



**ECEC Award of Honour
to ECEC founding President Baurat h.c. DI Rudolf Kolbe**

The ECEC Award of Honour

It is important to appreciate all those people, who have invested a countless amount of time, energy and enthusiasm to contribute to topics that connect engineers all over Europe.

In view to current societal challenges the existence of a strong European representation of the interests of European Chartered Engineers is of higher importance than ever.

Therefore, in 2010 the ECEC Executive Board decided that it is more than just and equitable to honour those persons, who made, make and will make outstanding and essential contributions to build up a strong and effective representation for European Chartered Engineers. Since then, the ECEC Award of Honour is awarded at irregular intervals.

Award to ECEC Past President Baurat h.c. DI Rudolf Kolbe

The ECEC Executive Board has decided unanimously to award the ECEC Award of Honour to ECEC Founding President Rudolf Kolbe:

Rudolf Kolbe graduated at the Technical University of Vienna in 1980 as “Diplomingenieur” in Geodetic Surveying. In 1986, he was awarded the legal authorization of Chartered Engineering Consultant for Geodetic Surveying by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economics and in 2002 he received the certification as sworn and certified court expert by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice. Already since 1981 he is professionally active in the field of geodetic surveying. His first company was the “DI Kolbe – DI Grünzweil ZT GmbH” and from 2004 he led the liberal professional company “DK Vermessungsservice ZT GmbH”.

Beside his work as a self-employed authorized engineer, he has represented professional interests on different levels and of different professional branches for over a quarter of a century:

From 1998 to 2018 he held different leading functions in the Austrian Chambers of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants on national and regional level and from 2018 to 2022 he was President of the Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants.

This engagement on national level also gradually led to a deep involvement on European level.

Rudolf Kolbe put a lot of effort in supporting the foundation of a European organisation of Engineers Chambers and was a major driving force for the final steps of the foundation of the ECEC in 2003 at the 4th European Engineering Forum in Vienna. As founding President, he also led the organisation through its first steps until 2006.

Since then, he has constantly and very efficiently helped to bring forward the aims and interests of the ECEC and of European Chartered Engineers on European level.

He was engaged in the Executive Board of the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE) for several years and was President of the European Council of Liberal Professions (CEPLIS) until 2019. In all his different representative roles he kept close contacts to European policy decision makers and considerably contributed to raising their awareness about the role of liberal professions and of European Chartered Engineers as a key factor to the socio-economic development of Europe.

His important role in promoting the positions of European Chartered Engineers on EU level was even enforced when he became a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in 2015:

Since 2017 he has been speaker of the newly founded professions category and has also revived the yearly "Day of Liberal Professions" at the EESC as a tool to make public and policy more aware of the major impacts of professional services for health, safety and well-being of people in Europe. He is also a Vice-President of the Civil Society Organisations' Group in the EESC and engages himself continuously in the preparation of EESC opinions and reports that very often are closely related to major interests of European Chartered Engineers.

Recently, as a member of the Fit for Future Platform - which is a high-level expert group supporting the European Commission in its efforts to simplify EU laws based on the REFIT programme - he was able to transport improvement suggestions in the fields of public procurement and professional recognition that are of major importance for European Chartered Engineers.

Overall, the ECEC wants to thank him that in all his different roles and functions he was and is such a dedicated, strong and successful supporter of the interests of European Chartered Engineers.

The ECEC fully appreciates Rudolf Kolbe's substantial experience and expert knowledge gathered throughout his professional career as well as his career path as a professional representative and his ability to identify and analyse problems and find viable solutions based on a fair balance of interests.

He is a strategic thinker, an excellent negotiator and – maybe even most important – an optimistic believer, never losing his humour.

Brussels, 6 May 2024