



ECEC NEWS

ECEC Website relaunched

Since 1st October 2013 the new ECEC Website is online. The aim is to improve the visibility of ECEC as well as the service for the ECEC member organisations. It is still work in progress and will be finalized during the next weeks. Access data to the member's area for member organisations will remain the same. In future, also the ECEC Newsletter shall be distributed via the Website. Any comments from Member organisations are of course very welcome. www.ecec.net

Call for members - ECEC Working Group on Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

The ECEC Executive Board has decided to install a new ECEC Working Group on CPD. As the topic of CPD is very important in regard to the quality of Engineering services – the main argument against professional deregulation – the ECEC Executive Board has prepared a paper as a basis for the work of a new ECEC WG on CPD. Vice President Sumarac is responsible for this topic and will chair the new Working group. Details will be presented at the General Assembly in Athens and all member organisations are invited to name an expert to the working group.

ECEC Working Group European Affairs – Results

- ***ECEC Memorandum “Let Engineers Build Europe”***: The ECEC WG on European Affairs has prepared a draft of a Memorandum on engineering interests which is meant to be an appeal to candidates for the election of the European Parliament in May 2014. The text was adopted by the ECEC Executive Board and shall be presented to the GAM in Athens for adoption.
- There will be a presentation of the Memorandum on European level and additionally ECEC member organisations will be asked for distribution on national level to their MEP candidates in time before the elections in May 2014 and to interested Newspapers. Vice President Letzner is responsible for this topic and will present the Memorandum to the GAM.
- ***9 arguments why professional regulation for engineers is essential for Europe***: As a reaction to the manifold on going approaches toward professional “deregulation” the WG has prepared a streamlined argumentation on the necessity of professional regulation for use on national and European level. The text was adopted by the Executive Board on 1 September 2013. <http://www.ecec.net/about-ecec/9-arguments/>
- ***ICE – ECEC Presidents’ Meeting in London on 17 July 2013***: ECEC President Remec, accompanied by SG Thürriedl and EB advisor Thomas Noebel, and ICE (Institution of Civil Engineers <http://www.ice.org.uk/>) President Clarke and other ICE representatives discussed current European developments that are relevant for engineers in Europe. In future the cooperation between the two organisations shall be enforced; the ICE will also be represented at the ECEC GAM in Athens.

European Commission and Member States assess barriers restricting access to regulated professions

On 2 October 2013 the European Commission adopted a communication announcing the start of an evaluation of national regulations on access to professions. The communication implements requirements set out in the revised Professional Qualifications Directive. First step is a transparency exercise: each Member State will have to report the list of professions it regulates, including those at regional level. The Commission will then publish this list in the form of a European map of regulated professions that will clearly display which professions are regulated and at which countries. In a second stage Member States are invited to conduct over the next two years a mutual evaluation of the respective barriers they have in place limiting the access to certain professions. Professional



organisations shall be involved during this exercise. It will be important that ECEC member organisation check with their competent authorities to ensure this involvement.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/docs/policy_developments/131002_communication_en.pdf

Report on the Internal Market for Services: State of Play and Next Steps

A strong appeal of the European Parliament to remove existing regulatory burdens for service providers

On 13 September 2013 the European Parliament has adopted a report on the internal market for services. This report makes a very strong appeal to Commission and Member states to remove existing regulatory burdens for service providers. Among other things the report even says explicitly that the Member states are often using overriding reasons of public interest to protect and favour their domestic market. The Parliament also appeals to the Commission to apply a zero tolerance policy in order to ensure full compliance with the Services Directive. The report seems to deviate from former approaches of the European Parliament where the importance of the public interest was a focus point of importance. There is a danger that it will be used as a new base of argumentation against professional regulation, therefore it will become even important to stress the justification of such regulations.

During the procedure the ECEC has provided its member organisations with model letters for their MEPs in order to support amendments that stress the importance of the public interest. The final wording of the text was alleviated in some points; nevertheless the message is still very clear.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P7-TA-2013-366>

Modernization of the European Public Procurement Legislation

The new Public Procurement Directive - A step towards quality competition?

Most important achievement for the ECEC is a clear shift towards the most economically advantageous tender as award criterion in the Directive: According to Art 66 Point 1 without prejudice to national laws, regulations or administrative provisions contracting authorities shall base the award of public contracts on the most economically advantageous tender. This shall be identified on the basis of the price or cost, using a cost-effectiveness approach, such as life-cycle costing and may include the best price-quality ratio. The cost element can also be a fixed price on which a pure quality competition takes place. Additionally it is clarified in the article that member states are free to regulate on national level that contracting authorities may not use price only or cost only as the sole award criterion or restrict their use to certain types of contracts – which means that price only could be completely forbidden for intellectual services on national level.

It can be seen as a success of manifold lobbying activities of many organisations that the problematic regulation in Art. 1 that an entirety of works-, supplies- and services have to be counted together for the thresholds even when procured with different contracts if the contracts are part of one „project“ was deleted.

The ECEC argumentation that the negotiated procedure is the best procedure for intellectual can at least be found in Whereas 15 a, which stresses the benefit of the use of such a procedure for services that are connected with design and innovative solutions.

Adoption in the EP plenary session is scheduled for 12 December 2013 - see EP legislative observatory:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2011/0438%28COD%29>

Modernization of the European Professional Qualifications Directive - will the new Directive enhance mobility among Engineers in Europe?

The most important achievement for ECEC is that the concept of the professional card as it is now very much follows the concept that was suggested by the ECEC. It has been clarified that a professional card is mainly a certificate within the IMI system that can only be issued by the competent authority. Especially in view to the efforts of private organisations to involve themselves in the issuing of professional cards this clarification was extremely important. Nevertheless there are regulations that could cause practical problems as for example short deadlines. It remains to be seen, if the card will really fulfil the expectations of the European Commission and be a

ECEC Newsletter

October 2013



boost for mobility. On 8 October 2013 a telephone conference between ECEC President Remec and the competent person on PQD in the European Commission - Jürgen Tiedje – is scheduled.

Another important aspect of the new Directive is the concept of the Common Framework of Art 49a as it can be a possibility for certain engineering professions to gain something similar to automatic recognition. Nevertheless it is a problem that the common training frameworks shall be based on the levels of the European Qualifications Framework and not – as the ECEC would have preferred – on the qualification levels of Art 11.

The ECEC sees it positive that the qualification levels of Art. 11 remain in the Directive. Nevertheless the system has been quite undermined - especially problematic are the changes in Art. 13 (4).

Adoption in the EP plenary session is scheduled for 9 October 2013 - see EP legislative observatory:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2011/0435%28COD%29>

ECEC Partnership in World Green Building Council Leadership Awards for the Europe Region

Excellent projects of sustainable construction shall be put in the limelight in order to raise awareness

The ECEC has been invited to participate as a partner in the first Leadership Awards for the Europe Region hosted by the World Green Building Council's European Network.

The whole ECEC Strategy is based on sustainable design and construction so it is a matter of course to support initiatives like that of the WGBC Europe Region. It is very important to raise awareness and to put excellent projects in the limelight so that they can serve as best-practice examples. Therefore the Executive Board has decided to follow the invitation and be partner of the Awards. President Remec has been nominated as ECEC representative in the panel of judges.

See the winners: <http://www.worldgbc.org/activities/govt-leadership-awards/europe>