



ECEC Statement (opinion) on Sustainability and Energy Efficiency in Engineering services

The engineering services are currently facing significant challenges, not only in terms of their influence on energy and climate change, but also in terms of their impact on natural resources (energy, water and materials) and users' convenience and welfare (accessibility, safety & security, indoor air quality, etc.).

Sustainable construction can be defined as a dynamic for developing new solutions involving investors, construction industry, professional services, industry suppliers and other relevant parties towards achieving sustainable development, taking into consideration environmental, energy, socio-economic and cultural issues. It embraces a number of aspects such as design and management of buildings and constructed assets, choice of materials, energy use, the physical and functional performances of building.

Sustainable construction is the responsible approach towards environment and the reasonable spending of limited resources.

The significance of these topics increases not only at national but also at European level. In this respect chartered engineers and consultants carry special responsibility.

Taking into account the globalization and climate change as framework modifying factors, they face the task to create optimal conditions for life and work in buildings and in the same time to avoid or bring to minimum the possible negative effects on environment. It is their duty to produce plans in conformity to the principles of sustainable construction and offer long-term technical and economically optimal decisions.

The Chartered engineers and consultants support the "Lead Market Initiative" for Europe of the European Commission.

The Chartered engineers and consultants are requested to support and contribute to achieving the headline targets of Europe 2020 Strategy. The Engineering services should be shifted towards the new eco-efficient technologies.

At present, the normative requirements for sustainable construction are insufficiently harmonized at national and European level. As result the markets are multi-fragmented and over-regulated by similar regulations. At the same time, frame-work conditions for encouraging the innovative and sustainable decision lack. Many key decisions are currently taken on the basis of the lowest costs instead of quality, safety and environmental criteria and life-cycle costs. The actual standardization process is very much fragmented and adapting very slowly to technological progress and market development.

It is necessary:

- To speed up the development of European standards for sustainable construction. To be defined the principles of sustainable development in the field of engineering services. For this purpose, sharing and analysis of the national technical regulations should be done as soon as possible, and on this basis EU Standards should be worked out as a combination of the best national ideas.
- To develop a culture for innovations based on the requirements of sustainable development. (To train professionally active designers to take better account of recent developments in design driven innovation). To be defined the principles of sustainability in the field of engineering services. To upgrade the skills and competencies in renewable energies.
- The strategies and initiatives at European and national levels for Sustainable Development have to be implemented into business and everyday praxis.
- ECEC should be more proactive in involving the Chartered Engineers and Consultants in the flagship initiatives of Europe 2020 Strategy. ECEC has to guide and help ECEC member organizations to become fit to meet the challenges of the flagship initiatives, which closely concern the Engineering services - in particular "Innovation Union" , "Resource efficient Europe" and "An industrial policy for the globalisation era".
- To identify incentives to offer solutions at the advantage of both the clients and the industry. Best practices that allow acceptance of the "Economical Most Advantageous Tender" (EMAT) and Life-Cycle Costing, and encourage the proposal of technological variants, would be a step forward.
- To see how the actual standardization process could evolve more rapidly towards a set of standards integrating the various aspects of sustainable development taking benefit of new scientific and technical knowledge.

In order to be well prepared for meeting the challenges of a new world economy Chartered engineers and consultants should become more proactive with respect to the sustainable development agenda.

Working together towards these objectives is essential!