



ECEC NEWS

Hand-over meeting, Athens, 11th January 2013

The ECEC hand-over meeting from the previous Executive Board to the newly elected one was held on Friday 11th January 2013, in Athens, at the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG) Headquarters.

After the formal hand-over meeting the meeting with the representatives of Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG) and European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) followed. The following topics were discussed:

- the evolutions on the New Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications,
- the co-organization of the 2nd Engineers Day in 2014 with ECCE,
- the organisation of the ECEC General Assembly Meeting and ECEC 10th Anniversary in Athens in autumn 2013.

A common action (ECEC – ECCE) in Brussels concerning the arrangement of meetings with DG Markt (Jürgen Tiedje) and with the European Parliament (EP IMCO Rapporteur) on the theme of New Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications was discussed and agreed.

The 2nd Engineers Day was proposed for October 2014, after the Elections of the new European Parliament in spring 2014. The date was still to be confirmed by both Executive Boards.

The Technical Chamber of Greece will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary in 2013. During this year various events will be organized at national and international level to celebrate it. The main topic of the celebration of the 90 years of the TCG is “Engineering Regulated Profession in Europe Serving the Public Interest, Building the Growth and the Welfare of Europe”. The main event will be held on the 11th October in Athens. On the same day the TCG will also host the 6th Presidents’ of the European engineering organizations meeting. At the invitation of the TCG the ECEC General Assembly Meeting and the ECEC 10th Anniversary will be held on the 12th October in Athens as well.

1st meeting of the new Executive Board, Ljubljana, 9th February 2013

At the beginning of the meeting the members of the board exchanged the up-to-date information. Later on they focused on the current status of the new directive on Recognition of professional qualifications and on public procurement, preparation of ECEC strategy for the period of 2013 to 2015 and 2013 action plan. The acceptance of both new directives is foreseen for autumn this year. The reason for delay lies in large number of amendments and in different points of views of the commission and the parliament. The ECEC strategy for the period of 2013 to 2015 is planned to be accepted at the next ECEC Executive Board meeting which will be held in April. Its introduction is foreseen for the next ECEC newsletter, to be issued at the end of June.



Up-to-date information

Hans Ulrich Kammeyer: German engineers are in a good position politically as there is currently more work than engineers. Therefore it will e.g. be possible to keep the HOAI. Chambers are trying to get better regulation of professional access. At the moment 3 years of a technical study or study of natural science is required. In order to get more engineers, the level is in danger of being lowered further. A main problem is that crafts persons can make a master without bachelor, and there is a danger that they can become Civil Engineers that way.



Unfortunately there are different viewpoints of engineering organisations in Germany on how to define an engineer. It is now discussed how many credit points are necessary.

Klaus Thürriegl: In Upper Austria a decision has been taken that 160 technical credit points are the required minimum. As all studies also include non-technical subjects it is not possible to achieve these 160 credit points with a 3-years Bachelor study (1st Bologna degree).

Gabor Szöllösy: The Hungarian Parliament accepted a new construction act with which the government has been empowered to regulate prices in the field of Engineering. It is still open how it will be done (probably based on HOAI) as the new regulation will have to be accepted by the EU as well. Hungary is at the moment also getting nearer to get a licencing requirement for designing work (compulsory membership) only for MSc level (160 ECTS would not be enough). CPD in Hungary: Within 5 years one compulsory CPD measure with a certain amount of credit points is necessary. In the future only the Chamber shall be authorized to offer such CPD measures, this shall ensure a certain quality and professional necessity.

NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESENTS ITSELF [HERE](#).

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS

Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications – state of play

On 23rd January 2013 the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament (IMCO) adopted a considerable number of amendments on the European Commission's proposal for a directive on the recognition of professional qualifications. On 13th February 2013 the report listing the amendments was published. In this report the IMCO took note of the positions of the BAK, BIngK, ACE and ECEC with regard to traineeship and the role of the competent authorities in the process of automatic recognition of professional qualifications as well as on partial access, common training frameworks and the professional card. On 20th March 2013 the so called trilogue negotiations between the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission started already, although the Council has not adopted its position by now. The report of the European Parliament of 13 February 2013 can be found [here](#).

Public procurement law – state of play

On 6th March 2013 the trilogue negotiations between the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission on the classic directive on public procurement started. These European institutions will, now, after having settled their own positions on the Proposal, negotiate the final text of the directive. Especially the European Parliament took up some of the main points of the architects' and engineers' position, especially with regard to the contract award criteria (MEAT only), the selection criteria, the procedures applicable for calls of tenders for architects' and engineers' services and the method of calculation of thresholds for EU-wide calls for tenders. The lobbying activities will continue in the on-going legislation process.

The report of the European Parliament of 11 January 2013 can be found [here](#).

Services Directive - Peer Review

The European Commission has launched a "peer review" between EU-Member States aiming to identify remaining barriers in the Internal Market for Services. According to the Commission, this "fact finding-exercise" refers to the requirements of Article 15 and shall help to examine the proportionality of existing rules. In this regard, the "peer review" focuses on rules concerning the legal form and capital ownership requirements. A branch establishment in another EU-member state has to be possible without a complete restructuring of a company.



EP report on Internal Market for services

The European Parliament intends to adopt a report on the “state of play and next steps” in the Internal Market for services. To prepare the report, the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament (IMCO) on 20th February held an expert hearing. The draft report is announced to be published just before the 24/25 April when it is supposed to be considered in the IMCO.

Compulsory training regulations by professional associations

On 28th February 2013 the European Court of Justice pronounced a judgment on rules relating to a system of compulsory training. The court states that rules set by a professional organization might infringe competition Law of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union if these rules cause a considerable restriction of competition. The judgment can be found [here](#).

Alternative Dispute Resolution

On 12th May 2013 the European Parliament adopted a directive on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes. An informal agreement with the Council was already achieved by the end of 2012. The Council, therefore, is supposed to adopt the directive in April 2013. The directive applies to domestic and cross-border disputes when the dispute is submitted by the consumer to the alternative dispute resolution entity. The text of the adopted directive can be found [here](#).

Entrepreneurship Action Plan 2020

On 9th January the European Commission published the “Entrepreneurship Action Plan 2020”. In the annex of the European Commission’s communication a considerable number of measures including schedules are listed. The European Commission stresses the importance of SMEs for the European Economy. With regard to public procurement the Commission urges the Member States to fully implement the “European Code of best practices facilitating SMEs’ access to public procurement” by 2013. Furthermore the European Commission intends to set up a working group “to assess the specific needs of liberal profession entrepreneurs”. The “Entrepreneurship Action Plan 2020” can be found [here](#).

Strategy for sustainable competitiveness of construction sector – state of play

The European Commission published its ‘Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises’ (‘Construction 2020’). In order to start an interdisciplinary discussion on the strategy, the Commission installed a High-Level-Forum which will establish 5 to 6 Thematic Groups to work on the further output of the Commission’s communication. The Groups will meet twice this year before the results will be resumed by the High-Level-Forum by the end of 2013. The ECEC is represented in Group 2 (Skills & Qualification) by Executive Board member Hansjörg Letzner. The first meeting of the group takes place on 18th April 2013. You may find the *strategy for sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector* [here](#).

Complete News from Brussels can be found [here](#).