

FEDERATION NEWS

Public procurement: sustainable growth depends on recognition of knowledge-based services	p1
National Directors' shared spirit: vital to create a platform for European sectorial information	p1
FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Development Committee: on the road to Rio+20	p2
2012 EFCA competition for engineering excellence among Young Professionals	p2
EFCA YPs: connecting with ambitious and inspired colleagues to benefit from collective experience and knowledge	p3
Developing the engineering world – Winning strategies	p3
EFCA agenda	p4
2012 FIDIC/MDB Harmonised Major Works Contracts Conference – Brussels, 25/26 June	p4

Public procurement: sustainable growth depends on recognition of knowledge-based services

In its contribution to the European Parliament work on the re-cast of the Public Procurement Directive, EFCA explains the specific position of intellectual or knowledge-based services to ensure value for money for the long term.

EFCA's Internal Market Committee examined the text of the proposed Directive and held consultations with both the European Commission (DG MARKT) and members of the lead Committee in the European Parliament, Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

Ahead of the IMCO report, EFCA submitted key recommendations for changes in the final text of the Directive.

Focusing on our industry's key driver role for turning the EU into a knowledge society and competitive low-carbon economy, EFCA emphasises that the value of intellectual and creative services must be recognised in procurement law, as these services are designated to add long-term value for investments that are paid for with public funds.

To view EFCA comments in terms of

- achieving market openness;
- better access to the market for SMEs; and
- new requirements for sustainable development

see at:

[http://www.efca.be/Portals/EFCA/ELOKET/4532/EFCA%20position_modernisation%20public%20procurement_2012-04-03_English%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.efca.be/Portals/EFCA/ELOKET/4532/EFCA%20position_modernisation%20public%20procurement_2012-04-03_English%20(2).pdf)

National Directors' shared spirit: vital to create a platform for European sectorial information

National directors and secretaries general are interested in and committed to monitor industry developments and trends in their country in order to further knowledge about the real European industry landscape and eventually enhance our industry's visibility.

The directors' 'Barometer' initiative to produce a periodic European report on the current business situation and anticipated business activity for the next six months is making progress.

The first half-year reference tool for our industry will be presented at the 24 May 2012 General Assembly meeting in Lisbon.

Recently, the European Consulting Future Committee discussed how to make the most of the publication 'Taking hold of our Future' (August 2011). It was considered useful to elaborate an annual update of the report to keep its content alive.

Again, national directors will have an important role in collecting, analysing and integrating information on the industry's strategies and structures (trends).

EFCA's half-yearly meeting of the national directors and secretaries general will jumpstart the collection of content for the updated report in the autumn of 2012.

FIDIC-EFCA Sustainable Development Committee: on the road to Rio+20

FIDIC and EFCA are jointly preparing their input and vision statements for Rio+20.

In June 2012, Rio de Janeiro will host the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), widely known as 'Rio +20'.

FIDIC will be represented in the UNEP SBCI (Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative) General Assembly meeting and Symposium (Sao Paulo, 12-14 June). At the latter meeting, Stellan Fryxell (Sweden) will present the advance copy of the EFCA-FIDIC White Book 'Rethink Cities'.

The White Book is highlighting that cities and urban regions are in the front line as both areas of tension and agents of intervention concerning the major challenges facing the planet.

Cities are the driving force behind economic, social and environmental advancement.

Strategies and approaches for the sustainable development of cities are not only linked to socio-political and institutional frameworks; more important is the need to

conceive and implement integrated plans and innovative design for the re-arrangement of the economic, social and environmental spheres in cities.

In order to create sustainable added-value within urban environments, the White Book underlines the need for developing common methodological frameworks and an enhanced cooperation between policy makers, local political executives and building/infrastructure professionals.

2012 EFCA competition for engineering excellence among Young Professionals

The EFCA jury was impressed by the quality of 31 entries for the 2012 event, which came in from all parts of Europe.

The winners were selected on the basis of achievements to date, innovative capabilities, presentation, education and references.

The winner of the 2012 EFCA competition, Charlotte Spliethoff, 29, of Grontmij (NL), is



working as a project manager and (geotechnical) consultant for projects for the design, inspection and testing of dikes.

She will receive the award at the

annual conference in Lisbon on 25th May 2012.

She is invited to present the winning project 'The International Levee Handbook', a compendium of good practice in the design, construction, maintenance and improvement of levees, to the audience.

Certificates will be presented also to the two runners-up, Mette Ryom Nielsen (Denmark) and Miquel Peiro Sendra (France) and the honorary mentions.

The results of the 2012 YP competition are available at:
<http://www.efcanet.org/News/Detail.aspx?id=373>

EFCA YPs: connecting with ambitious and inspired colleagues to benefit from collective experience and knowledge

'Our aim is to share useful experiences that all participants can take back and to build communication bridges to enhance cooperation and improve their firm's competitiveness', say the organizers of the EFCA YP Forum.



networking for new knowledge

The YP Forum will take place in Lisbon on 24 May 2012.

The programme includes a dynamic skills session on generational differences and preparing YPs as the

next generation of leaders in the sector with guest speaker Aart Bontekoning. This session will open with a short video of interviews with Dutch YPs and their line managers, intended to highlight some of the issues and spark discussion.

In the 'Building the YP network' session participants will learn and discuss about national and global YP initiatives.

During the Forum, the winners of the 2012 EFCA YP competition will showcase their accomplishments.

Finally, the YPs will plan their participation in the EFCA Conference panel debates on their perspectives on our industry's leadership strategies.

<http://www.efca-conference2012.com>

Developing the engineering world – Winning strategies

EFCA's 2012 Conference in Lisbon on 25 May 2012 will engage the engineering consultancy industry in a creative and courageous thinking about its future.

Our sector of activity is facing serious difficulties in many European countries, and everywhere the companies are to reflect on their roles and identity, business structures, partnerships and goals.

The European industry's flagship event will try to answer whether engineering consultancy firms are prepared to face the next decade successfully and address three major questions:

- Do we know how to grow in our business?
- Do we know how to satisfy our clients?
- Are we prepared for winning strategies?

Panels will consist of speakers from different walks, including banks, insurance brokers, major clients, small and large consultancies, industrial consultancies, academics and contractors from all over Europe.

The early bird rates for registration and accommodation at the Altis Hotel have been extended to **30 APRIL**.

<http://www.efca-conference2012.com>

To mark EFCA's 20th anniversary in Lisbon, a picture show will portray various aspects of EFCA's history.



Also, EFCA will issue an artistically illustrated notepad, featuring drawings by Mátyás Borostyánkői, as a tangible souvenir of the 20th anniversary.

By courtesy of Mátyás Borostyánkői

Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	27.04.2012
Board of Directors meeting	Lisbon	24.05.2012
EFCA 2012 Conference & GAM & YP Forum	Lisbon	24-25.05.2012
Sustainable Development Committee	Brussels	04.06.2012
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	07.06.2012
FIDIC MDB Conference	Brussels	25-26.06.2012
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	27.06.2012
Board of Directors meeting	Dublin	21.09.2012 (tbc)
D&S meeting	Luxembourg	16.11.2012



2012 FIDIC / Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) Harmonised Major Works (Construction) Contract Conference – Brussels, 25/26 June

The conference aims to broaden the understanding and experience of this contract form, and its wider use in the marketplace. Topics include related issues on aid funded projects across the world, including those funded by the EU.

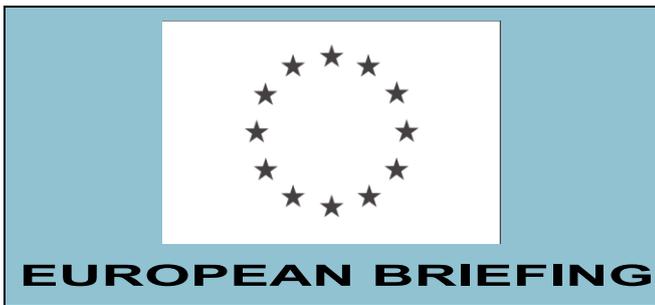
This year's conference will see participation from all the major multi-lateral development banks, such as the World Bank, Asia Development Bank, EBRD, African Development Bank and others.

A special addition this year will be the participation of several bi-lateral funding agencies, which also use the Harmonised Contract, or plan to. These include Australia, Japan, Germany, Sweden and the USA.

The programme is coordinated with various other international organisations, including EFCA, with the support from the MDBs.

Participation is open to all interested parties.

For more information and registration, see:
<http://www.efca.be/MeetingsEvents/Detail.aspx?detailid=4538>



INTERNAL MARKET	p5
Commission initiative on the external dimension of EU procurement policy	
Cross-border mobility: Commission is tracking down tax obstacles	
EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES	p6
New EU Technical Assistance Facility worth €50 million proposed	
€100 million for reconstruction in Haiti	
EU aid drops in 2011	
Life+ Call for proposals 2012	
EIB launches €50 million East African Community Microfinance Facility	
€160 million for key infrastructure projects	
Baltic Sea strategy: three new strategic focuses	
EU-China agreement to enhance water cooperation	
MISCELLANEOUS	p7
Consultation on priority objectives for the environment	
Guidelines to limit soil sealing	
2011 Technology Map: state of the art of the strategic energy technologies	
Climate change: plan for disasters, IPPC tells to policymakers	

INTERNAL MARKET

Commission initiative on the external dimension of EU procurement policy

The main objective of the Commission proposed Regulation is to redress the balance and symmetry in access to worldwide public procurement markets.

The Commission aims to:

- set the terms of access to the EU's public procurement market;

- improve the opportunities for EU businesses to compete for public procurement contracts outside the EU;
- create a level playing field for public procurement within the European internal market by ensuring that EU companies and non-EU companies will compete for public contracts on an equal footing.

At the same time, the Commission confirms the EU's openness in procurement and the EU's international commitments under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) and bilateral trade agreements.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/modernising_rules/international_access/index_en.htm

Government procurement restrictions are identified in the 'Trade and investment barriers' report.

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2012/february/tradoc_149143.pdf

Cross-border mobility: Commission is tracking down tax obstacles

Worker mobility has been identified as one of the key potentials for increasing growth and employment in Europe. However, tax obstacles remain one of the key deterrents to citizens looking for work in another Member State.

Throughout 2012, the Commission will carry out a thorough assessment of national direct taxes to determine whether they create unfair disadvantages for workers that live in one Member State and work in another. The Commission's review will include the situation for employees, the self-employed and pensioners.

Should cases of discrimination or infringement of fundamental freedoms be detected, failings and necessary changes will be notified to national authorities. If the problems continue, the Commission will initiate infringement proceedings against the member states in question.

Two services that help European citizens and businesses understand and defend their rights in the EU are SOLVIT and Your Europe Advice.

http://ec.europa.eu/citizensrights/front_end/index_en.htm

<http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/>

EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

New EU Technical Assistance Facility worth €50 million proposed

The EU's new 'Energising development' initiative includes a new EU Technical Assistance Facility, worth €50 million over the next two years.

The initiative will also focus on expanding and improving EU innovative financial instruments, e.g. support to develop public-private partnerships on energy access in developing countries or setting up risk guarantee schemes in developing countries with a bank.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/energy/sustainable/se4all_en.htm

€100 million for reconstruction in Haiti

The Commission announced a new aid package, worth €100 million.

After the 2010 earthquake, the Commission had pledged €522 million to the country. It has committed to around 75% of the funds so far.

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/haiti/index_fr.htm

EU aid drops in 2011

Still, with €53 billion of development aid in 2011, the EU and its 27 member states remains the world biggest donor, providing more than half of global official aid.

At a time of heavy budgetary constraints, 16 member states managed to increase their aid, three of them are ranked among the five largest donors worldwide and four of them have already reached the target of spending 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) on aid.

http://www.oecd.org/document/3/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_50058883_1_1_1_1,00.html

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/12/243&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

LIFE+ Call for Proposals 2012

The sixth LIFE+ call for proposals was published, with up to €276 million available for co-financing of projects under three headings: Nature and biodiversity; Environment policy and governance; and Information and communication.

Project proposals should be sent to the relevant national authority no later than 26 September, 2012.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifepus2012/index.htm>

EIB launches €50 million East African Community Microfinance Facility

The East African Community Microfinance Facility will be the first of three regional microfinance programmes that the European Investment Bank (EIB) plans to launch in sub-Saharan Africa over the next three years.

The East African Community Microfinance Facility, backed by the EIB, allows experienced banks and microfinance institutions engaging in microfinance to

receive local currency funding to support their financing of local business.

Partner banks can also benefit from dedicated training and technical assistance to improve the effectiveness of this financial support to the private sector.

<http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2012/2012-050-eib-launches-eur-50m-east-africa-microfinance-programme.htm>

€160 million for key infrastructure projects

26 selected projects will use the EU co-financing to speed up the implementation of important priorities of the TEN-T Programme in order to build a real European transport infrastructure network.

In all, 21 member states will receive EU funding for projects concerning motorways of the sea, river information services and the ERTMS, the European rail traffic management system.

http://tentea.ec.europa.eu/en/ten-t_projects/ten-t_projects_by_year/projects_2007-2013_financial_framework.htm

Baltic Sea strategy: three new strategic focuses

The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), the first of the Macro-Regional Strategies, is to increase the impact of EU funds to reach common goals.

The three new focuses for cooperation are: saving the Baltic Sea, connecting the region and increasing its prosperity.

For each of the three priorities, the Commission identifies objectives and indicators that will help measure progress.

All EU programmes in the Region are expected to contribute to the Strategy by aligning their priorities, projects and funding.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/baltic/index_en.cfm

The Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 has been the main source of funding for the Baltic Sea Strategy so far: almost half of the programme's budget (€88 million) and 31 projects were linked to the Strategy.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/transnational/baltic_sea_en.htm

EU-China agreement to enhance water cooperation

The newly established China Europe Water Platform (CEWP) under the EU Water Initiative will aim at a two way exchange of experiences and best practices in integrated sustainable and environment-friendly water resources policy development, planning and implementation.

China has adopted a water development plan that entails investments of some €470 billion over ten years. CEWP cooperation could result in a significant increase in European exports of 'green' technologies.

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/china/index_en.htm

<http://www.euwi.net/>

MISCELLANEOUS

Consultation on priority objectives for the environment

The 7th Environment Action Programme is to provide an overarching, coherent framework for strategic initiatives, set out priority objectives and sustain prosperity within the planet's limits.

The Commission is seeking informed opinions on the priority areas and the most effective tools for the EU to employ in addressing the challenges highlighted in the European Environment Agency's 2010 State of the Environment Report.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/7eap_en.htm

Cost of non-implementation of EU environment measures are estimated at around €50 billion every year

The impact of regulatory uncertainty about implementation possibilities for the European environment industry could be substantial and certainly affects innovation in environmental technologies.

Implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law is a shared task with national, regional and local authorities. The Commission's role is to check that Member States' commitments are respected and take action if they are not.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/law/compliance.htm>

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enveco/economics_policy/pdf/report_sept2011.pdf

Guidelines to limit soil sealing

The Commission guidelines underline the importance of an integrated approach to spatial planning.

The guidelines call for smarter spatial planning and using more permeable materials to preserve our soil.

They are aimed at authorities at national, regional and local levels as well as professionals dealing with land planning and soil management.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/sealing_guidelines.htm

2011 Technology Map: state of the art of the strategic energy technologies

The Strategic Energy Technologies review, published by the Joint Research Center (JRC), provides a European and worldwide analysis of 15 low-carbon energy technologies, energy efficiency in industry, energy performance of buildings and electricity storage in the power sector.

The study describes the state of the art of the different technologies, current and estimated market penetration, barriers to their large-scale deployment, planned R&D efforts to overcome those barriers and reference values for their operational and economic performance.

http://setis.ec.europa.eu/about-setis/technology-map/2011_Technology_Map1.pdf/view

Climate change: plan for disasters, IPCC tells to policymakers

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report 'Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation', focuses on the relationship between climate change and extreme weather and climate events, the impacts of such events, and the strategies to manage the associated risks.

The report gives insight into the human and economic costs of disasters. It identifies the lessons learned from past experience in disaster risk management and from the growing focus on adaptation to climate change.

<http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/>

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