG GROW.C/1, Clean Technologies and Products), assisted by the consultant ECORYS.

FIEC, EIC and their national Member Federations participate actively in the entire exercise.

## **B) Latest developments**

### **I. The “European Construction Sector Observatory”**

ECSO<sup>1</sup> is a 3-year (2015-2017) action under COSME<sup>2</sup>. It aims to inform European policy makers and stakeholders about the construction sector in the 28 EU countries and has the objectives:

- to monitor market conditions and trends, and national/regional strategies related to the five thematic priorities of Construction 2020
- to facilitate knowledge sharing and awareness on policy measures and initiatives that have an impact on the construction value chain.

ECSO provides “Country Fact Sheets” (CFS) and “Policy Measure Fact Sheets” (PFS) which can be downloaded from the link below.

1 [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/construction/observatory\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/construction/observatory_en)  
Note: “ECSO” must not be confused with “ESCO”. The latter is the “European Classification of Skills/ Competences, Qualifications and Occupations”, run by DG EMPL on a series of professions, including some construction professions.

2 “Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs. It runs from 2014 to 2020 with a planned budget of €2.3bn.” (<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/cosme>)



CFS provide analysis of key figures, macro-economic indicators, economic drivers, issues and barriers, innovation, the national/regional policy and regulatory framework, including Construction 2020 objectives. PFS identify and analyse specific policy measures which are being implemented for stimulating construction employment, growth and opportunities.

## II. Skills & Qualifications

In the framework of a service contract, a FIEC led consortium provided DG GROW with support for a specific “construction pledges”-action (<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/construction-apprenticeships>) linked to the “European Alliance for Apprenticeship” (EAfA) (<http://ec.europa.eu/apprenticeships-alliance>) organised by DG “Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion” (DG EMPL).

In order to increase the visibility of the industry in EAfA, DG GROW launched a specific construction campaign. The 55 construction pledges provided by FIEC are published on the websites of both DG GROW and EAfA.

**The European Commission and FIEC look forward to receiving more construction pledges.** Submission form available in 6 languages from <http://www.fiec.eu/en/news/news-2015/apprenticeships-for-the-construction-industry-of-tomorrow.aspx> and DG GROW.

As a follow-up, DG GROW commissioned a study “Monitoring of the learning commitment in the campaign on the construction sector”. Based on monitoring and analysing the construction pledges, the study will develop some case studies and formulate recommendations for future Commission actions.

## C) From the HLF meeting on 6/3/2017

### I. Realising the full potential of digitalisation for the construction sector

The impact of digitalisation can be felt across all industries, including construction. Digitalisation affects the entire supply chain and its interaction/ exchange of information. Examples of this digital transformation include 3D scanning, Building Information Modelling (BIM) or use of automated equipment. It also affects the final products of construction: smart connected cities and smart homes that adjust their functioning according to their users' needs.

Four technological key trends concern the construction value chain:

1. **Digital data and access:** Use of big data, software, and electronic access.
2. **Networks and connectivity:** Connection and synchronisation of activities that were until now separate.
3. **Emerging technologies:** They are likely to affect the way in which the sector creates and produces; e.g. virtual and augmented reality, 3D printing, renewable energy generation, higher-definition surveying and geo-localisation.
4. **Automation and robots:** Use of new technologies to create autonomous, self-organising systems.

In conclusion, the Commission considers that avoiding fragmentation requires the development of a common approach, together with the industry, towards BIM and digitalisation of construction. The EU BIM Task Group (Member States) will continue working on its handbook.

## II. Innovative approaches for resource efficient, sustainable construction

Construction is a vital “building block” for implementing the Circular Economy Package. Closing the loop in product lifecycles – from production to consumption, repair and manufacturing, waste management and recovery of secondary raw materials – is key to this transition and an area where construction must be engaged.

In the longer term, “circular economy in construction” will only succeed if today’s design and construction of buildings generates less construction and demolition waste in the future.

The Commission concluded that the construction sector has to respond to many challenges, all of which have to be addressed. In this context, a new study is being undertaken to present business cases for construction and demolition.

## III. Skills for a “transformational” construction sector

The sector has the potential to respond to major economic and societal challenges. For this, it needs a stable, knowledgeable and appropriately skilled workforce that can develop and implement viable solutions.

Despite various initiatives being promoted in the past that specifically aimed at fostering skills and competences in the sector, a range of challenges remain unaddressed. Greater support in terms of managerial and operational skills and competences is essential for fostering improvement in the performance of the sector, particularly SMEs. There is a need for wider sharing of good practice at all levels (local, regional, national, European), e.g. innovative training schemes and adoption of successful Vocational Training (VET) schemes to facilitate smooth school-to-work transition and to increase the availability of a skilled workforce. Equally, such efforts are needed to boost mobility of workers across the EU, thereby helping to address regional and local skills shortages.

Later in 2017, the Commission will probably launch a “Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills”, encouraging key construction stakeholders to use EU and national funding opportunities more strategically and satisfy short and medium term skills needs.

The Commission concluded that harmonisation in the area of skills is difficult. The best way forward is to foster the exchange of good practice and mutual recognition of qualifications and training systems, such as successful “dual education” approaches linking training and education. Synergies emerging among institutions and across Member States should be further fostered throughout the sector.

## D) The Commission roadmap for construction

In her conclusions from the HLF meeting on 6/3/2017, Mrs. Lowrie Evans, Director General of DG GROW, presented the main lines of the Commission’s roadmap, for example:

- Construction is a key industry and remains high on the political agenda.
- Commission wants the HLF/ the construction sector to do more. ACCELERATION is key.
- It needs a competitive construction sector, pushing forward to reduce building costs and improve the overall quality of infrastructure.
- Given the size of the construction sector, even small improvements would have multiplier effects on society and the economy.
- The transformation should address the huge potential of the construction sector to improve productivity and market integration.
- The public sector, as both regulator and a major “client” of construction, should also drive the transformation process harder.
- Moreover, additional public and private funding is necessary to unlock investments for energy efficiency and renewables.
- The Commission has the ambition to make the exchange of information much easier, as well as decision making before, during and after construction projects.
- Regulation should be set at the right level to support digitalisation of the construction sector and prevent market fragmentation.
- The construction sector needs to enhance co-ordination and co-operation across the value chain.

- Modernisation of the construction sector requires a competent workforce.
- There is significant potential to further reap the benefits of the Single Market, especially for a wider choice of construction products responding to more energy and resource efficiency demands. However, completing the internal market in construction remains a challenge.
- The public sector can enhance competition and productivity by reforming building codes, standards and authorisation procedures and reducing barriers to competition at international level.
- The Commission wants to boost the financial support for energy efficiency platforms in Member States, in particular, to unlock an additional €10 billion of public and private funds available from the European Investment Bank (EIB), up to 2020.

## E) Informal Competitiveness Council lunch on construction

The Ministerial Conference on Construction, originally scheduled to take place in Bratislava on 15-16/9/2016, had to be cancelled, due to special meetings on Brexit. Instead, construction became the main item for the discussions during an informal lunch of the Competitiveness Council on 29/9/2016, with Ministers in charge of construction matters, Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska and FIEC President Jean-Louis Marchand.

### Informal COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL in Brussels, presentation of FIEC messages by Jean-Louis Marchand (29/9/2016)



From left to right: Peter Žiga, Slovak Minister of Economy - Elżbieta Bieńkowska EU-Commissioner - Jean-Louis Marchand, FIEC President



# “BIM” WORKING GROUP

**Kjetil Tønning, NO**  
Chairman

Sue Arundale, FIEC  
Rapporteur



## FIEC and BIM<sup>1</sup>

### I. BIM Working Group

Following FIEC's conference on BIM in June 2016 “BIM: Rocket Science or Common Sense” the outgoing President of FIEC closed the event with an announcement regarding the creation of a FIEC horizontal working group on BIM. This group has since met four times and its first annual work programme is summarised below (full details on the FIEC extranet):

<sup>1</sup> Building Information Modelling, Management, or Model depending on context.

### BIM Working Group - 10 priority actions

1. Forum/working area on FIEC extranet.
2. Map national BIM initiatives, in which Member Federations are involved and encourage cooperation/ exchange of information/ interoperability.
3. Co-operate with EU BIM Task Group (created for public sector).
4. Seek support from DG GROW via the Construction 2020/Competitiveness Agenda for an EU BIM Task Group for the private sector.
5. Ensure that BIM is on the Construction 2020 agenda.
6. FIEC position paper/manifesto to show strong link between EU policies and BIM.
7. FIEC position/ open letter to be used with universities and relevant training centres at national level, regarding development of BIM education programmes (in collaboration with the national Member Federations concerned).
8. FIEC participation in CEN/TC 442 on BIM (ongoing since launch of TC).
9. Ensure that FIEC is visible in relevant BIM events, by e.g. providing speakers.
10. Short film/animation for You Tube/other.



First meeting of the FIEC BIM Working Group in Brussels (28/09/2016)

## II. FIEC's BIM Manifesto

As well as making good progress with its other actions, the Working Group has produced a FIEC manifesto "Making BIM a global success".

As well as summarising the challenges posed by BIM, this document explains what the industry can do to help facilitate the uptake of BIM and then goes on to call for support from the EU policy makers, to ensure that BIM is widely and successfully adopted within the industry, including by SMEs. The latter will need support to ensure they are not inadvertently excluded because of any issues relating to initial investment or lack of interoperability.



# JOINT FIEC/EIC ACTIONS



## Complementarity: FIEC and EIC joining force and sharing expertise

For some years, the importance of international issues also having a direct impact on the EU Internal Market has increased. Considering that the international interests of FIEC Member Federations and their contractor members are defended by FIEC's sister organisation «European International Contractors» (EIC), combining forces, expertise and efforts of both federations is the most efficient way forward. EIC's statutory international activities are outlined in the EIC chapter starting on page 56.

### Fair competition on open markets

“

*In order to avoid any misunderstanding, FIEC and EIC would like to reiterate that they are firmly opposed to any form of protectionism and are in favour of fair competition in mutually open markets. Fair and healthy competition, based on contract conditions which allocate risks in a balanced way, contributes to progress and innovation. On the other hand, unfair and unhealthy competition, based on unbalanced conditions and the lowest price only, endangers the EU economy and society.*

*FIEC and EIC are in favour of genuinely reciprocal market access opportunities and corresponding incentive measures (i.e. trade defence instruments) at EU level, if international negotiations do not achieve tangible progress.*”

## A) Third country state-owned enterprises in the EU Internal Market

The access of third country state owned enterprises to EU public procurement markets continues to be an on-going issue and it is essential not to lose interest in it, just because there have not been many new cases observed over the last 12 months, except some projects in the UK and in EU neighbouring countries. The economic crisis and the related budgetary problems of many Member States are likely to tempt contracting authorities to seriously consider combined financing and construction contracts offered by third country state-owned enterprises.

In addition the efforts to attract foreign investment to Europe, for example for the “Juncker Plan”, but also for national projects, might result in an increasing number of third country construction companies working in the EU, while in contrast their home markets are closed to foreign contractors, in practice.

## B) “Market Access” Regulation

Following the blocked situation in the Council and the new Commission's decision in December 2014: “Proposal to be amended in line with the priorities of the new Commission in order to simplify the procedures, shortening timelines of investigations and reducing the number of actors in implementation.”<sup>1</sup>, an amended proposal was published on 29/1/2016.<sup>2</sup> For more details of this amended proposal on an “International Procurement Instrument” (IPI), please refer to the FIEC Annual Report 2016, p20-21.

<sup>1</sup> Commission Work Programme 2015 [COM(2014)910], Annex II, item 50

<sup>2</sup> COM(2016)034



In their initial joint position paper of 29/2/2016, FIEC/ EIC requested the withdrawal/ refusal of this amended proposal, considering that “the amended proposal is far too weak and will not achieve the intended result of reciprocal opening of third-country procurement markets.”

With regard to the contents of the amended proposal, FIEC/ EIC reject the abolition of the “decentralised procedure” and propose limits to the possible restrictive measures to ineffective price penalties. Contracting authorities of Member States must be able to decide autonomously a prohibition on foreign bidders’ participation in their tenders as a legal right resulting from the EU’s membership in the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA).

In September 2016, FIEC/ EIC met the new DG TRADE team in charge of this file. In the discussions, an idea emerged, to create a binding EU legal framework, a kind of toolbox, with a variety of possible measures, establishing the necessary clarity and transparency at the same time as giving Member States a legal basis for taking decisions, inside this framework/ toolbox, according to their national situations. Obviously, such an idea would have to be checked with FIEC/ EIC members, as well as with other sectors and stakeholders, including the Member States and the European Parliament.

There are rumours that following certain statements made by the new US President, several Member States have urged the other EU institutions to move forward with this issue.

For the time being, the situation in the EU co-legislator institutions seems to be blocked.

## C) Fair contract conditions in case of EU financed projects

Whereas in the past the problem of unfair (FIDIC) contract conditions was mainly a concern for European international contractors working in overseas markets, the problems with modified FIDIC “Red Book” and “Yellow Book” contract conditions continued also within the European Union, mainly in the Central and Eastern European Countries, where they had been “imported” by international financing institutes during the pre-accession times. The fact that there are EU Directives for the award of public contracts but not for the conditions of these contracts makes it particularly difficult to involve the European Commission or other institutions in discussions on unfair contract conditions.

The only EU text referring to this is Recital 65 of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)-Regulation (1316/2013): “*In order to ensure broad and fair competition for projects benefitting from CEF funds, the form of the contract should be consistent with the objectives and circumstances of the project. Contract conditions should be drafted in such a way as to fairly allocate the risks associated with the contract, in order to maximise cost-effectiveness and enable the contract to be performed with the optimum efficiency. This principle should apply irrespective of whether a national or international contract model is used*”.

### WG “Poland”

At the request of the Polish federations PZPB (contractors) and ZPBUI (consulting engineers), FIEC and EIC continued to join forces and share expertise in the current reporting period.

A positive development is the creation, by the new Polish government, of a “Council of Experts of the Construction Sector” gathering the representatives of all stakeholders concerned in July 2016. Its task is to set up a “National Construction Forum” which would address the practical problems and shortcomings of public procurement tendering and project management for large infrastructure projects in Poland.

Recent contacts indicate that the working relationship between contractors and the Polish Directorate General for National Roads and Motorways (GDDKiA) have shown some improvement, despite on-going challenges. A relatively new aspect is that the Polish State Railways (PKP/ PKL) seem to practice working methods for project preparation and contract administration similar to those criticised by FIEC/ EIC in relation to GDDKiA.

In their joint press release dated 19/12/2016 (encl.), FIEC/ EIC stressed that the combination of poorly prepared tenders for railway projects, in particular incomplete and flawed technical specifications, and unfairly modified FIDIC contract conditions, which do not comply with generally accepted international standards, are likely to result in low efficiency of national construction investment programmes in the railway sector. In addition, current figures indicate major reductions in infrastructure investment, whereas there is a real need for such investment, in order not to put future positive developments at risk.

FIEC and EIC therefore called upon the Polish Minister for Infrastructure to guarantee better efficiency and certainty to the construction industry and to provide the tools for optimising project preparation, to make the best use of Polish and EU funds.

## D) “Ethics” (combating unethical behaviour in procurement)

This joint working group, chaired by Per Nielsen (EIC Treasurer, former FIEC Vice-President), has been revived. This is to enable the voice of contractors to be more prominent in the many discussions, conferences and other actions, in which construction, rightly or wrongly, tends to be mentioned as one of the sectors at high risk.

### I. ISO 37001 anti-bribery management standard (PC<sup>3</sup>/278)

This initiative is based on the British standard BSI 10500 on anti-bribery management which itself was a response to the “UK Bribery Act 2010” (entered into force in July 2011), which in turn was the UK response to UNCAC, the “UN Convention Against Corruption” from 2003.

On 9/9/2014, FIEC was formally granted “liaison status” in ISO PC/278, so that the FIEC/EIC representative Per Nielsen was able to attend all meetings from 2014 to 2016.

The international standard ISO 37001:2016 was published in October 2016. It specifies requirements and provides guidance for establishing, implementing, maintaining, reviewing and improving an anti-bribery management system. The system can be stand-alone or can be integrated into an overall management system.

ISO 37001:2016 is applicable only to bribery and does not specifically address fraud, cartels and other anti-trust/competition offences, money-laundering or other activities related to corrupt practices, although an organisation can choose to extend the scope of the management system to include such activities. The requirements are generic and are intended to be applicable to all organisations (or parts of an organisation), regardless of type, size and nature of activity, and whether in the public, private or not-for-profit sectors.

FIEC/ EIC welcome this publication and suggest that in the construction industry not only the private sector, i.e. contractors and consulting engineers, use this standard, but also public sector clients. On the one hand, the public sector should give a

good example and on the other, this would increase the overall effects intended by this standard.

With the publication of the standard, PC/278 was disbanded and the follow-up work became part of the portfolio of ISO/TC 309 and its specific Ad Hoc Groups. FIEC also applied for “liaison status” in this Technical Committee, in order to be able to continue the active contribution of FIEC/ EIC to this work.

## II. Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST<sup>4</sup>)

*“CoST is a country centred multi-stakeholder initiative designed to promote transparency and accountability in publicly financed construction”, initially focusing on international construction markets, in which Per Nielsen is the industry representative in the Board.*

*“At CoST’s core is the belief that the processes involved in the construction of public infrastructure must be made more transparent. The public must be armed with the information they need to hold decision makers to account and to ensure better value for money in the construction sector.*

*CoST is making this ideal a reality. It works with government agencies to gather, verify and disclose information into the public realm.*

*Creating a more transparent sector ultimately leads to better public infrastructure, offering potentially huge human benefits, for individuals and communities across the world. It also reduces waste in public budgets, enables fairer competition in the private sector and increased opportunities for investors.”<sup>5</sup>*

In this framework, FIEC and EIC gave support to CoST, drawing the attention of the European Commission (DG DEVCO, DG REGIO) to this initiative and its potential benefits for construction work in international markets, but also in the Internal Market.

The strategic review process of CoST, where FIEC/ EIC were represented in the Strategic Review Advisory Panel (SRAP) by EIC Director Frank Kehlenbach resulted in a Draft Final Report in July 2016. In the report, the review team compiled a series of recommendations, designed to facilitate the achievement of CoST’s longer term objectives.

<sup>3</sup> ISO definition of “PC”: **Project Committees** are established when there is a need for an International Standard on a specific topic that does not fall into the scope of an existing **Technical Committee** (TC). Project Committees are disbanded once the standard has been published.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.constructiontransparency.org/home>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.constructiontransparency.org/the-initiative?forumboardid=1&forumtopicid=1>



## **Press release**

19/12/2016

### **Progress achieved, but not yet sufficient**

"We appreciate the progress that has been achieved over the past year in terms of contract administration of road projects as confirmed also in the experts' meetings launched by the Polish Government in July 2016". This was the conclusion of Ulrich Paetzold, Director General of FIEC, the European Construction Industry Federation, as he came out of a meeting with leading Polish consulting engineers and construction companies organised in Warsaw last week. "It's a pity, however, that solutions which took years to achieve by the Polish Road Agency, GDDKiA and the industry are not being used by the Polish Railway Agency, PKP/PLK", adds Frank Kehlenbach, Director of European International Contractors. "This will probably lead yet again, to massive claims and disputes and later on to bankruptcies and job losses in the construction sector".

The combination of poorly prepared tenders for railroad projects, in particular incomplete and flawed technical specifications, and unfairly modified FIDIC contract conditions, which do not comply with generally accepted international standards, are likely to result in low efficiency of the national construction investment programmes in the railroad sector. In addition, current figures indicate major reductions in infrastructure investment, whereas there is a real need for such investment, in order not to put future positive developments at risk. If not rectified quickly, this development is likely to end up in an eventual backlog which the capacities of the administration and the construction industry cannot handle. Moreover, bidding for several huge contracts at the same time, with the amount of work generated by the tender procedures, will result in poor quality tenders, leading to claims and disputes in future. This has already been observed in recent months and this is not a solution for efficient spending of EU funds, which are likely to be lost or wasted.

FIEC and EIC therefore call upon the Polish Minister for Infrastructure, Mr. Adamczyk, to guarantee better efficiency and certainty to the construction industry and to provide the tools for optimising project preparation to make the best use of Polish and EU funds. We fully support the calls of the Polish construction and consulting federations to eventually launch a National Construction Forum to deal with all the unresolved questions which have been identified by so many expert reports over the last years. We are also ready to help solve these issues.

**FIEC** – the European Construction Industry Federation – represents via its 33 national Member Federations in 29 countries the European interests of construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. builders/ craftsmen, SMEs and "global players", performing all kinds of building and civil engineering activities. FIEC is the European Sectoral Social Partner (employers) of the construction industry.

**EIC** – associated with FIEC – represents the international interests of contractors' associations from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey

#### **For further information please contact:**

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- Frank Kehlenbach, EIC, Director, [info@eic-federation.eu](mailto:info@eic-federation.eu)



# ECONOMIC AND LEGAL COMMISSION (ECO)

**Thomas Bauer, DE**  
President (02/2017-)

Christine Le Forestier, FIEC  
Rapporteur



**Andreas Schmieg, DE**  
President (-01/2017)



## WORKING GROUP "INFRASTRUCTURE & FINANCING":

24

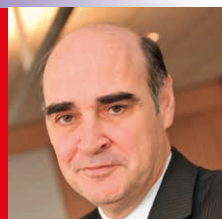


**Jean-François Ravix, FR**  
Chairman

Nicolas Gaubert, FR  
Rapporteur



**Vincent Piron, FR**  
Vice-Chairman



**Daniel Boscari, FR**  
Vice-Chairman

## TEMPORARY WORKING GROUPS:

### PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

**Jan Wierenga, NL**  
Chairman

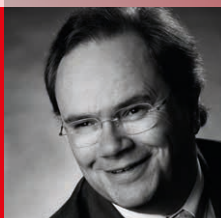
Dick Van Werven, NL  
Rapporteur



### EU CONTRACT LAW

**Wolfgang Bayer, DE**  
Chairman

Christine Vöhringer-Gampper, DE  
Rapporteur



## A) Internal Market: implementing the new strategy

In October 2015, the European Commission published a Communication aimed at assessing remaining barriers to the Single Market and possibly removing them. The ECO Commission is closely following the various initiatives which are presented in this framework, in particular:

- the Services Package, including the European services e-card, aimed at simplifying administrative burdens for companies involved in cross-border services provision; and
- the VAT Action Plan, including the reform of the regime of (reduced) VAT rates;

### I. The services package

The overall package adopted by the European Commission on 10/1/2017 includes four legislative and non-legislative proposals:

- a draft Directive on a notification procedure for authorisation schemes and requirements related to services;
- a draft Directive on a proportionality test before adoption of new regulation of professions;
- a (non-legislative) Communication on reform recommendations for regulation in professional services;
- a legislative proposal for introducing a European services e-card, composed of a draft Directive and a draft Regulation.

FIEC concentrated on this latter initiative, which is the most relevant for contractors.

#### The European services e-card:

In its Communication of October 2015 addressing the remaining barriers in the Single Market, the European Commission announced a specific initiative – the “services passport” – to help businesses and construction sectors to benefit more from the opportunities of the Single Market.

However, the Commission started from the fact that, compared to other sectors, contractors had a very low level of cross-border activity within the Single Market. FIEC criticised this approach as

the construction sector is mainly a local business, composed of a vast majority of SMEs who have neither the desire nor the capacity to work abroad.

2016 was dedicated to the preparatory phase of this initiative. FIEC and EFBWW<sup>1</sup> organised several meetings with the European Commission in order to get more information on the initiative and provide early feedback.

But in spite of the many discussions, the concept remained extremely vague and the potential added-value of this initiative for contractors very unclear. Moreover, FIEC's and EFBWW's respective members feared that a passport granted to a company in its home country would allow this same company to work in any other European country without having to respect the local rules.

Such fears, together with the lack of clear answers to our questions, resulted in several joint letters (dated 9/6/2016, 21/11/2016 and 23/12/2016) from the construction social partners to the European Commission, rejecting the initiative.

In September 2016, the preliminary results of the public consultation concluded that a high percentage of construction companies were in favour of getting rid of the remaining legal and administrative barriers in the Single Market via the implementation of a European passport. It appeared however that this conclusion was based on a handful of individual answers from contractors, while the contributions of FIEC and EFBWW were included under another heading, together with other contributions from businesses associations from completely different sectors.

The two social partners claimed that the dice were loaded - without much reaction from the European Commission.

Eventually, on 10/1/2017 the European Commission adopted its official legislative proposal, renamed the “European services e-card”. Basically, this e-card would be applied for by a company in its home Member State which would issue the card – following a joint assessment with the target

<sup>1</sup> The European Construction Industry Federation and the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers are the two social partners for the construction sector at EU level.

host Member State. The card would contain information about the establishment of the company in its home Member State and it would then be used by this company to provide construction services in the target host Member State.

Applying for the e-card is voluntary for companies but the target host Member State is obliged to recognise the e-card once issued. The main goal is to simplify the life of companies by making the legal and administrative procedures easier when they want to work abroad. There are two types of e-card: one for temporary cross-border activity and one for long-term establishment. The assessment procedure is stricter for long-term establishment.

As regards the overall structure of the system, the European Commission is expected to set up an electronic platform, which would be accessible by the Member States via “coordinating authorities” and interconnected to the existing Internal Market Information system (IMI). In the end, the system should be fully electronic and interconnected, with applicants providing the necessary documents only once.

This system, if implemented properly and with mutual trust all over the EU, sounds quite nice and possibly useful for companies. But some elements in the proposal raised major concerns.

In particular, if the host Member State fails to examine and respond to the application in the given time period, then the application is deemed to be valid. That is, without any input from the host Member State. This seems to be an unacceptable open door to fraudulent companies.

Moreover, once issued to the applicant, the e-card remains valid “for an indefinite duration, unless suspended, revoked or cancelled”. What will happen then if the card holder does not – intentionally or not – update his card when necessary? What means of information and control do Member States have to ensure a proper update of the e-cards? How can we ensure fair competition in the sector if card holders provide construction services on the basis of “outdated” e-cards?

Also, the assessment procedure is based on mutual trust between the various national coordinating authorities and mutual recognition between the various national requirements. One can wonder whether this approach is realistic and whether (host) Member States will be able to detect fraudulent companies and reject their application.

Finally, the IMI is far from being efficient in all Member States and one can wonder whether standard questions and answers are fit for the assessment of an e-card application.

On 30/3/2017, FIEC Member Federations received a number of clarifications from the European Commission and agreed to draft a paper listing their common concerns, based on the shortcomings already mentioned above.

It was also agreed to further cooperate with the trade unions and the other sectors directly impacted by this proposal in order to join forces, as and when possible.

## II. The VAT Action Plan

On 7/4/2016, the European Commission published a new Action Plan on VAT (Value Added Tax). The Commission wishes to simplify the common EU VAT system, in particular for SMEs, tackle fraud and modernise it in respect of e-commerce.

In particular, in 2017 the Commission plans to present a reform of the current complex regime of VAT rates. For this purpose, the Commission is now assessing two broad options: either maintaining the status quo or leaving more flexibility to Member States.

In its contribution dated 15/3/2017 to the Commission's public consultation, FIEC advocated in favour of the “acquis” of the construction sector in this field, namely the possibility for Member States to apply reduced rates of VAT for: “provision, construction, renovation and alteration of housing, as part of a social policy” (annex III, point 10), and “renovation and repairing of private dwellings excluding materials which account for a significant part of the value of the service supplied” (annex III, point 10a).

The FIEC contribution also pointed out that construction depends on the place where the project is undertaken. Therefore, giving more discretion to Member States in this field or even introducing further products / services (e.g. for energy efficiency of buildings) benefitting from reduced rates of VAT, would NOT distort the Internal Market.



## B) Infrastructure & financing

As the EU is emerging from the most severe financial crisis in its history, one of its main challenges now lies in the need to encourage investment to support competitiveness and job creation and to revive sustainable growth.

### I. The Investment Plan for Europe

Against this background, President Juncker launched an ambitious investment plan for EU growth and jobs, which includes:

- a new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI),
- a European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) for projects, as well as a pipeline of projects that can be consulted by potential private investors (EIPP),
- a more business-friendly environment for project promoters and private investors.

#### 1. The European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI)

Formally adopted in June 2015, the EFSI builds on €5 billion from the European Investment Bank and an EU guarantee of up to €16 billion. The resulting EFSI fund totalling €21 billion is expected to trigger a total of €315 billion in loans over the period 2015-2017: €240 billion for long-term investment in infrastructure and €75 billion for SMEs.

However, €3.3 billion has been taken from the Connecting Europe Facility to build this guarantee. FIEC criticised this significant cut imposed on the CEF budget, knowing that the objectives of the CEF and the EFSI are completely different. There are now less funding opportunities for infrastructure which requires public grants, in favour of projects which can be easily developed with financial instruments.

As of March 2017, the “Juncker Plan” is now expected to trigger more than €177 billion in total investments, or 56% of the targeted amount. The operations approved under the EFSI represent over €32 billion and are located in all 28 Member States. The EIB has now approved 197 EFSI-backed infrastructure projects worth over €24 billion. The European Investment Fund (EIF) has approved 264 SME agreements, with total financing under the EFSI of over €8 billion. Over 400,000 SMEs and Midcaps are expected to benefit from these agreements.

However, while 24% of total investment is going to energy projects (including for the energy efficiency of buildings), only 9% is going to transport projects.

#### Extension of the Investment Plan for Europe – “EFSI 2.0”:

On 14/9/2016, the European Commission proposed an extension of the Investment Plan to at least half a trillion euros by 2020. The “EFSI 2.0” would put the focus on financing more cross-border and sustainable projects, linking the EFSI to the ambitious targets from the “COP 21” climate agreement. The geographical coverage would be improved. Also, the combination of EFSI funding applications with other funding sources in the EU, would be simplified.

In a position paper dated 24/11/2016, FIEC welcomed this reinforcement as a very good signal for EU and international private investors, and hence, very good news for the financing of the most needed EU infrastructure and energy efficiency projects.

However, it also gave some warnings on a few points: the EFSI should not be reinforced at the expense of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF); such investment for growth should not be considered as pure expenditure as regards the calculation of public deficit; the list of priority sectors for investment should remain stable and with realistic targets.

On 6/12/2016, the Council agreed on its political approach, which partially follows some FIEC recommendations. The European Parliament is in the process of building its own position. In this framework, FIEC contacted with some MEPs and met in particular the co-rapporteur from the BUDG committee, MEP José-Manuel Fernandes (EPP-PT), who, in line with FIEC views, insisted on the principle of additionality of the EFSI and on safeguarding the CEF.

#### 2. The European Investment Projects Portal (EIPP)

In particular, the European Investment Projects Portal, was officially launched in June 2016, aims at increasing the visibility of projects seeking financing by private investors.

FIEC considers that this visibility is extremely important and FIEC President Jean-Louis Marchand met DG ECFIN Director Benjamin Angel on 28/9/2016 in Luxembourg in order to discuss how FIEC could help in further promoting the EIPP at regional level.

Indeed, FIEC considers that this portal cannot fully succeed if its management remains centralised in the hands of the European Commission. Regional and local authorities should have the opportunity

to use this tool in order to directly advertise their projects to potential private investors.

Since then, the FIEC President met the Committee of the Regions President Markku Markkula on 8/11/2016) and FIEC met several associations representing local authorities: Eurocities, the CEMR and the POLIS network.

FIEC participated in a workshop organised by the MEDEF<sup>2</sup> in Brussels on 5/4/2017. The EIPP was presented to a group of French local decision makers who discussed the conditions for the implementation of a pilot-phase at regional level.

## II. The Connecting Europe Facility

### The follow-up:

Regulation (EU) n°1316/2013 dated 11/12/2013 establishes the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), a specific budgetary instrument for transport, energy and telecommunication infrastructure.

Overall, a total budget of €29.9 billion has been dedicated to the CEF for the period 2014-2020:

- €23.1 billion (including €10 billion from the Cohesion Fund) for transport,
- €5.1 billion for energy
- only €1 billion for telecommunication.

These figures represent an important improvement when compared to the meagre €8 billion dedicated to transport infrastructure only during the multi-annual financing period 2006-2013.

Since then, several important calls for projects have been launched with great success.

### CEF mid-term evaluation:

In its answer on 23/2/2017 to the Commission's mid-term evaluation of the CEF, FIEC emphasised the need for EU investment in transport, energy and telecommunication infrastructure, which makes the contribution of CEF extremely important. FIEC even called for an increase in the CEF budget in the next multi-annual financial programming period. Moreover, FIEC stressed that the blending of funds is welcome but public authorities need to have significant technical capacity for this purpose, especially at the local level. Finally, the CEF should be preserved from contributing to newly created financial schemes.

### Public consultation on “permitting and facilitating the preparation of TEN-T core network projects”:

The Commission also wishes to simplify the complex permitting, administrative and procurement procedures for TEN-T core network projects, which contribute to increased costs, delay and uncertainty.

In its contribution of 1/9/2016 to the Commission's public consultation, FIEC pointed out the need for better coordination and better planning, centralised procedures with fewer and more professional interlocutors and avoiding prior notification for State Aid to TEN-T.

According to the information available, by October 2017 the Commission intends to set up a one-stop-shop for large infrastructure projects, with a single investment policy team and checks running in parallel for common approval dates.

## III. The European Parliament's intergroup on “Long-term investment and reindustrialisation”

This intergroup promotes debate on long-term investment related issues with the prospect of future regulatory initiatives and future stimulus measures. It facilitates exchange between the relevant European policy makers and stakeholders, and strengthens the dialogue between public and private long-term investors.

FIEC – a partner organisation – co-organised an event on pipelines of transport infrastructure projects in the EU and how to best prepare such projects. This event took place on 12/10/2016 in Brussels, at the Committee of the Regions. FIEC President Jean-Louis Marchand and Vice-Chair of the working group Vincent Piron spoke on behalf of FIEC. They promoted the concept of well-prepared projects for the benefit of all stakeholders involved, as well as the need to increase the visibility of these projects at regional and local levels towards potential investors.

<sup>2</sup> The MEDEF is the largest employers' federation in France.



FIEC speakers on this occasion: Vincent Piron, Vice-Chairman of FIEC WG Infrastructure & Financing and Jean-Louis Marchand, FIEC President

LTI (Long-Term Investment Intergroup) event at the European Parliament in Brussels (12/10/2016)



From left to right: Raffaele Cattaneo – Member of the CoR (Committee of the Regions), Dominique Riquet – Member of the European Parliament, Violeta Bulc – EU Commissioner in charge of Transport

#### IV. The forthcoming “road package” - revision of the “Eurovignette” Directive

By the end of May 2017, the European Commission is expected to present a proposal for revising the so-called “Eurovignette” Directive, which allows Member States to levy infrastructure charges on their road network and encourage them to earmark these funds for “sustainable transport”.

In its contribution dated 29/9/2016 to the Commission’s public consultation, FIEC stressed the importance of this legislation, particularly as public resources are scarce. FIEC advocated in favour of the “user pays” and “polluter pays” principles, as well as for the extension of the current scope to further roads and vehicles. Most importantly, the revenues generated should be earmarked for sustainable transport infrastructure.

#### V. “BASEL IV”

In autumn 2016, the French Banking Federation (FBF) contacted FIEC and explained the forthcoming negative impact on the financing of infrastructure and building projects by banks from the so-called “Basel IV” on-going revision. Basically, too strict prudential rules imposed on banks for these two types of assets would break EU banks’ investment capacity.

FIEC sent a letter dated 9/11/2016 to the European Commission, an observer in the Basel Committee, in order to address its concerns on this issue. FIEC pointed out that these developments completely contradict the logic of the Investment Plan for Europe – the success of which would be put at stake – and would impose an additional burden on governments and all their public bodies – and eventually on EU’s taxpayers – while public investment is already under pressure due to the rules of the Stability and Growth Pact.

Conference of the ALDE at the European Parliament in Brussels (29/06/2016)  
“Simplifying ESI Funds to increase the efficiency of infrastructure projects”



FIEC speaker: Ulrich Paetzold, Director General and high level representatives of our Bulgarian Member Federation BCC: Svetoslav Glossov and Simeon Peshov

## C) Public procurement

### I. Follow-up of the transposition

Member States had until April 2016 to implement the three 2014 directives on public procurement (i.e. directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU), except for e-procurement rules, the transposition of which can be postponed until October 2018.

FIEC followed the implementation process and assisted its Member Federations. A meeting of the TWG "Public procurement", on 21/11/2016, as well as the plenary meetings of the ECO Commission, on 2/11/2016 and 29/3/2017, enabled national experts to compare transposition difficulties at national level.

FIEC also contacted the European Commission to attempt to obtain further clarification of the text – including via a technical meeting organised with DG GROW on 1/2/2017.

The implementation process is slowly coming to an end with late Member States making some progress.

### II. Electronic procurement

#### 1. ESPD

Article 59 of Directive 2014/24/EU creates the European Single Procurement Document (ESPD), which consists of an updated self-declaration as preliminary evidence confirming that the relevant economic operator fulfils the conditions.

For this purpose, an EU standard form has been established by means of implementing acts. This work involved the Commission and Member States.

A joint action from FIEC and its Member Federations communicated that the initial versions of the draft ESPD were too long and complex.

On 5/1/2016, the Commission finally adopted the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/7 establishing the standard form for the European Single Procurement Document, which is finally simpler and shorter than initially expected.

#### 2. EXEP

The Commission's Experts' group on Electronic Procurement (EXEP), composed of representatives of the EU Member States helps national administrations to make the transition towards electronic procurement, as encouraged in the 2014 directives.

Mrs. Sabine Ayraud (FR-FNTP) is the FIEC representative in this expert group where she is amongst the very few representatives of the economic operators. This gives us great visibility. Mid-2016, the EXEP published three reports on the regulatory aspects and interpretation of the new Directives; the governance and capacity building in the Member States; and IT aspects, solutions and interoperability.

Since autumn 2016, the EXEP is working on three new items: contract registers, e-catalogues, and the accreditation of electronic procurement platforms. FIEC is involved in this latter issue.

### III. International procurement instrument

In a context where the European public procurement market is very open to the rest of the world, whereas in contrast, European enterprises face various barriers in many third countries, on 29/1/2016 the European Commission presented a proposal to discourage discrimination against EU companies by providing price penalties for tenders originating in countries with restrictive or discriminatory measures or practices against EU operators.

However, this proposal gives the European Commission exclusive and discretionary powers to take action in this field.

Therefore, in a joint paper dated 29/2/2016, FIEC and EIC asked for the withdrawal of the proposal, unless it is amended considerably. In a joint meeting organised with the European Commission (DG TRADE and DG GROW) on 21/9/2016, FIEC and EIC held a very open discussion on possible alternative solutions. Since then however, the legislative process has made no progress.





**Meeting with an IRF (International Road Federation) Ethiopian delegation in Brussels (17/07/2016)**  
Presentation of Public Procurement Rules in the EU by Christine Le Forestier, Director for Economic and Legal Affairs

#### IV. Responsible sourcing of minerals

Following a lengthy legislative process, Council and Parliament finally agreed in June 2016 to oblige European importers of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold to undertake “due diligence” controls on their suppliers, as of 1/1/2021. This aims at preventing companies from using raw materials, the trade of which finances regional conflicts.

Although this new legislation has no direct impact on construction companies, it will be complemented by specific accompanying measures. In particular, the European Commission proposes to integrate a performance clause in its own public procurement, so that tenderers responding to public procurement notices of the European Commission would bear the responsibility of proving that their products or services are free from any “conflict minerals”. This performance clause could be extended to national level.

FIEC considers that this would be unfair and extremely burdensome for those companies – and in particular for SMEs – participating in public procurement.

Through a series of contacts, FIEC alerted the European Commission (DG TRADE and DG GROW), as well as the European Parliament (INTA Committee), about this specific problem. FIEC also encouraged its Member Federations to raise this matter with their national authorities.

## Here are just a few examples of what the Economic and Legal Commission has delivered over the past year:

- It reiterated in all relevant position papers and press releases throughout the year that growth and jobs cannot be achieved without investment in construction.
- In particular, it actively participated in the follow-up of the Juncker Investment Plan.
- It served as a platform for exchanging information about construction activity and sectoral measures implemented in the various Member States.
- It provided support to Member Federations for the implementation of the new public procurement directives at national level.

### Position Papers

FIEC/EFBWW letter on the rejection of the European services e-card (23/12/2016)

FIEC position on the draft Regulation amending the European Fund for Strategic Investment "EFSI 2.0" (COM(2016)597 final) (24/11/2016)

FIEC/EFBWW letter on the Commission's initiative intended to propose a "services card" for the construction industry (21/11/2016)

FIEC letter on the negative impact of "Basel IV" on infrastructure and real estate (9/11/2016)

FIEC/EFBWW letter on the rejection of the proposed "services passport" by the European social partners of the construction industry (9/6/2016)

### Press Releases

FIEC/EFBWW press release – Proposed European services e-card: European social partners of the construction industry strongly reject the European Commission's attitude and proposal (16/1/2017)

FIEC press release – FIEC warns against Basel IV draft proposals (9/11/2016)

Joint press release – Transport infrastructure projects must be well-prepared, with a clear socio-economic return (13/10/2016)

FIEC press release – FIEC says yes to extension and reinforcement of Investment Plan for Europe (16/9/2016)

FIEC press release – Juncker Plan, one year after: yes to its extension and reinforcement (17/6/2016)

FIEC press release – Construction Industry: recovery should continue but at a slower pace (15/6/2016)

### Answers to public consultations

FIEC contribution to the European Commission public consultation on the reform of VAT rates (15/3/2017)

FIEC contribution to the European Commission public consultation on the mid-term evaluation of the Connecting Europe Facility (23/2/2017)

FIEC contribution to the European Commission public consultation on a Single Market Information Tool (SMIT) (7/11/2016)

FIEC contribution to the European Commission public consultation on the review of the "Eurovignette" Directive (29/9/2016)

FIEC contribution to the European Commission public consultation on permitting and facilitating the preparation of TEN-T core network projects (1/9/2016)

FIEC contribution to the European Commission public consultation on the proposal to introduce a services passport and address regulatory barriers in the construction and business services sectors (20/7/2016)

## Intervention in public events

Presentation by U. Paetzold, FIEC Director General, in Commission's Single Market Forum – "Growing bureaucracy or still added-value?" (31/3/2017, Warsaw)

Participation of Daniel Boscari, Vice-Chair WG "Infrastructure & Financing" at the dinner-debate "EU prudential regulation: balancing growth orientation, the green investment agenda and stability" hosted by the EP Intergroup Long-Term Investment and Reindustrialisation (7/2/2017, Brussels)

Speech by J.L. Marchand, FIEC President, and presentation by V. Piron, Vice-Chair WG "Infrastructure & Financing", in the event of the EP Intergroup Long-Term Investment and Reindustrialisation on "Transport infrastructure pipeline in Europe – What makes a good project?" (12/10/2016, Brussels)

Presentation by C. Le Forestier, Director Economic and Legal affairs, to a FNTP delegation on the Investment Plan for Europe (i.e. the European Fund for Strategic Investment) (29/9/2016, Brussels)

Presentation by C. Le Forestier, Director Economic and Legal affairs, to an IRF Ethiopian delegation on public procurement and contract conditions (15/7/2016, Brussels)

Speech by U. Paetzold, FIEC Director General, in a conference of the ALDE group on the European Structural and Investment Funds (29/6/2016)

All these documents are available  
on the FIEC website [www.fiec.eu](http://www.fiec.eu)

# SOCIAL COMMISSION (SOC)

**Maxime Verhagen, BE**  
President

Domenico Campogrande, FIEC  
Rapporteur



SUB-COMMISSION SOC-1

SUB-COMMISSION SOC-2

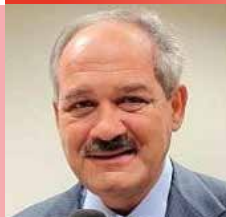
SUB-COMMISSION SOC-3

"VOCATIONAL TRAINING"

"HEALTH AND SAFETY"

"EMPLOYMENT"

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**Massimo Calzoni, IT**  
Co-Chairman

Rossella Martino, IT  
Co-Rapporteur



**Cristina García Herguedas, ES**  
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Ricardo Cortes, ES  
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**Michel Gili, FR**  
Chairman

Eva Blouin, FR  
Rapporteur



**Jakob Krohn-Rasmussen, DK**  
Co-Chairman



## A) Training, youth employment, improving the image of the sector for competitiveness and growth

### I. Skills gap and training: key EU priorities

In a fast-changing global economy, skills development and adaptation play a key role in determining the competitiveness and the capacity to drive innovation of our industry. They are also a pull factor for investment, job creation and growth.

Despite the persistently high level of unemployment in many Member States, particularly amongst young people, 40% of European employers report that they cannot find people with the right skills that are needed in the market.

In order to tackle this concern, in June 2016 the European Commission published a Communication entitled “The New Skills Agenda for Europe” [COM(2016)381] putting skills and training amongst the highest EU priorities. This Communication aims at improving the teaching and recognition of skills that drive competitiveness and innovation - from basic to advanced skills, as well as transversal and civic skills - and ultimately to improve the chances of finding employment.

Tackling the skills challenges will require significant policy efforts and systemic reforms in education and training, in particular as regards “green” policies, as buildings are responsible for 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the EU.

This has led FIEC to get actively involved in two European projects, co-financed by the European Commission.

The first one, entitled SKILLCO ([www.skillco.eu](http://www.skillco.eu)), is coordinated by the Chamber of Construction and Building Materials Industry (CCIS CCBMIS), our Slovenian member. It brings together social partners organisations and training providers from Germany, Hungary and Slovenia, as well as FIEC.

The main goals of the project are to define and identify existing skills and anticipate those that will

be needed in future, to develop and define learning units, with the use of ECVET (European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training) principles, that could be integrated in formal VET (Vocational Education and Training) programmes or used as training courses. The intention is, on the one hand, to integrate the learning unit outcomes that will be developed in the framework of the project into the existing sectoral curricula and, on the other hand, to include them (where possible, due to the differences in the various education systems and where required with specific modifications) in the national occupation standards and regular VET programmes. These goals therefore constitute attempts to develop and implement comparable curricula in different countries, with the aim of fostering workers' mobility.

Amongst the project's key outcomes there will be the development of two VET modules (module A: curricula learning unit for pupils; module B: practical training for workers) and their final implementation. Both modules will be supported by a mobile app training tool developed in the framework of the SKILLCO project.

The second project, entitled “VET4LEC – Inclusive Vocational Education and Training for Low Energy Construction”, is coordinated by FIEC and is undertaken in cooperation with our social partner EFBWW (European Federation of Building and Wood Workers) together with 9 other national partners and the University of Westminster.

The project intends, amongst other things, to identify the ways in which:

- coordination between occupations involved in low energy construction on site can be improved so as to reduce the performance gap between design intent and implementation and meet energy efficiency targets;
- the opportunities for low energy construction (LEC) and interdisciplinary Vocational Education and Training (VET) can be extended so as to enhance the attractiveness of the sector and advance energy literacy, in particular for women and young people;
- trainers can become more aware of LEC requirements and the difficulties of implementation at site level.

## II. Attracting and retaining young people in the construction industry: an on-going key challenge for the future

In the framework of the EU sectoral Social Dialogue for the construction industry, FIEC and EFBWW launched a website in 2015, with the financial support of the European Commission, aimed at presenting national best practice concerning tools/initiatives to promote youth employment and improve the working conditions of young people in the construction industry. The exchange of best practice on initiatives for promoting youth employment and improving working conditions can provide extremely useful input for the setting up and development of targeted new initiatives, by showing how other stakeholders in other countries have addressed the same concerns.

The website ([www.construction-for-youth.eu](http://www.construction-for-youth.eu)) currently contains information about more than 40 different initiatives from 13 different countries and continues to be updated on a regular basis with new initiatives being developed at national level.

Also with the aim of promoting a positive image of the sector to young people, FIEC is continuing its partnership (associate partner) of "WorldSkills Europe" ([www.euroskills.org](http://www.euroskills.org)), a body which promotes excellence in the field of skills and competence development across the EU amongst other things through bi-annual competitions. The last one, "Euroskills 2016", took place in December 2016 in Gothenburg (Sweden), with 500 young skilled competitors from 28 different countries, as well as 65.000 visitors.

The activities of FIEC also focusing on apprenticeships and work-based learning as a way to facilitate the transition from education and training to work. One of the main reasons for this approach is that evidence suggests that countries with a strong "dual" vocational education and training (VET) and apprenticeship systems have lower levels of youth unemployment than countries without such systems.

As part of a service contract with the European Commission (DG GROW) a consortium led by FIEC collected pledges from construction companies and relevant stakeholders<sup>1</sup>. Such pledges are linked to one or several of the following aspects:

- increasing the number and quality of apprenticeship places in the construction sector

- introducing elements of training in companies, construction training centres and/or schools that have not previously taken part in such schemes
- strengthening specific training in the construction sector, such as for energy efficiency, resource efficiency or digital economy
- transferring "dual" apprenticeship schemes which have proven their success in a country/region to another country/region where no such scheme is being used;
- reviewing existing apprenticeship models, both general schemes used in a country/region and specific schemes used by individual companies, to increase the quality, efficiency and visibility of such apprenticeship training models.

The European Commission continues to promote "dual" apprenticeship, amongst other things by means of its European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAFA)<sup>2</sup>, and therefore those companies/organisations that wish to submit their own pledge are invited to contact FIEC.

## B) Health & Safety at the workplace: an investment, not a cost factor

Despite the overall reduction in the number of work related accidents and illnesses, improving health and safety in the workplace continues to be an important field of action for the construction sector and therefore one of FIEC's main priorities.

### I. Revision of the "Carcinogens" Directive and "Respirable Crystalline Silica" (RCS)

One of the actions in the European Commission Work Programme for 2016 was the revision of the existing Directive 2004/37/EC on the "Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work" (hereafter "Carcinogens" Directive). With this amendment the Commission intended to revise or to introduce exposure limit values for 13 chemical agents, including "Respirable Crystalline Silica" (RCS).

Constituting 12% of the Earth's crust, quartz, the most common form of crystalline silica, is the second most abundant mineral in nature. As a consequence, it is everywhere in the environment: on beaches and roads, in fields, on athletics tracks and in gardens. It is present in all naturally occurring materials that have been mined from the ground (sand, gravel,

<sup>1</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/construction/apprenticeships/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1147&langId=en>

metallic and non metallic mineral ores, etc.). Crystalline silica is therefore an essential component of materials which have an abundance of uses in the construction industry and are a vital component in many things used in our everyday lives. It is impossible to imagine houses without bricks, mortar or windows, cars without engines or windscreens, life without roads or other transport infrastructure and everyday items made of glass or pottery.

From the beginning, FIEC has criticised the figures used in the impact assessment undertaken by the European Commission, which do not reflect the reality of the construction industry and therefore do not constitute a reliable basis for supporting the proposal submitted. As a consequence the proposal contained provisions which would put disproportionate organisational and financial burdens on construction companies in comparison to the wrongly estimated potential benefits in terms of workers' protection. The foreseen additional costs related to measuring limit values, risk assessment and replacement/reduction costs would be particularly unbearable for smaller companies, the majority of the construction industry enterprises, and their clients.

The construction sector is characterised by a wide variety of activities with a temporary nature, which imply significant variations in the possible levels and types of exposure of workers to RCS: for example, during the same day the same worker could undertake the same task in a closed environment and then in open air. Construction may even end up being paralysed as lower limit values would impede basic construction tasks.

For FIEC, including RCS in the "Carcinogens" Directive, would therefore impose inappropriate, unnecessary and unfair constraints in construction activities/processes where the hazard does not exist or in which workers are exposed to low concentrations. Exposure to RCS is a complex issue and each profession has its specific circumstances, risk assessment procedures and risk management measures and these sectoral differences should be taken into account.

For these reasons FIEC considered that the "Chemical Agents" Directive (98/24/EC), which is based on risk assessment and risk minimisation, would have been a more appropriate legislative framework for adequate protection of workers against RCS exposure.

At the time of finalising this report the European Parliament has decided to follow the path of the

IARC (the International Agency for Research on Cancer) which considered that "there is sufficient evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of crystalline silica". It has therefore on the one hand supported the proposal of the European Commission to include RCS amongst the substances covered by the "Carcinogens" Directive, and, on the other hand, it has also proposed to lower significantly (from 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup> to 0.05 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) the applicable binding limit value (which would become mandatory in all the Member States) compared to the one recommended by the EU Advisory Committee on Safety and Health.

Negotiations will now start between the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the European Commission with the objective of finalising the legislative procedure as quickly as possible, with a possible significant negative impact on the construction industry.

## II. Working safer with earth moving machines

A construction worksite is a place of continuous change and which sees the interaction of many different stakeholders. These characteristics have strong implications on occupational safety and health, in particular regarding earth-moving machinery, which can be the source of serious and fatal accidents. Hazard sources include the (heavy) machine itself, the amount of moved ground or material, the interaction with other parts or types of machinery, possible inadequate operation of the machine and the overall safety of the construction worksite. Design issues, especially the ergonomics of the machinery itself, play an important role as well (access to the machinery, driver seats, overall ergonomics of the machine). The operator's visibility around the machine also plays a crucial role.

In this respect, each stakeholder has an important role to play. Employers need to put in place adequate safety measures. Workers need to understand the risks, their consequences and the precautions that they need to take to enable safe use of construction equipment. The manufacturers of construction equipment and machinery strive to deliver products to the market that generate the highest productivity, lowest environmental impact, as well as the highest standards of safety for workers and those in the equipment's vicinity and machinery safety standards can also contribute to a decrease in accidents and occupational hazards.

Against this background, FIEC, the EFBWW and CECE (the Committee for European Construction

Equipment) initiated a joint project, which received the financial support of the European Commission (DG EMPL), aimed at improving the health and safety conditions when working with construction machinery by establishing, as a first step, a better dialogue between all parties concerned, namely the users and the producers of such machinery. The dialogue between them should investigate partners' concerns, exchange information, review solutions and explore ways and means to improve existing design and configuration of machinery and standard processes.

Within the framework of this project, which started at the beginning of 2016 and will last until July 2017, different workshops were organised around specific themes, such as technology in transition, ergonomics, work organisation and training, collision avoidance, etc.

A final report will be disseminated at the end of the project.

### III. Management of psycho-social risks at the workplace: improving quality and productivity at work

The European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) found that over 40% of employers consider psycho-social risks more difficult to manage than 'traditional' OSH (Occupational Safety and Health) risks. In addition, according to the OSHA Bilbao Agency a survey of senior managers found that almost half of them believed that none of their workers would ever suffer from a mental health problem during their working life. The reality is that up to one in six will suffer from psycho-social illnesses. However, it is complicated to determine clearly which ones are exclusively work-related.

Studies suggest that 50–60 % of all lost working days can be attributed to work-related stress and psycho-social risks. It is the second most frequently reported work-related health problem in Europe – after musculoskeletal disorders.

Workers and employers are equally concerned and therefore the topic, even though it is highly complex and not easy to deal with, was put in the work programme of the EU sectoral Social Dialogue for the construction industry.

Employers in Europe have the obligation to assess and manage psycho-social risks at the workplace and they are encouraged to implement additional,

voluntary measures to promote mental well-being. Such legal obligations and voluntary initiatives are important to running a successful business and retaining a motivated and healthy workforce.

FIEC and the EFBWW have therefore decided to launch a new joint social dialogue project aimed at assessing the main factors of psycho-social risks in the workplace in the construction sector, collecting and sharing examples of national best practice and finally, developing a common methodology to address such risks, tailored to the needs and circumstances of the construction sector. The project, which is co-financed by the European Commission, started at the beginning of 2017 and will run until the end of 2018.

### IV. Supporting the campaigns of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU OSHA)

As in previous years FIEC decided to continue supporting, as a partner, the campaigns of the EU Agency for Occupational Safety and Health at work and in particular the one covering 2016-2017 on "Healthy Workplaces for All Ages".

The European population has aged significantly in recent decades as a result of increasing life



#### Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards Ceremony (Brussels, 23/03/2017)

Hand-over of Campaign Partner Certificate organised by the European Agency for Safety & Health at work (OSHA)  
 Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility and Domenico Campogrande, Director for Social Affairs



expectancy and declining birth rates. This trend is predicted to continue and intensify: by 2040, the proportion of the EU population over 65 years of age is expected to account for nearly 27% of the total population (Eurostat, 2014).

At the workplace level, an ageing workforce is both an opportunity and a challenge. With chronic health problems becoming more prevalent, and workers being exposed to workplace hazards for longer, Health and Safety management in the workplace has to evolve and workplaces need to adapt working conditions. At the same time, older workers cannot be treated as one homogeneous group, as health changes or reductions in work capacity are not inevitable for all, and they often have greater experience and know-how, bringing many opportunities for cross-generational exchange.

This is particularly true in the construction sector where, in addition to the demographic developments, companies are facing difficulties in attracting and retaining young people, which is putting the sustainability of the whole sector at threat.

The EU OSHA recognises the key role that Social Partners can play in this respect and therefore FIEC and its Social Partner, the EFBWW, will address this topic in order to identify possible joint initiatives.

## **C) Improving the functioning of the Internal Market by setting a level playing field**

### **I. Better enforcement of existing legislation for fair mobility and long term sustainability of national socio-economic models**

Construction companies are confronted with increasing competitive pressure, in which cases of fraudulent practice and forms of unfair competition occur. This is due, amongst other things, to a legislative framework which is sometimes unclear, to difficulties in enforcing it or to difficulties in undertaking adequate controls, in particular in cross-border operations. In addition, very different national social security regimes within the current legislative framework, can become a serious additional concern in cross-border operations.

Mobility and freedom to provide services within the Single Market are amongst the main pillars of EU

competitiveness and should therefore be promoted. However, this should be done in the light of the economic and social models that have been put in place in the different Member States, in order to avoid jeopardising their long term sustainability.

In its Political Guidelines and in its Work Programme for 2016 the European Commission announced a targeted revision of the "Posting of Workers" Directive 96/71/EC with the aim, on the one hand, of addressing unfair practices and, on the other hand, of promoting the principle that the same work at the same work place should be remunerated in the same manner.

FIEC has always considered a possible revision of the "Posting" Directive as premature, because of amongst other things, the on-going implementation of the "Enforcement" Directive 2014/67/EC, and the strong reaction of several Member States, which triggered the so-called "Yellow card" procedure against the European Commission's proposal, clearly showed the real danger of long political and controversial discussions during the legislative procedure, as well as legal uncertainty and possible conflicts with the "Enforcement" Directive itself.

For FIEC the Commission's proposal does not address the real concerns related to "posting". Most of the problems identified in relation to "posting" are linked, on the one hand, to difficulties or shortcomings in the application and enforcement of the existing legislative framework and, on the other hand, to illegal practices, which will not be solved by the proposal. It is these problems that must take priority before considering possible changes to the legislative framework itself.

The proposal presented by the European Commission contains provisions that are of little or no added value, that can interfere with industrial relations and wage setting mechanisms at national level and that create legal ambiguity. It could therefore facilitate fraud and abuse instead of combating them, as well as hampering the provision of cross-border services.

In 2015 FIEC and its Social Partner, the EFBWW, signed a joint position with concrete proposals for fighting against social fraud. For FIEC all the proposed measures can be put in place without revising the "Posting" Directive and thereby avoiding the danger of an endless political debate between "receiving" and "sending" countries, as well as putting into question the provisions and the credibility of the "Enforcement" Directive, which several Member States still have not implemented at national level.

## II. Tackling undeclared work by means of an EU Platform

In May 2016 the European Platform against undeclared work, established through Decision (EU) 2016/3441, was officially launched. This new platform aims at bringing together national enforcement bodies involved in tackling undeclared work, such as labour and social security inspectorates, etc., as well as other stakeholders, such as EU-level representatives of employers and employees. FIEC succeeded in having a seat as an observer in this Platform.

The platform is intended to become a forum, through which stakeholders can share information and best practice, explore national and EU tools to face shared problems, such as the phenomenon of "bogus self-employment" for example, explore ways to improve data exchange between national administrations and strengthen cooperation.

A two-year work programme (2017-2018) has been adopted, setting out the priorities of the Platform and a description of the activities on the basis of three inter-linked priority axes: cooperation and joint action, mutual learning activities and systematic exchange of information, increasing the knowledge about undeclared work.

In addition to these priority axes, two sectors heavily affected by undeclared work, namely construction and transport, have been identified, for which specific activities are foreseen and can be further developed.

The activities and all information concerning this Platform can be found on a dedicated website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1299&langId=en>

## III. Further strengthening the EU Sectoral Social dialogue

At the beginning of 2017 the boards of FIEC and EFBWW met in Amsterdam with the aim of further strengthening the links between the two organisations, as well as their involvement in the EU Sectoral Social Dialogue for the construction industry.

Both organisations agreed on the importance of reinforcing the sectoral social partners' impact on EU legislation, amongst other things by means of joint initiatives on sectoral topics of common interest. Previous experience has shown that such joint initiatives can effectively have an influence within the EU Institutions at the highest political levels.

FIEC and EFBWW also agreed on the need to cooperate in order to strengthen the social partners' organisations in Central and Eastern European countries with the aim of providing them with the adequate structures and means for organising and setting-up strong autonomous bi-lateral industrial relations.



**Joint meeting of FIEC and EFBWW Boards in Amsterdam (21/01/2017)**

From left to right: Ulrich Paetzold (FIEC Director General), Sam Häggglund (EFBWW Secretary General), Christian Fölzer (EFBWW-AT), Gunde Odgaard (EFBWW-DK), Josef Muchitsch (EFBWW-AT), Gijs Lokhorst (EFBWW-NL), Dietmar Schäfers (EFBWW President), Maxime Verhagen (FIEC Vice-President SOC), Maria Ángeles Asenjo (FIEC Vice-President MEDA), Kjetil Tønning (FIEC Vice-President TEC)

Here are just a few examples of what the SOC Commission has delivered over the past year, on its own or jointly with the EFBWW (European Federation of Building and Wood Workers) within the sectoral European social dialogue:

- FIEC-EFBWW website on “Initiatives for youth employment in the construction industry” ([www.construction-for-youth.eu](http://www.construction-for-youth.eu))
- Joint FIEC-EFBWW-CECE project on “Working safer with construction machines – A multi-stakeholders approach” (VS/2015/0340)
- Joint FIEC-EFBWW project “VET4LEC - Inclusive Vocational Education and Training for Low Energy Construction” (VS/2016/0404)
- Lead partner in the DG GROW action “construction pledges” for the European Alliance for Apprenticeship (SI2.702776)
- Partner in the project “SKILLCO - An innovative project for facing skills gaps in the construction industry” coordinated by our Slovenian member CCBMIS
- Partner in the project “Enhancing administrative cooperation through coordinated transnational actions” coordinated by INTEFP and ASTREES (FR)

## Position Papers

Joint letter with 16 other EU employers’ organisations to the European Commission on the proposed revision of the “Carcinogens” Directive 2004/37/EC (11/3/2016)

Joint FIEC-EBC position on the proposed revision of the “Carcinogens” Directive 2004/37/EC (8/9/2016)

Position on the proposed revision of the “Posting” Directive 96/71/EC (20/9/2016)

Joint FIEC-EFBWW letters to the European Commission on the “Services Passport / E-Card” (9/6/2016, 16/11/2016, 23/12/2016)

Joint letter with BusinessEurope and other 10 EU employers’ organisations to the European Parliament on the proposed revision of the “Carcinogens” Directive 2004/37/EC (4/1/2017)

## Press Releases

Revision of the Posting Directive: for FIEC the proposal does not address the right priorities (21/9/2016)

Tripartite Social Summit: FIEC presents its views for growth, jobs and fairness in the construction industry (19/10/2016)

Joint FIEC - EFBWW Press Release - The social partners of the construction industry, strongly reject the proposed European services e-card (16/1/2017)

## Participations in public events

Committee of Regions stakeholders consultation on the revision of the “Posting” Directive (Brussels, 18/5/2016) - Intervention by Domenico Campogrande, Director Social Affairs

20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AEIP (European Association of Paritarian Institutions) (Brussels, 8/9/2016) - Intervention by Domenico Campogrande, Director Social Affairs

European Social and Economic Committee conference on “Labour mobility” (Brussels, 28/9/2016) - Presentation by Domenico Campogrande, Director Social Affairs

Tripartite Social Summit presenting FIEC views for growth, jobs and fairness in the construction industry (Brussels, 19/10/2016) - Intervention of Jean-Louis Marchand, FIEC President

EUROGIP seminar “Health and Safety at the workplace: a lever for companies’ performance” (Paris, 2/3/2017) - Intervention of Jean-Louis Marchand, FIEC President

ERA Convention “Securing talent for the future” (Amsterdam, 2/5/2017) - Presentation by Domenico Campogrande, Director Social Affairs

Build Up Skills “Green jobs for energy efficiency: meeting the needs of the construction sector” (Brussels, 1/6/2017) - Presentation by Domenico Campogrande, Director Social Affairs

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 position paper

20.09.2016

# FIEC position<sup>1</sup> on the proposal for amending the "Posting" Directive [COM(2016)128]

## ■ FIEC main messages

- 1) FIEC is of the opinion that the proposed targeted revision is not needed, amongst others considering the on-going implementation of the "Enforcement" Directive 2014/67/EC. There is a real danger of long political and controversial discussions during the legislative procedure creating political divisions between Member States, as well as legal uncertainty and possible conflicts with the "Enforcement" Directive itself.
- 2) The proposal does not address the real concerns related to "posting". Most of the problems identified in relation to "posting" are linked, on the one hand, to difficulties or shortcomings in the application and enforcement of the existing legislative framework and, on the other hand, to illegal practices, which will not be solved by this proposal. It is therefore on these problems that priorities must be concentrated before considering possible changes to the legislative framework itself.
- 3) The proposal presented by the European Commission contains provisions that are of little or no added value, that can interfere with industrial relations and wage setting mechanisms at national level and that create legal ambiguity. It could therefore facilitate frauds and abuses instead of combating them, as well as hamper the provision of cross-border services.
- 4) FIEC will continue to collaborate in a constructive manner with the European Institutions and all the concerned stakeholders, in order to address adequately the problem of illegal practices and social-fraud in the framework of "posting".

<sup>1</sup> This position is not shared by our Belgian member "Confédération Construction"





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08.09.2016

## **FIEC and EBC joint position paper on the proposed amendment of the Carcinogens Directive (2004/37/EC) [COM(2016)248]**

### **A) Key messages**

1. The figures used in the impact assessment undertaken by the European Commission do not reflect the reality of the construction industry and therefore they do not constitute a reliable basis for supporting the proposal submitted.
2. Including “Respirable Crystalline Silica” dust generated by a work process (hereafter : RCS) in the scope of the “Carcinogens” Directive would introduce requirements on construction companies which are disproportionate in respect to the objectives to be achieved, in particular for medium and small-sized enterprises. The Chemical Agents directive (98/24/EC) would be a more appropriate framework providing an adequate level of protection to workers, whilst at the same time avoiding disproportionate burdens for employers.
3. In order to be effectively implemented a limit exposure level must be proportionate to the concerned occupational risk and be technically measurable. It should therefore not go below the proposed level of 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>.
4. Further improvements in the protection of workers can more efficiently be achieved by means of preventive actions through dissemination and exchange of best practices.

# TECHNICAL COMMISSION (TEC)

**Kjetil Tonning, NO**  
President

Sue Arundale, FIEC  
Rapporteur



SUB-COMMISSION TEC-1

SUB-COMMISSION TEC-2

SUB-COMMISSION TEC-3

"DIRECTIVES, STANDARDS AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE"

"RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND  
INNOVATION"

"ENVIRONMENT"

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**Jan Coumans, BE**  
Chairman

Eric Winnepeninckx, BE  
Rapporteur



**Claude Dumoulin, FR**  
Chairman

Pascal Lemoine, FR  
Rapporteur



**Lennart Henriz, SE**  
Chairman

Marianne Hedberg, SE  
Rapporteur

## Clean energy and standardisation dominated the agenda in 2016

TEC had a busy year with the launch of the Joint Initiative on Standardisation, the Clean Energy Package and a joint position with the construction products manufacturers, which helped to re-open the discussion about the future of the Construction Products Regulation.

## A) Regulatory Matters

### I. Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

Following a year in which FIEC was frustrated by the problems created by the Construction Products Regulation, without seeing any obvious progress towards solutions, 2016 proved to be much more satisfying. In particular, the European Commission started to acknowledge the problems of contractors, created by the lack of relevant information on the CE Mark and in the Declaration of Performance and the ambiguity over the status of contractors and other users in terms of rights and obligations, amongst other things.

#### 1. Joint Positions with Construction Products Europe

The two joint positions on CPR and Standardisation and Market Surveillance, developed with Construction Products Europe, continued to influence the debate with the European Commission and other stakeholders, about the future of the CPR.

These have often been cited in discussions and FIEC was invited to speak at the EU Construction Products Regulation Symposium in Berlin, in November 2016, organised by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (see relevant section).

#### 2. Implementation Report on the CPR

Although the situation improved in the final quarter of 2016, one milestone that marked a disappointment for FIEC was the European Commission's Implementation Report on the CPR, COM (2016) 445. The report was published in July 2016, with very little assessment of the impact on end users.

#### FIEC view on the future of the CPR – Starting Points

CE marking under the CPR concerns only:

- Manufacturers, importers, distributors
- Member States, national and EU authorities

Therefore:

- CE marking should support the placing on the market of safe, healthy and sustainable construction products
- Contractors do not have to CE mark

The CPR should become a useful tool for contractors by providing a simple and clear regulation answering their needs while at the same time being economically sustainable for all manufacturers and effective for the market.

European standardisation for design, execution and construction products is not yet working and as long as this remains the case, national rules are needed to close the gap between requested properties and actual performance.

The CE Mark is NOT a quality mark! However, poor communication has led to unintended perceptions, including for some users, the belief that the exact opposite is true.

It should be clear that the CE Mark does not guarantee either

- Fitness for intended use of the product
- or
- High and reliable product performance

In the absence of these guarantees, contractors need voluntary European or national quality marks that give them the assurance they seek.

However, other discussions about the future of the CPR, with key stakeholders, including CEN and Construction Products Europe contributed to an eventual opinion from the REFIT Platform, highlighting some of the issues over which FIEC, amongst others, has expressed concerns. This opinion was a catalyst for what came after, including a new forum, intended to address the specific problems in the regulation (see above).

**Construction Products Regulation and its impact on the Internal Market**  
**European Parliament (Brussels, 31/01/2017)**  
 from left to right: Jan Coumans (FIEC, Chairman TEC-1), Christophe Sykes (Construction Products Europe), MEP Catherine Stihler (Rapporteur for the CPR), Gwenole Cozigou (EU Commission – DG GROW/Directorate C)



### 3. Standing Committee on Construction (SCC) – CPR Technical Platform

Launched in the autumn of 2016, this multi-stakeholder group has met several times, focusing on a specific aspect of the CPR on each occasion. The following have already been discussed extensively:

- Standardisation
- Derogations and simplified procedures
- Information needs in the supply chain.

In addition to the above, key stakeholders were invited to present their concerns about the CPR at an event in the European Parliament, hosted by Catherine Stihler MEP, the Rapporteur for the CPR. FIEC called for explicit exclusion of contractors from the obligations imposed on “economic operators” namely, manufacturers, distributors and importers of construction products. This is because, except for extremely rare cases, contractors do not place construction products on the market and therefore are normally not required to CE mark. The work of the CPR Technical Platform is continuing and FIEC is developing a position, to explain what contractors need from any revisions to the CPR.

## B) Standardisation Matters

### I. Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIES)

In June 2016, FIEC co-signed the Joint Initiative on Standardisation, in the presence of European Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska. The signing ceremony, which took place in Amsterdam was also attended by representatives of Member States and other industry federations.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=8852&lang=nl](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=8852&lang=nl)

Since the launch of the JIES, 15 actions have started. FIEC is directly involved in Action 5, a Pilot Project - Aiding the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) through standards.

**13/6/2016 - EU Single Market Forum in Amsterdam**  
**“Working together to strengthen the Single Market for EU Businesses”**

From left to right: Christophe Sykes (Construction Products Europe), Riccardo Viaggi (EBC), EU Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Ulrich Paetzold (FIEC)





## II. CEN Technical Committees

Since the last Annual Report, FIEC's liaison status on a number of CEN Technical Committees (TCs), as part of its agreement with CEN as a Partner Organisation, continues as detailed below:

- Pending:
 

<b>CEN/TC 135/WG15</b>	Scope of EN 1090
------------------------	------------------
- Approved, but no representative:
 

<b>CEN/TC 89</b>	Thermal performance of buildings and building components
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- FIEC representative:
 

<b>CEN/TC 104</b>	Concrete and related products
<b>CEN/TC 135</b>	Execution of steel structures and aluminium structures
<b>CEN/TC 250</b>	Structural Eurocodes
<b>CEN/TC 292</b>	Characterisation of waste
<b>CEN/TC 350</b>	Sustainability of construction works
<b>CEN/TC 434</b>	Electronic Invoicing in Public Procurement (for ECO)
<b>CEN/TC 440</b>	Project Committee on Electronic Public Procurement
<b>CEN/TC 442</b>	Building Information Modelling (BIM)

## III. Execution Standards

At the time of writing, FIEC is developing its position on execution standards.

## C) Promoting Innovation and Research

### I. ECCREDI

FIEC continued to hold the Vice Presidency of the European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation (ECCREDI), while a second Vice President was also elected, namely Johan Vynke, from the Belgian Building Research Institute (BBRI). ECCREDI published both a new strategy and a brochure, explaining what ECCREDI does and giving information about its members. Both Vice Presidents met representatives of the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE), to discuss closer collaboration in general and a report on Driving Transformational Change

in the Construction Value Chain<sup>1</sup> in particular. FIEC will take over the Presidency of ECCREDI in November 2017.

## II. Horizon 2020

FIEC participated in the consultation, which took place as part of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020. The evaluation is expected to be completed in 2017. Its results will also inform the development of the next programme.

## III. New TEC-2 Chairman

FIEC's Member Federations appointed a new Chairman of TEC-2, namely Claude Dumoulin, who is also FIEC's representative on CEN/TC 442 on BIM. TEC-2 closely followed the developments in ECTP and FIEC was represented in two of the ECTP committees, namely Infrastructure and Mobility and Active Ageing and Design. In 2017, TEC-2 will synchronise its meeting schedule with that of the BIM Working Group, because both groups are working on BIM, with TEC-2 taking the lead on lobbying for funding for BIM-related research.

## IV. Building Information Modelling (BIM)

See separate section BIM Working Group (page 18).



**GeoBIM Conference in Amsterdam, 24-25/11/2016**  
Vice-President Kjetil Tønning presenting 'GeoBIM-Driven Infrastructural Development: Where Europe Stands – FIEC's experience'

<sup>1</sup> <http://bpie.eu/publication/construction-value-chain/>

## D) Circular Economy

### I. Construction and Demolition Waste

The European Commission, led by DG GROW and supported by DG ENV, published its Protocol on Construction and Demolition Waste (CDW). FIEC was involved in the development of this protocol, with representatives on two Task Forces: “1”, which dealt with technical matters and “2”, which dealt with policy matters. In addition, the final report following the technical and economic study on the subject of pre-demolition audit was published. The key findings highlight wide variation in national regulations, quality and reliability of audits and auditors, lack of surveillance by authorities and concerns about costs. Most waste assessment is carried out by the contractor undertaking the demolition work.

### II. Implementation Report

In January 2017, the European Commission published a report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan<sup>2</sup>. Amongst other things, the report stressed the need for an agreement as soon as possible on the legislative package on waste, which was proposed in 2015 (see below). FIEC reacted to comments on Ecodesign in its position on the Clean Energy Package<sup>3</sup>.

### III. Revision of Waste Directives

Following the delay in the adoption of the waste package proposals, the relevant Committee in the European Parliament (ENVI) adopted an opinion in March 2017 and a Working Party on Environment in the Council of the European Union held further discussions. It is expected that following the trialogue the European Commission will submit amendments, with a view to the legislation being adopted later in 2017 or in 2018.

<sup>2</sup> COM(2017) 33 final

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fiec.eu/en/cust/documentview.aspx?UID=5d218502-85c3-4fdb-9ccb-5e40c20c77f3>

## E) Resource Efficiency

### I. Voluntary assessment framework on environmental performance in buildings

#### 1. Stakeholders Group – Proposal on Key Indicators

DG Environment and the Joint Research Centre continued their work on the development of indicators for the forthcoming framework, due to be published in 2017. Following an intensive discussion of a draft proposal in November 2016, at a meeting of stakeholders in which FIEC participated, an updated proposal is expected later in 2017.

## F) Energy efficiency

### I. Clean Energy Package

Following the publication of a comprehensive package of proposals in November 2016, FIEC published its horizontal position on the Clean Energy Package in March 2017. ECO, SOC and TEC broadly welcomed the package, expressing support for the binding energy efficiency target and the broad approach to innovation and financing. That said, a number of specific details were identified for further comment and requests for clarification, including the meaning of “industrial production” in construction and an emphatic request for the inclusion of the industry in the proposed Clean Energy Industrial Forum.

### II. Energy Performance in Buildings – Revision of EPBD

As part of the above package, DG ENER published a proposal for certain revisions to the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive. This long awaited document aims to improve the rate of renovation of the existing building stock, by requiring Member States to address residential and non-residential buildings in their long-term building strategies. FIEC’s position, published in March 2017, cautioned against premature use of Energy Performance Certificates to measure improvements in energy performance before and after renovation. It also questioned the purpose and nature of the proposed “Smartness Indicator” and called for a wide-sweeping consultation with relevant experts, as well as coherence with the voluntary assessment framework on the environmental performance of

buildings, due to be published in June 2017. (See above). FIEC had an initial meeting with the European Parliament Rapporteur for the EPBD proposal, Mr Bendt Bendtsen, in March 2017 and this will be followed up as and when required.

## G) Dangerous Substances

### I. ECHA Stakeholder

FIEC continued to be a member of the European Chemicals Agency's groups of stakeholders.

#### Extract from FIEC Position Paper:

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)

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**Yes to revised EPBD but not all provisions are smart !**

15.03.2017

#### ■ Drastic improvement in energy renovation rates essential

Given that FIEC has long held the view that the main problem with the existing Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD) lies in inconsistent and half-hearted implementation, obviously the Federation welcomes any effort to improve the rate of energy renovation of the building stock in the EU. FIEC participated in the consultation that preceded the proposal for an amending Directive and agrees strongly with the findings, which resonate with its own concerns.

With this in mind, FIEC is pleased to see the provision requiring Member States to include the renovation of residential and non-residential buildings in their long-term building renovation strategies. That said, while further ambition is clearly required, any measures imposed should be technology-neutral, should not be so onerous as to be unachievable and local circumstances must always be taken into account. Climate, aspect, available building materials, local common building methods, occupier behaviour and many other factors affect energy efficiency and the kind of renovation that is likely to yield the best energy savings. Furthermore, investors and building owners want to see a tangible return on investment. This can be difficult to predict precisely before renovation takes place and difficult to demonstrate afterwards, especially in the short term. Therefore, we urge Member States to be ambitious but pragmatic, maximising financial support from the available EU funds and providing adequate information to meet the needs of those seeking to invest/renovate their buildings.

#### ■ Comparing EPCs to justify public investment is premature

It is entirely reasonable to seek assurance that public funding has been well spent, with an eventual system for monitoring improvements in energy savings following renovation work that has been partly financed with public money. However, FIEC is strongly opposed to the mandatory use of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for this purpose, unless and until the quality of these certificates, the parameters used and the training of assessors is improved and harmonised across the EU. While it would seem sensible to use an existing system rather than create something new, such evaluation cannot be introduced now. Basing funding decisions on "before" and "after" EPCs is premature in many Member States, with a high risk that neither investors nor beneficiaries will have access to a level playing field. FIEC urges the co-legislators to press for a delay in – or even deletion of – this measure.

#### ■ Ecodesign to be aligned with existing measures for construction products?

FIEC published a position on Ecodesign and Energy Labelling in 2014 <http://www.fiec.eu/en/fiec-positions/position-papers.aspx>. Our principle objection has always been that for construction products the objectives of the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Directives can best be achieved through the Construction Products Regulation 305/2011 (CPR). We remain opposed to any new, separate measures which duplicate the requirements of the CPR, because such duplication creates an administrative burden and increases costs for both producers and users of construction products. That said, even though construction products are clearly listed in the Ecodesign Working Plan 2016-2019, it is not clear whether the intention is to introduce additional requirements or align ecodesign rules with existing obligations under the CPR and standardisation. We understand the enthusiasm of the co-legislators for ecodesign, for those industries that *do not currently have equivalent regulations*. If the proposal is to align ecodesign with the CPR and existing standards, so that ultimately only one

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Here are just a few examples of what the Technical Commission has delivered over the past year:

### Position Papers

FIEC Position Paper – Clean Energy Package (13/03/2017)

FIEC Position Paper – EPBD revision (15/03/2017)

FIEC also sent the following correspondence, expressing concern:

Letter to Chairman of CEN/TC 135 regarding Technical Report on EN 1090-1 (15/07/2016)

Letter to the acting Head of Unit in the Construction Unit, DG GROW reacting to the Economic Impact Study on the Construction Products Regulation (27/07/2016)

Joint action with ECCREDI: letter to Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) regarding paper on Driving Transformational Change in the Construction Value Chain (28/07/2016)

### Press Releases

Joint FIEC-CPE-EBC press release Construction Industry and Material Producers join forces for better standardisation (13/06/2016)

BIM can deliver big EU policy results (20/06/2016)

REFIT platform recommends action on Construction Products Regulation (CPR) (30/08/2016)

Will “Winter Package” spark spending on renovation or leave investors cold? (30/11/2016)

FIEC asks for CE Marking to address needs of users (31/01/2017)

Clean Energy Package needs joint effort to succeed (15/03/2017)

### Answers to public consultations

FIEC answer to Public Consultation on a Research, Innovation and Competitiveness Strategy for the Energy Union (30/05/2016)

FIEC answer to Public Consultation on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020 (13/01/2017)

### Participation in public events

“Joint Initiative on Standardisation Signing Ceremony” hosted by Dutch Presidency, Amsterdam (13/06/2016). FIEC President Johan Willemen attended, with the FIEC Director General.

Symposium on the Construction Products Regulation hosted by the Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Berlin (08/11/2016). Speech by Sue Arundale.

GeoBIM Europe, Amsterdam (24/11/2016). Speech by Kjetil Tønning, TEC President.

All these documents are available on the FIEC website [www.fiec.eu](http://www.fiec.eu)





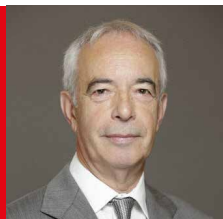
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# SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMEs)

**Daniel Nicolardot, FR**  
The SME-Envoy

Ulrich Paetzold, FIEC  
Rapporteur



## A) Full representativeness for micro, small, medium-sized and large enterprises

The European construction industry is, overwhelmingly made up of craftsmen, SMEs and family-owned businesses. This reality is also reflected in the membership of FIEC's member federations. This broad membership base ensures FIEC's comprehensive representativeness within the European construction industry, i.e. enterprises executing all kind of building and civil engineering specialties, whether operating as main contractors or as sub-contractors.

Without any discrimination, FIEC represents the collective interests of construction enterprises of all sizes:

- craftsmen, builders and micro enterprises
- small and medium-sized enterprises
- larger and very large companies

These enterprises may be family owned or capital stock companies, they may be family run or managed externally, but they are all construction firms and, as such, they have much more in common than they have conflicting interests.

The unmatched strength of FIEC's initiatives and positions are rooted in the fact that they are based on the views and experience of such a wide variety of enterprises from so many countries.

In addition to this permanent general consideration given to the interests of SMEs in each individual issue addressed by FIEC commissions, sub-commissions and working groups, FIEC created, 15 years ago, a specific Vice-Presidency for SME issues under the title of "SME Envoy".

The FIEC SME Envoy double-checks - in each and every case - that FIEC position papers and initiatives adequately take into account the interests of SMEs and family owned businesses.

## B) Full involvement of SMEs in the sectoral social dialogue

The FIEC/ EFBWW construction social dialogue committee is generally recognized as a sectoral social dialogue committee, in which SMEs participate actively and without any discrimination.

FIEC's encompassing representativeness was also re-confirmed by the latest "representativeness study" done by Eurofound for the European Commission. According to this study, 56,1% of all employees/ workers in the construction industry are employed by enterprises affiliated to FIEC member federations. This is by far the highest rate of all organisations checked on employers' side.

This comprehensive representativeness ensures the full respect of SME interests in the work of the sectoral social dialogue committee and its specialised working groups. FIEC and its Social Partner EFBWW, are very committed to this fully representative, strong, successful and autonomous Sectoral Social Dialogue which they commenced many years prior to it becoming institutionalised by the European Commission.

## C) Close cooperation with cross-sectoral organisations

FIEC's Member Federations are, at their national level, affiliated to cross-sectoral organisations representing the collective interests of industry and employers which are, in turn, affiliated to one of the European cross-sectoral organisations BusinessEurope and UEAPME, both of which represent, via their Member Federations, the collective interests of SMEs.

For this reason, FIEC keeps close contacts and works together, as far as possible, with both BusinessEurope<sup>1</sup> and UEAPME<sup>2</sup> on subject areas such as public procurement, social affairs, technical affairs and standardisation. Details are given in the various chapters of this report.

In all these contacts, FIEC ensures that the specific interests of the construction industry are adequately taken into consideration in the work of these cross-sectoral professional organisations and that differences of opinion, if any, are based on real issues, not just on insufficient coordination.

“

*The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is made up of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding 50 million euro, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding 43 million euro.*”

<sup>1</sup> [www.buinesseurope.eu](http://www.buinesseurope.eu)

<sup>2</sup> [www.ueapme.com](http://www.ueapme.com)

Commission Communication - Model declaration on the information relating to the qualification of an enterprise (SME, OJEC, C118, p. 5 -15, of 20/5/2003)

	micro	small	medium	large
<b>workers/ employees</b> (incl. owner/ manager, excl. apprentices) and ...	1-9	10-49	50-249	(250 +)
(either) annual <b>turnover</b> up to x million €	2	10	50	(50+)
(or) annual <b>balance sheet</b> up to x million €	2	10	43	(43+)

# THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP (MEDA)

Maria Ángeles Asenjo, ES  
President

Ulrich Paetzold, FIEC  
Rapporteur



FIEC continued over the last year with its task of informing Member Federations about key aspects of the EU institutions' activity with regard to Mediterranean partner countries.

The policy of the European Union towards the Southern Mediterranean countries aims at encouraging political and economic reforms in each individual country and at enhancing cooperation among the countries of the region and with the European Union.

Relations with Southern Mediterranean countries are crucially important. The **European Neighbourhood Policy** guides these relationships, trying to support individual countries in aspects where the European Union can provide a specific and positive contribution. It addresses issues of utmost importance in the current context such as security and migration and also good governance, political and economic reforms. In 2016 special attention was given to countries affected by conflicts and the refugee crisis, in particular Syria. Agreements were also reached with Jordan and Lebanon to help them cope with the influx of Syrian refugees. Tunisia benefited as well from particular attention as the European Union supported its democratic transition.

On 14 September 2016, the European Commission proposed the creation of a new **European External Investment Plan** (EIP) to boost investment in the EU Neighbourhood (including Southern Mediterranean countries) and Africa, particularly to support social and economic infrastructure and SMEs. The three key objectives of this plan are mobilising investment, providing technical assistance and supporting economic and structural reforms in the targeted regions to improve the business and policy environment. The EIP package presented by the European Commission comprised a series of elements, among them it is worth noting the proposal for a Regulation on the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) and establishing

the EFSD Guarantee and the EFSD Guarantee Fund -under discussion in the European Parliament when writing this chapter for the annual report-. With this initiative the European Commission proposes to increase investment opportunities in partner countries by leveraging existing EU resources in a way similar to the Investment Plan for Europe and the EFSI. At the centre of the EIP lies the creation of that new European Fund for Sustainable Development, which will be composed of regional investment platforms combining financing from existing blending facilities and the EFSD Guarantee.

Another field of attention for the MEDA Vice-Presidency is the **Union for the Mediterranean** (UfM), an intergovernmental organisation bringing together EU Member States and 15 countries from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. It is a permanent structure dedicated to strengthening dialogue, cooperation and exchange of projects ideas. Six strategic priority areas have been identified: business development, social and civil affairs, higher education and research, transport and urban development, water and environment, and energy and climate action.

Regarding the **European Investment Bank** activity in Third Mediterranean countries in 2016, initial data about projects financed show approximately €1.6 billion in loans for 16 operations. The breakdown by country of this EIB financing was as follows: Egypt 56%, Tunisia 26%, Morocco 12% and Israel 6%; by sector: credit lines 53.7%, transport 25%, industry 7%, telecommunications 6.3%, water 4.4%, energy 3% and solid waste 0.6%.

As usual, **MEDA newsletters** are available periodically on the FIEC website for Member Federations.



# “HOUSING” WORKING GROUP

**José Michaël Chenu, FFB**  
Chairman (2016/12-)

Myriam Diallo, FFB  
Rapporteur



In December 2016, the General Assembly appointed a new Chair, Mr José-Michaël Chenu, from the French federation FFB, for the Working Group “Housing”. A first meeting took place on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 under this new chairmanship.

## A new Chair and a new agenda

The new chair explained that his strategy was based on the rationale that EU contractors should be at the forefront of the housing industry as key industrial players in an integrated sector with all other relevant players and show their capacity to manage construction projects. This vision takes into account many aspects: prefabrication, development of BIM, energy efficiency, services provided to the users, traceability in time, building passports, maintenance contracts and facility management, etc. Following the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March, participants agreed, as a first step, to work on a document which would develop solutions from the construction industry about the following issues: housing construction costs (i.e. how to build less expensively tomorrow?) and housing shortages (i.e. best practice in terms of national measures aimed at tackling this shortage).

“

*FIEC is co-chair of the EHF, together with UIPI and UEPC. This combination of complementary experience and know-how ensures the efficient continuation of the European Housing Forum work. ”*

## FIEC in the “European Housing Forum”

The “European Housing Forum” (EHF), partner of the “European Parliament URBAN Intergroup”, is a discussion platform on European policy topics affecting the housing market. For FIEC, EHF is a key partner that represents its interests in the property sector more intensively. EHF members include, amongst others, representative associations of tenants, social housing, developers, real-estate professions and contractors. Being co-chair of the European Housing Forum along with UIPI and UEPC is an honour for FIEC and allows the federation to actively contribute to the discussions on housing issues, in close contact with the EU institutions.

During the past two meetings, held on 08/06/2016 and 19/12/2016, the participants addressed a wide range of issues having an impact on housing. For instance the Housing and Sustainable Urban Development plan of the United Nations, the European Urban Agenda, new Spanish legislation introducing new ways of access to housing ownership, the potential benefits of the Clean Energy Package and the Investment Plan for Europe, etc.

More information on the EHF website:  
<http://www.europeanhousingforum.eu>

# EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS (EIC)



EUROPEAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONTRACTORS



**Philippe Dessoy, BE**  
President



**Frank Kehlenbach, EIC**  
Director

European International Contractors (EIC) represents the international interests of the European construction industry vis-à-vis European policy makers and international financial institutions. Its full members are construction federations from 15 European countries which are directly or indirectly affiliated to FIEC and have internationally active member firms.

## A) Organisation

EIC was founded in 1970 and has been registered since 1984 as a legally independent business association under German law in Berlin. Its mandate is to promote the interests of the European construction industry in relation to its international business activities. To this end, EIC maintains close relations with all European, international and other important organisations with policies relevant for the international construction business, including the European Commission (EC), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the OECD, the World Bank as well as other relevant non-governmental organisations, such as FIDIC or CoST, the Construction Industry Transparency Initiative.

At the end of 2016, the composition of the EIC Board was as follows:

- President: Philippe Dessoy (Besix, Belgium)
- Vice President: Wouter Remmelts (BAM International, Netherlands)
- Treasurer: Per Nielsen (NCC, Sweden)
- Jesper Arkil (Arkil Holding, Denmark)
- Duccio Astaldi (Condotte d'Acqua, Italy)
- Selim Bora (Summa, Turkey)
- George Demetriou (J&P Avax, Greece)
- Juha Kostianen (YIT, Finland)
- Pedro Maristany (Dragados, Spain)
- António Mota (Mota-Engil, Portugal)
- Christophe Pélissié du Rausas (VINCI Concessions, France)
- Karl-Heinz Strauss (PORR, Austria)
- Jörg Wellmeyer (Strabag International, Germany)

President Philippe Dessoy also represents EIC as a Vice-President on the FIEC Steering Committee.

## B) Mission & Priorities

EIC advocates fair international competition based on balanced contract conditions, quality-based procurement and innovative project delivery schemes as well as sustainable construction methods.

EIC fosters new business opportunities for European contractors by promoting a closer collaboration between development and commercial financiers and by promoting Public-Private Partnerships internationally.

EIC provides a unique forum for networking and sharing experience regarding all matters relating to the international construction business.

Within the broad range of operating conditions influencing the work of European international contractors, the following topics had the highest priority for EIC in 2016:

### I. FIDIC Standard Forms of Contract

For more than 40 years, EIC's Working Group Contract Conditions has been reviewing and commenting on the FIDIC standard forms of contract. The work of the group has been condensed into several high-quality publications known as the "EIC Contractor's Guides", which do not only provide its membership with a quick overview on the potential risks and pitfalls of the FIDIC forms but also influence the general debate on fair and balanced contract conditions. Currently, the Working Group's focus is on the 2017 update of the FIDIC suite of contracts, on the proposed new FIDIC standard form for Underground Works and on preventing the uninhibited misuse of the FIDIC standard by the use of unfair Particular Conditions.

From the beginning of its "friendly review" of the 2017 updates, EIC has called upon FIDIC to keep up the tradition of publishing its standard forms of contract as "manual of good engineering practice prepared by engineers for practical use" and thus to refrain from introducing a high degree of contractual micro-management. Based on the wording of the special pre-released version of the FIDIC "Yellow Book", released in December 2016, EIC concluded, however, that FIDIC was probably not reaching the objective of incorporating current best contractual practice in its planned updates. Therefore, in a joint effort with its counterparts from Japan (OCAJI) and Korea (ICAK) and with the global construction umbrella federation (CICA), EIC suggested that FIDIC enter into a more intensive dialogue with

the world's leading international contractors' federations before finalising its updates. The four federations were particularly concerned in their joint letter that the 2017 updates will comprise a major additional risk shift towards contractors.

The Working Group Contract Conditions is also discussing with the respective FIDIC/ITA Task Group the draft of the planned new standard form of contract for Underground Works. EIC considers the current conceptual approach as balanced given that ground-related risks are assigned to the employer, as the party who will most benefit from the completed project and can best control such risk. EIC particularly welcomes that the subsurface conditions anticipated under the contractually agreed design and methodology as well as the respective allocation of risks shall be laid down in a detailed and contractually binding Geotechnical Baseline Report.

EIC also replied to FIDIC's invitation to analyse the proposed new concept of "Golden Principles". Responding to EIC's critique regarding the frequent misuse of the FIDIC documents, FIDIC is now considering a change of its licensing policy to the extent that, in future, FIDIC would be more inclined to license bespoke contracts that comply with a set of "Golden Principles" rather than sell its standard forms. Whereas EIC generally welcomes this proposed policy shift, we have pointed out that it would be prudent for FIDIC to closely coordinate its new concept with Multilateral Development Banks and with the EU in order for them to become an integral part of the strategy given their leverage on the procurement practice of their borrowers. As financiers, the MDBs and the EU would have both the political influence and the legal authority to intervene should one of their clients use a "non-compliant" FIDIC contract.

### II. EU Design Build and Operate Schemes

In a study, which was broadly discussed between the European Commission and EIC, the Commission eventually established the potential advantages of Design-Build and Design-Build and DBO (DBO) contracts, when compared to the conventional design-bid-build approach. Consequently, at the beginning of 2017 DG DEVCO modified the EU's Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EU External Actions (PRAG) by adding a specific tender dossier on Design-Build projects.

EIC submitted its comments at various stages of the process and concurred with the EU

Commission about the importance of a balanced risk allocation under DBO schemes as well. Whilst the EU Commission assured EIC initially that it did not intend to deviate from the conventional risk allocation, as laid down in the present version of the General Conditions for Works Contracts financed by the EDF, EIC expressed its reservations with regard to the final version of the standard form for Design-Build. EIC has detected a number of articles in the General Contract Conditions with an excessive risk transfer to the Contractor and thus submitted its critical position to the EU Commission. DG DEVCO announced that it would analyse EIC's comments in depth, as they raised important questions that needed to be dealt with from an operational and a legal perspective.

In addition, EIC stressed that any reference in the EU PRAG to internationally recognised environmental and social standards and policies, such as ISO 14001, OSHAS 18001 and the ILO core labour standards was missing, although such provisions were necessary in order to establish coherence between the PRAG and the EU's general development principles and values in the context of sustainable development and protection of human rights. Whereas the French and German bilateral financing agencies, AFD and KfW, have already incorporated sustainability criteria into their procurement procedures for civil works projects, the PRAG is still lacking respective provisions.

### III. EU Blending 2.0

EIC continues to promote its "Blending 2.0" concept which suggests that eligible development finance institutions syndicate a certain tranche of their loans amongst commercial banks to the extent that such funds can be guaranteed by comprehensive insurance cover from export credit agencies (ECAs). Such a financing model could catalyse additional private sector finance for typical public sector infrastructure projects that do not generate sufficient direct project income but are critical for the social and economic development of the country.

EIC was invited by the European Commission's DG GROW to present its respective propositions at the meeting of the Thematic Group "International Competitiveness" on 24 November 2016, which took place in the context of the Commission's Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises [COM(2012) 433]. On that occasion, the European Commission informed stakeholders about the New Partnership Framework with third countries under the European

Agenda on Migration [COM (2016) 385] and outlined the parameters for its proposed new EU External Investment Plan (EIP) to encourage more private investment in Africa and in the EU Neighbourhood. With the EIP the Commission intends to mobilise additional private sector investment by combining the existing investment facilities with new first-loss guarantees within a new European Fund for Sustainable Development.

Whereas EIC generally supports the goals set out in the New Partnership Framework and specifically the EIP, there are doubts that the advocated "portfolio approach" will also be appropriate for transport infrastructure projects which typically require middle and long-term financing on a single transaction basis. Furthermore, we observe that the EIP initially will target only "bankable" projects which generate at least a partial income, e.g. small-scale projects in the energy or agricultural sectors, whereas an extension to large-scale infrastructure projects will be considered only at a later stage. Therefore, at the meeting EIC repeated its "Blending 2.0" proposal to strengthen the links between European Development Finance Institutions and Export Credit Agencies for "non-commercially viable" infrastructure projects.

### IV. World Bank Procurement Framework and Environmental and Social Framework

In March 2016, EIC co-hosted with the German World Bank Office a Procurement Seminar in Berlin to familiarise European contractors and consultants with the details of the New Procurement Policy Framework. In May 2016, EIC met in Washington D.C. with the World Bank's European, Japanese and Canadian Executive Directors' representatives to discuss the Bank's New Procurement Framework. We seized the opportunity to explain the EIC perspective on the use of Alternative Procurement Arrangements, the Value-for-Money principle and on Sustainable Procurement.

EIC participated also in the third phase of consultations on the proposed new World Bank Environmental and Social Framework. The review aims at bringing the current eight individual safeguard policies under the umbrella of one coherent Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) based on ten standards. This new World Bank standard prohibits child labour and forced labour, promotes fair treatment and non-discrimination, requires a grievance mechanism for workers and asks borrowers to comply with national law on the





Memorandum of Understanding between EIC and ICAK (International Contractors' Association of Korea) signed in Brussels on 6/10/2016  
From left to right: Philippe Dessoy, EIC President and Kee-Poong Park, ICAK Chairman

freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. The World Bank Board approved the final draft in August 2016 and the new framework will apply to Investment Project Financing as of 2018.

## V. OECD Local Costs rule in relation to Construction Services

With the aim of improving the competitiveness of European international contractors in direct export activities, EIC drafted a position in which it calls on OECD members to review the local cost regime under the so-called "OECD Consensus". EIC argues that the current OECD approach regarding the coverage of local costs, which allows for no more than 30% to be insured by export credit agencies (ECAs), is no longer appropriate in relation to construction services. Contrary to the manufacturing industries, the nature of the construction industry for the most part requires local production as any construction project needs to be erected in the buyer's country. Hence, the respective amount of local costs involved is evidently higher than in the case of export of goods or other services.

EIC proposes drafting a new Sector Understanding for Construction Services allowing for a higher share of local costs to be covered by the ECAs. EIC's position, as transformed into a BIAC Position, was discussed at the OECD Consultation on Export Credits in November 2016 in Paris, where some OECD members were open for discussions on increasing support for local costs and whether a new Sector Understanding might be needed.

## VI. Corporate Responsibility (CR)

Since 2011, EIC has officially endorsed the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST) which aims at increasing the transparency and accountability of publicly financed infrastructure worldwide. In 2016, EIC participated in the

strategic review process of the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST) which explores how the initiative can increase its impact to support communities worldwide.

As a result of the autumn 2015 EIC Workshop in Rotterdam on "Connecting Partners - Supply Chain Responsibility in International Construction Projects", EIC launched in 2016 a new Working Group on "Corporate Responsibility" in order to highlight the performance of European companies in applying CR standards in their international operations. The group considers as the most important CR aspects, on which EIC should have a position, health & safety, transfer of know-how, supply chain management, engaging with stakeholders, greening of operations, climate change or business ethics. The new EIC publication will target a broad range of stakeholders, including international clients, with the aim of providing technical advice to help incorporate CR aspects into tender documents.

## C) EIC Statistics

In October 2016, EIC released its annual International Contracts Statistics in which Member Federations from 13 European countries reported consolidated figures for their internationally active contractors. In 2015, the international turnover of European contractors affiliated to EIC's Member Federations reached a new peak, rising to almost € 180 billion, up 9% compared with 2014.

In addition, EIC comprised an analysis of the development policies of the European countries represented in the EIC network which shows that most EU countries are far from reaching the international agreement to raise their ODA to 0.7% of the donors' national income. On the basis of the latest available OECD data on ODA for the year 2014, the majority of EIC Member countries distributed more than 50% of their ODA

bilaterally, with Italy and Spain being the exception and allocated more than 50% of their ODA to multilateral organisations. According to the analysis, most European countries invest less than one fifth of their bilateral ODA in infrastructure, with France, Germany and the Netherlands being the exceptions.

## D) EIC Conferences

Twice a year, in spring and autumn, representatives of all Member Federations are invited to gather for the EIC General Assemblies which are followed by customised Workshops analysing a topical theme from the international contracting industry. On these occasions, expertise is brought into the discussion from outside the industry by engaging high-level speakers from various institutions to contribute to the discussion. The conferences are traditionally attended by senior international managers from leading European contractors as well as related industries.

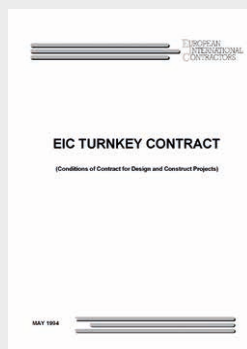
On 21-22 April 2016, the German Member Federation hosted the EIC conference in Berlin with a workshop on New Digital Technologies for Construction and their Impact on Contractual Relationships. The autumn conference on 6-7 October 2016 was hosted by EIC's Belgian Member Federation, Construction Confederation in Brussels with a workshop on Smart Cities - International Opportunities for European Contractors.

For joint FIEC/EIC activities please refer to chapter on page 20.

**To sign up for the monthly EIC Newsletter and further information on EIC activities, conferences and members, visit the EIC website: [eic-federation.eu](http://eic-federation.eu)**



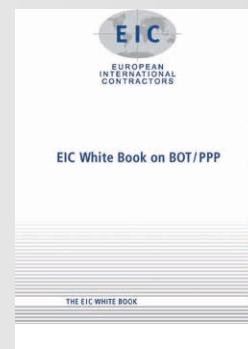
## EIC publications



EIC Turnkey Contract, 1994



EIC Contractor's Guide to the FIDIC Conditions of Contract for Construction, 2002



EIC White Book on BOT/PPP, 2003



EIC Contractor's Guide to the FIDIC Conditions of Contract for Plant and Design-Build, 2003



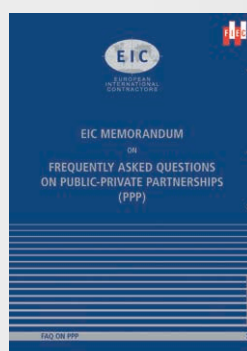
EIC Contractor's Guide to the FIDIC Conditions of Contract for EPC Turnkey Projects, 2003



EIC Blue Book on Sustainable Procurement, 2004



Contractor's Guide to the FIDIC Conditions of Contract for Design, Build and Operate Projects, 2009



EIC/FIEC Memorandum on Frequently Asked Questions on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), 2006



EIC Contractor's Guide to the MDB Harmonised Edition of the FIDIC Conditions of contract for Construction (June 2010), "The Pink Book Guide", 2011

# CONFEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATIONS (CICA)



**Jorge Mas**  
CICA President  
(01/2017-)



**Emre Aykar**  
CICA President  
(-12/2016)



**Roger Fiszelson**  
Director General

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## A) Main CICA Events

### I. Worldwide construction outlook and CICA Presidency Handover, Santiago, Chile, January 15-17, 2017

Mr. Sergio Torretti, President of the Chilean Chamber of Construction (CChC), together with Mr. Jorge Mas, newly elected President of the "Confederation of International Contractors' Associations (CICA)", were pleased to host the event "Worldwide Construction Outlook & CICA Presidency Handover" attended by many representatives of the construction sector. The conference was held on January 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and was focused on the works of the different CICA working groups. For each topic, the Latin American and European experiences came under the spotlight. Most notably, Mr. Alberto Undurraga, Chilean Minister of Public Works, presented the Chilean experience of 20 years of "PPP and concessions".

### II. Multilateral Development Banks & IMF, Washington DC, April 18-23, 2017

A CICA delegation attended meetings organised in Washington D.C. from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of April as part of the World Bank and IMF Spring General Assembly. CICA also took the opportunity of being in Washington to have a follow up of the CICA mission 2016 with representatives from the World Bank Group.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, the CICA delegation, including FIEC President Jean-Louis Marchand, participated in the Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation (SIF) Annual Meeting. This meeting was an opportunity for the Contractors to review the International Infrastructure Support System platform for Well-Prepared Projects, which is supported by most of the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). It was also the opportunity to listen to Laura Tuck, VP Sustainable Development at the World Bank, Keynote Speaker Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and others. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, the Global Infrastructure Forum 2017 brought together all MDBs' Presidents to consider the theme "Delivering Inclusive and Sustainable Infrastructure". Topics such as "Infrastructure as an Asset Class", "MDB Risk Mitigation", "Better Preparation of Projects" and "Building Quality Infrastructure" were discussed.





**CICA event in Chile**  
Introduction Speech by Sergio Torretti, President of the Chilean Chamber of Construction



From left to right: Jorge Mas, CICA President – Alberto Undurraga, Chilean Minister of Public Works – Emre Aykar, CICA Past President and current Vice President of CICA

### III. United Nations Organisation

#### UNCITRAL, Vienna, March 6-7, 2017

CICA Director General Roger Fiszelson participated in the UNCITRAL meetings in Vienna in March. The aim of the meetings was the possible revision of the PPP legislative guide.

#### 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Nations Organisation, Geneva, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

CICA Director General delivered a speech on “SDGs: Contractors views on PPP contribution to their achievement”.

#### UNECE International PPP Forum, Hong Kong, May 9-11, 2017

The CICA President attended the 2017 Forum, during which a discussion was held regarding how to implement the UNECE standards, such as the Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP Procurement. Talks were also held aimed at finalising the ones still to be completed, such as the standards on PPP in renewable energy, water and sanitation and rail. In addition, delegates considered how PPPs can support other critical programmes in the UN 2030 Development Agenda.

### IV. B 20 Task Force on Financing Growth & Infrastructure, Berlin and Paris, September-May, 2017

CICA participates in the meetings of the B 20 Task Force “Financing Growth & Infrastructure”. CICA contributes to the policy papers focusing on three main aspects:

- the contribution to infrastructure financing

made by additional tax revenues generated over the medium / long term;

- the features and potential of Green Finance;
- the use of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)

### V. Global Alliance for Building and Construction, Berlin, March 20-22, 2017

The CICA President attended the meeting of the Global Alliance for Building and Construction in Berlin. Organised by the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMWi) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), this event allowed GABC members to present and discuss the work of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GABC) during 2016 and 2017, focusing in particular on developing a common narrative and key messages, further developing the GABC Global Roadmap and identifying an effective governance structure.

### VI. Board - Council Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, June 12-13, 2017

At the time of writing, CICA is organising its Spring Board meeting in Tokyo. It will be hosted by the Overseas Construction Association of Japan, Inc. (OCAJI). Meetings are planned with representatives from the Asian Development Bank (AsDB), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT). Two of the main topics to be discussed will be “Quality in Infrastructure” and “Productivity of the construction sector focusing on the introduction of new technologies in the construction industry. A visit to the Laboratory of the Shimizu Corporation will also be organised by OCAJI as well as networking sessions with Japanese contractors.

## VII. AIIB Annual Meeting, Jeju, South Korea, June 16-18, 2017

A CICA delegation will participate in the Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank in Jeju, South Korea, to acquire more knowledge about AIIB financing and procurement procedures. CICA will also meet Asian associations of contractors.

## VIII. International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

**CICA participates regularly in the meetings and activities of the French Committee of ICC and in the Paris meetings of some ICC international commissions:**

- Commercial law and practice;
- Corporate responsibility and anti-corruption;
- Intellectual property;
- Commission on Environment and Energy.

## B) CICA Working Groups

### I. Public-Private Partnerships Working Group

The working group on PPP is managed by Fernando Lago (Argentinian federation of construction and representative of FIIC).

CICA confirmed its withdrawal from UNECE International Centre of Excellence for PPPs and Concessions "Policies, Institutions and Laws".

This withdrawal is the result of several factors that hinder the successful achievement of the goals and objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 with the UNECE.

- The adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2015 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) substantially modifies the aims and objectives of the work programme annexed to the MoU.
- The coordination of the work of the Centre and the results of its activities proved to be unsatisfactory and very far from the expected results, as stated by the MoU.
- The application of the instructions given by the UNECE Commission to the Task Team Leaders of the other Centres removes the cross-disciplinary nature of the MoU conferred on the Centre.

However, CICA may act as a "Friendly Reviewer" of

the Standards proposals by the Centre in the future. The CICA working group on PPPs will focus on UNCITRAL work as well as sharing experience and lessons learned between CICA members.

### II. Procurement Working Group

The group is managed by Roger Fiszelson and aims to:

- reflect on proposals for the strengthening of the capacity of financing and guarantees of the development banks (MDBs) and of the bilateral aid agencies (DFIs);
- follow-up of the various Procurement Reforms undertaken within these institutions; and
- review and improve the policies, institutions and laws of developing and emerging countries.

Since 2005, CICA, together with the European International Contractors (EIC) and the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), has been a partner in the successive consultative working groups set up by the World Bank in the context of its Procurement Reform.

CICA also participates in the consultation groups set up by other Multilateral Development Banks such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) etc., for their Procurement Reform and other procedures.

### III. Well-Prepared Project (WPP) Working Group

This working group is managed by Michel Démarre, Director General SEFI, Vice-president Europe and International Commission of FNTF and EIC Past President.

The activity of the WPP working group is now mainly focused on the International Infrastructure Support System (IISS) platform developed by the Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation (SIF). CICA is participating in its development and promotion, since IISS is viewed by contractors as the right tool to ensure that projects are well-prepared by their clients, and transaction costs are minimised. In this respect, CICA's representatives have been pushing hard for the promotion of IISS at B20 level, both as a tool to facilitate project financing, and as a tool to achieve better transparency in project preparation and procurement. Michel Démarre has also suggested to the International Transport Forum (ITF-OECD) that SIF CEO Christophe Dossarps should be given

a slot during the next Forum (Leipzig, May 31-June 2) to present IISS, since the Forum's motto this year is "Governance in Transport ". Finally Michel Démarre is still following up on a possible involvement of the World Road Association (PIARC), with a view to getting its input on and support for IISS.

## IV. Infrastructure Long Term Financing Working group

The President of FIEC appointed Vincent Piron as chairman of this working group. The working group on long term funding/financing envisages the following objectives:

- Find solutions for triggering a wider mobilisation of funds seeking profitable use to generate more infrastructure projects. To achieve this objective the working group will focus on a better perception by providers of funds and regulators, of a reasonable rate of default of the "infrastructure" asset class compared to others. Special emphasis will be made on the prudential standards established by financial and insurance regulators' authorities operating in the large geographical areas, mainly in North and South America, Europe and Japan;
- pay close attention to the specific financing tools of projects contributing to the fight against climate change and environmental protection (Green Finance) in the context of the provisions adopted by the United Nations Conference of Parties (see COP 21, 22 and those to come);
- start a common reflection on the inadequacy of budgetary governance at States and local authority level.

## V. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

An SMEs working group was recently created under the leadership of José Carlos Martins (CBIC President, Brazil). The work focuses on:

- how to attract capital market financing for SMEs;
- working with public employers to better prepare projects (WPP);
- enabling the engagement of SMEs in public services through PPPs, enhancing legal support to create mechanisms for fair competition and;
- suggesting adjustments to Basel III & IV requirements to fulfill capacities and needs of SMEs.

José Carlos Martins gathered high level experts and economists to undertake analysis and develop proposals to be presented to international organisations and financial institutions.

## VI. Sustainable Construction

Sustainable construction is a newly created working group led by Alfredo Echavarría (Chilean Chamber of Construction - CChC). The main lines of action of this group will be based on the ideas and concepts included in the presentation made by Javier Hurtado (CChC) during the Extraordinary Board Meeting held in Santiago in January 2017. In the context of increased demand for sustainable construction emanating from civil society and given State budgetary constraints, which prevent public finances from completely fulfilling this need, an increase in financing from private and institutional funds will be required. As contractors, we must look for new business models in order to benefits from a more sustainable approach.

# EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION FORUM (ECF)

**Michail Daktylidis, GR**  
Vice-President in charge of  
ECF matters

Ulrich Paetzold, FIEC  
Rapporteur



## A) What is the European Construction Forum (ECF)?

The ECF is a platform for cooperation on issues of common interest between independent organisations representing key players in the construction sector and participating on a voluntary basis.

## B) What are the aims of ECF?

The principal aim of the ECF is the establishment and recognition of a single comprehensive policy approach for the European construction sector through raising the awareness of decision makers at European level of the specific issues affecting the sector as a whole. To this end, the participating organisations strive to arrive at consensual views on issues of common interest.

This should lead over time to:

- greater involvement of the construction sector in the preparation of all EU legislative acts, programmes and actions that have a bearing on the sector.
- a more coherent and coordinated approach by the European institutions towards the sector. ECF will develop specific actions on the basis of this Manifesto and the EU agenda.

## C) The European Commission

Some time ago ECF had asked for a “Construction Commissioner”, in order to ensure that there was better coordination between the various DGs and their activities concerning our sector. Consequently, our expectations in the new Commission structure with coordinating Vice-Presidents, clusters of Commissioners and re-organised services were very high. With more than two years of practical experience, we are grateful for the visible efforts to achieve better coordination of EC actions concerning the construction sector. Despite some progress, more efforts seem to be necessary, in order to avoid accidental overlap, lack of coordination or forgetting to include the construction industry and its stakeholders.

We will continue to offer our contributions from practical experience, in order to facilitate continuous further improvement in practice.



## Building Prosperity for the Future of Europe – A Manifesto for Action from the European Construction Forum

What the construction sector can offer	Decisions EU policymakers should take
<b>Economic growth and jobs creation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Benefits to the economy as a whole through the multiplier effect thanks to the sector's large share of EU GDP</li> <li>▶ Well designed, sustainable buildings and infrastructure essential for Europe's future growth</li> <li>▶ Green jobs based on a comprehensive understanding of techniques and materials fully embracing a culture of health and safety</li> <li>▶ Identification and anticipation of the skills needs of workers in order to guide policy</li> </ul>	<b>Integrated policy framework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide a long-term, coordinated, and stable regulatory framework to ensure competitive sustainable growth</li> <li>▶ Implement policies based on impact assessments that put the three pillars of sustainability at the same level</li> <li>▶ Support renovation and new innovative, efficient solutions in buildings and infrastructure, leading to cost-effective nearly-zero energy new and existing buildings</li> <li>▶ Prioritise upgrading of infrastructure, including smart grids for energy distribution and sustainable transport networks</li> <li>▶ Adopt a whole life-cycle assessment approach to buildings</li> <li>▶ Invest in training, education and skills for workers, going beyond information and best practice exchange</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment to innovation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Strong commitment to innovation in daily business practice</li> <li>▶ Support for increased R &amp; D through pro-active participation in EU research programmes and industry platforms</li> <li>▶ Identification of technological gaps along the construction value chain in response to the Commission's drive for innovation</li> </ul>	<b>Boost investment in research and innovation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Take full account of the strategic role of the construction sector in the proposed Horizon 2020 budget</li> <li>▶ Endorse the use of Structural and Cohesion Funds to leverage investments in efficient buildings and infrastructure</li> <li>▶ Support effective technology transfer</li> </ul>
<b>Care for the environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improvements in resource use and energy efficiency</li> <li>▶ Contribution to energy and transport infrastructure</li> </ul>	<b>Drive coherent environmental policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Ensure coherence and integration between environmental policy and industrial growth policies</li> <li>▶ Strong focus on upgrading buildings' energy and environmental performance</li> <li>▶ Set appropriate frameworks for recycling and waste-management</li> </ul>

What the construction sector can offer	Decisions EU policymakers should take
<b>Responding to social needs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Engagement towards a quality and safe built environment, adapted to demographic and social challenges</li> <li>▶ Solutions for affordable housing</li> <li>▶ Resilient construction for adaptation to climate change.</li> </ul>	<b>Develop a sustainable housing policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Design planning and permit systems that facilitate new development (EU should benchmark different regional planning systems)</li> <li>▶ Facilitate access to credit for investment in affordable housing</li> <li>▶ Allow for measured and proportionate fiscal incentives for construction and renovation of dwellings.</li> </ul>

The construction sector calls upon the European Commission, European Parliament and the Member States to coordinate efforts at all levels of government in order to implement coherent and balanced policies and legislation based on a level playing field between public and private actors as well as between the EU and third countries.

More specifically, European and national policy makers should ensure coherence between their policy decisions and consequent investment decisions, even if this requires punctual exemptions from stability pact principles.



ECF will develop specific actions on the basis of this Manifesto and the EU agenda.  
website: [www.ecf.be](http://www.ecf.be)



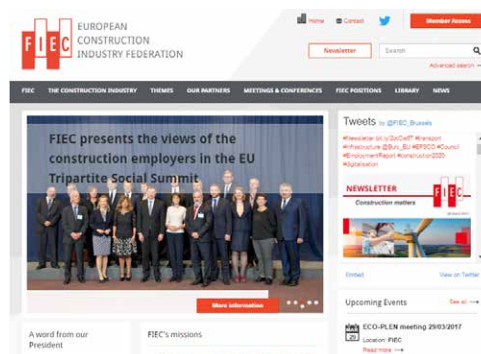
# COMMUNICATION

**Philip Crampton, IE**  
Vice-president in charge of  
Communication



## www.fiec.eu

- The public website presents FIEC activities and the concerns of the European construction industry. It is aimed at an external audience and contains thematic issues, news and positions papers
- The "members only" part has protected access and contains the communication tool connecting FIEC and its Member Federations.



## Twitter Account: @FIEC\_Brussels



FIEC tweets on priority issues such as:

#Skills #Growth  
#Construction #Infrastructure  
#CleanEnergyPackage #Employment  
#Social #Construction2020  
#digitalisation

and many other events ...

**Follow us on twitter! @FIEC\_Brussels**



## FIEC Newsletter "Construction matters"

(1/week) Our weekly Newsletter highlights the latest main issues or current events. Interested in knowing more about a specific news item? ... a simple 'click' on the button 'read more' directs the reader to more information, such as position papers or articles on the FIEC website or other websites.

**How to subscribe to our Newsletter? very simple!**

- on our website [www.fiec.eu](http://www.fiec.eu), just click on the box 'Newsletter' and fill in your details,
- or simply send us your e-mail to [info@fie.eu](mailto:info@fie.eu).



## FIEC Periodical Publications



### • Construction Activity in Europe (1/year)

FIEC publishes a document giving information about construction activity in Europe. Each country is analysed individually and Europe as a whole under the following headings:

- general economic overview (general economic situation, general economic policy, government policies in relation to the construction industry)
- overall construction activity (including employment)
- new housebuilding
- rehabilitation and maintenance of residential buildings
- non-residential building
- civil engineering and construction abroad.

The data are given over a period of 5 to 10 years.

Forecasts are made for up to 1 year.



### • Annual Report (1/year)

This document constitutes a complete survey of the FIEC issues and positions between two General Assemblies.



### • Construction in Europe - Key Figures (1/year)

This publication, in practical pocket format, provides the reader with a brief survey of the essential key figures of construction activity in Europe and in the world as well as a brief presentation of FIEC and the sector.



### • Article in Construction Europe (10/year)

For many years FIEC has worked together with the magazine "Construction Europe", publishing a monthly article on EU current affairs.

## FIEC Occasional Publications



### • Making BIM a global success

This publication represents FIEC's manifesto for ensuring the widespread application of BIM across the entire construction industry, ensuring that no company, large or small, is unable to participate in BIM-based building and infrastructure projects. Interoperability and open BIM are emphasised and the publication outlines the main challenges facing the industry and the solutions that could facilitate the uptake of BIM. It also explains how BIM can help to deliver the big EU policies.



### • 10 Proposals to tackle Climate Change - Solutions from the Construction Industry

Construction is a high productivity, high technology industry and a major force in the global resources available to tackle climate change. FIEC proposes collaboration with city planners and local public authorities to ensure that robust maintenance and construction programmes tackle the climate change challenge head on, anticipating the risks and providing the solutions. "Construction is the solution industry!"



### • FIEC manifesto for action - EU term 2014-2019

The FIEC Manifesto defines 10 areas for action, which play a key role in establishing an adequate framework for ensuring that the construction sector can actually be the efficient lever for growth and jobs in all parts of the EU industry, in a sustainable and future-oriented way.



Construction in Europe:  
100 years of FIEC  
(2005)



The FIEC Principles  
for Sustainability  
(2005) including the  
CSR Principles



FIEC/EIC  
Statement on  
Corruption Prevention  
in the Construction  
Industry (2009)

All these publications and further information can be obtained from the FIEC office in Brussels.

For EIC publications, please refer to p. 61



## FIEC representatives in conferences and debates (selection)

### Economic and Legal themes

#### Meeting with a delegation of Ethiopian representatives of the International Road Federation (IRF)

Brussels, 15/7/2016

Presentation on public procurement and contract conditions by Christine Le Forestier, Director Economic and Legal Affairs

#### Conference “Simplifying ESI funds to increase the efficiency of infrastructure projects” – hosted at the EP by MEP Iskra Mihaylova, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development.

Brussels, BE (29/6/2016)

Presentation by representatives of our Bulgarian Member Federation BCC, Svetoslav Glossov, BCC Chairman and Simeon Peshov, BCC Honorary Chairman and by Ulrich Paetzold, FIEC Director General

#### Meeting with a delegation of representatives of our French Member Federation FNTF

Brussels, BE (29/9/2016)

Presentation on Infrastructure & Financing by Christine Le Forestier, Director Economic and Legal Affairs

#### Conference “Transport Infrastructure Pipelines in Europe: What makes a good project?” hosted by the EP Intergroup Long-Term Investment and Reindustrialisation

Brussels, BE (12/10/2016)

Participation of Vincent Piron (FR), Vice-Chair of the FIEC Working Group Infrastructure & Financing and Jean-Louis Marchand, FIEC President

#### Dinner debate “EU prudential regulation: balancing growth orientation, the green investment agenda and stability” hosted by the EP Intergroup Long-Term Investment and Reindustrialisation

Brussels, BE (7/2/20147)

Participation of Daniel Boscardi, Vice-Chair of the FIEC Working Group Infrastructure & Financing

### Social themes

#### Conference “Towards fairer labour mobility within the EU” hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee

Brussels, BE (28/9/2016)

Presentation by Domenico Campogrande, Director Social Affairs

#### High Level Conference “The European Pillar of Social Rights: going forward together”, organised by the European Commission (DG EMPL)

Brussels, BE (23/1/2017)

Participation of Domenico Campogrande, Director Social Affairs

#### OSHA (European Agency for Health & Safety at Work) Campaign Partner event with Commissioner Marianne Thyssen

Brussels (22/3/2017)

Participation of Domenico Campogrande, Director Social Affairs

#### “Green Jobs for Energy Efficiency – Meeting the Needs of the Construction Sector”, Workshop organised by Build Up Skills stakeholders as part of #EUGreenWeek

Brussels, BE (1/6/2017)

Presentation by Domenico Campogrande, Director Social Affairs

### Technical and Environmental themes

#### High Level Lunch on Energy Renovation of Buildings in Europe, organised by EBC & CAPEB

Paris, FR (4/10/2016)

Participation of Jean-Louis Marchand, FIEC President

#### Symposium on EU Construction Products Regulation, organised by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

Berlin, DE (8/11/2016)

Presentation by Sue Arundale, Director Technical and Environmental Affairs

#### Conference of EOTA Stakeholder Advisory Group (EOTA – European Organisation for Technical Assessment)

Brussels, BE (10/11/2016)

Presentation by Jan Coumans, Chairman of TEC-1

#### Conference GeoBIM “Infrastructure & Building”

Amsterdam, NL (24-25/11/2016)

Presentation by Kjetil Tønning, FIEC Vice-President, Chairman of the Technical Commission

#### EP event on the Construction Products Regulation and its impact on the internal market, hosted by MEP Catherine Stihler

Brussels, BE (31/1/2017)

Presentation by Jan Coumans, Chairman of TEC-1

#### BIM Summit, event co-organised by our Spanish Member Federation CNC and BBC (Barcelona Building Construmat Fair)

Barcelona, ES (25-26/5/2017)

Presentation by Kjetil Tønning, FIEC Vice-President, Chairman of the Technical Commission

### European and FIEC themes

#### EU Single Market Forum – Signing Ceremony

Amsterdam, NL (13/6/2016)

Participation of Ulrich Paetzold, FIEC Director General

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Discussion Forum “Construction in 2017 – Prospects and Challenges”, organised by our Bulgarian Member Federation BCC

Sofia, BG (20/9/2016)

Participation of Jean-Louis Marchand, FIEC President

#### Informal COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL lunch debate, organised by the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council

Brussels, BE (29/9/2016)

Presentation of FIEC messages for the construction sector by Jean-Louis Marchand, FIEC President

#### Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment,

Brussels, BE (19/10/2016)

Participation of Jean-Louis Marchand, FIEC President

#### Meeting of the CCMI (Consultative Commission on Industrial Change) of the EESC (European Economic and Social Committee)

Brussels, BE (23/11/2016)

Presentation by Ulrich Paetzold, FIEC Director General on FIEC and on the issue ‘Posting of workers’

#### Meeting with a delegation of representatives of the Italian Federation ANCE Como

Brussels, BE (28/11/2016)

Presentation by Domenico Campogrande, Director Social Affairs on FIEC activities and lobbying

#### Meeting with representatives of the Danish Federation Dansk Byggeri

Copenhagen, DK (20/12/2016)

Presentation by Sue Arundale, Director Technical Affairs on EU Policy Making – Staying up to date

#### Conference “Single Market Forum” (SIMFO 2017), organised by European Commission and the Ministry of Economic Development of Poland

Warsaw, PL (31/3/2017)

Presentation by Ulrich Paetzold, FIEC Director General

#### Conference “FFB Construction Summit”, organised by our French Member Federation FFB

Paris, FR (18/5/2017)

Participation in the Round Table of Ulrich Paetzold, FIEC Director General

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Design inextremis.be

Original: English  
Translation French and German DSDB Brussels

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