

INTRODUCTION



Since the beginning of this year we have actively engaged in the EU stakeholders' consultation process "Action Programme - Construction 2020", participating in the five sub-groups with DG Enterprise and Industry. Mindful of the complexity of acting among the national ministerial representatives and other professional lobby groups and networks, this work is now continuing into the second phase of meetings, with the expectations that the "Innovation in Construction" conference on 21 October 2013 in Brussels will offer an informal, progress review.

The architectural profession is one of the many participants in this process. As an intellectual service positioned at the start of the construction process it can be seen as a leading one, with privilege and responsibility, informed by the realism of the prolonged lack of significant construction activity and development in many European countries. The ACE's 11th Economic trends survey, which is now available, gives an accurate picture of the situation regarding the workload of architects and their expectations for the future. Having embraced the 'Doing More with Less' principle, we constantly need to ensure the clarity of the architects' role and the value of our services to the public and the policy makers.

Our focus in the "Action Programme - Construction 2020" is on making the existing commitments binding and applied in practice, in relation to the territorial and cohesion funding. We shall contribute to the clear understanding of the meaning of 'the deep renovations' in the construction process and the necessity for architects to be involved in it. We support the broadening of the 'up-skilling' of the existing construction workforce to include the consultants, and an adequate recognition of 'practice-based innovation'. We strive to involve professional services in the building follow up, the post-occupancy evaluation and the compulsory analysis of the evidence-based data of the building fabric performance in use, as a subject of research that at the same time contribute to the 20-20-20 targets, as well as to the continual professional education of architects and other construction professionals. Whilst the ACE network grows in strength and visibility, we continue this autumn fully aware of a lot of work still ahead of us.

Selma Harrington
ACE President
September 2013

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Review of the Professional Qualifications Directive: COREPER and IMCO endorse the outcome of the triologue negotiations



On 26 June and 9 July respectively, the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council (COREPER) and the Internal Market Committee (IMCO) of the European Parliament endorsed the agreement reached during the triologue negotiations for a first reading agreement on the review of the Professional Qualifications Directive. These agreements pave the way for the final adoption of the new Directive by the Parliament and the Council in the coming months. The main features of the amended Directive include the creation of a European professional card for

those professions that request it, in the form of an electronic certificate, and an update of the minimum training requirements for architects to gain automatic recognition in another Member State: either five years of study ("5+0"), or four years of study complemented by two years of traineeship ("4+2"). The Parliament will vote the text during its plenary sitting of 7-10 October. The ACE "PQD" work group has started to work on the implementation of the revised Directive. Access the [ACE positions on this subject](#) and the [text of the triologue agreement](#).

The EU institutions reach an agreement on the review of the Public Procurement Directive



After several months of arduous negotiations with the Council, on 5 September 2013, the IMCO Committee endorsed the outcome of the triologue negotiations on the revised Public Procurement Directive. The Rapporteur, Marc Tarabella, underlined that a well-balanced package had been achieved. In the provisional version of the text of the agreement, we note the following progress: the principle of the *most economically*

advantageous tender was confirmed (article 66.1); recital 15a specifically mentions intellectual services and architectural services; the minimum yearly turnover that economic operators are required to have shall not exceed two times the estimated contract value (article 56). The new Directive will be formally voted by the Council and by the Parliament in plenary sitting in the coming months. Access the [ACE positions on this subject](#) and the [triologue agreement](#).

High Level Strategic Forum on Construction 2020 Strategy



Following the launch in January 2013 of the High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum on the [Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the Construction sector and its enterprises](#), the five thematic groups set up by the Commission completed a first round of meetings in June. A second round of meetings started in September and will end in November. A conference on *Innovation in Construction* will take place on 21 October in Brussels. The outcomes of the Forum will then

be presented in November. ACE delegates represent the interest of the architectural profession in the High Level Forum and in the thematic groups, namely: 1) Stimulating investment in renovation and innovation; 2) Skills & Qualifications; 3) Sustainable use of natural resources; 4) Internal Market, products & services; and 5) International Competitiveness. All relevant information on this dossier can be found [on ACE website](#) (meeting reports, etc. – access restricted to ACE member organisations).

EU NEWS

Agreement on the future EU research and innovation programme

On 27 July 2013, the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council endorsed the agreement reached in June on the *Horizon 2020*, the new EU research and



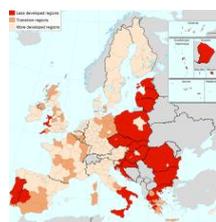
innovation programme for the years 2014 to 2020. With a budget of around 70 billion euros, Horizon 2020 will underpin the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy for growth and jobs. It will provide a range of means to support the research and innovation activities of SMEs. A dedicated "SME instrument" will help to increase their participation in Horizon 2020

funded projects. Find more information on [the Commission website](#).

Internal market for services: state of play and next steps

On 10 September 2013, the European Parliament adopted in plenary sitting A-M. Corazza Bildt's report, entitled *Internal market for services: state of play and next steps*. ACE supported amendments for a more balanced report as regards the specifications made in Article 15 of the Services Directive and, with regard to the need for a regulatory environment that guarantees the quality of architects' services and the independence of the profession. Access [A-M Corazza Bildt's report](#) and the [ACE position on this subject](#).

Agreement on the legislative package for the future Cohesion Policy



On 10 July 2013, the Regional Development Committee (REGI) of the European Parliament endorsed the agreement reached with the Council on more than 90% of the whole legislative package for the future Cohesion Policy (2014-2020). This funding of 325 billion EUR represents roughly a third of the EU budget. *"The new Cohesion Fund will be innovative and environmentally friendly. Energy efficiency and renewable energy use in private housing, high-efficiency cogeneration of heat and power (...) will all be eligible for funding"*, said rapporteur Victor Boștinăru. On the other hand, the future ERDF Regulation provides for an increased focus on sustainable urban development: a minimum of 5% of ERDF resources will be earmarked for sustainable urban development. Negotiations with the Council continue, with a view to a first-reading agreement before the plenary vote in October. [Read the REGI Committee press release](#).

Energy Efficiency Directive: Commission refers Portugal to Court



On 20 June 2013, the EU Commission referred Portugal to the Court of

Justice for failing to transpose the [Energy Efficiency of Buildings Directive](#). The Commission sent Portugal a letter of formal notice concerning the transposition of the Directive in September 2012. A reasoned opinion followed in January 2013. Although Portugal is working on draft legislation, no information is available on when this will be adopted, published and come into force. The Commission proposes a daily penalty of €25 273. Since 2012, infringement procedures have been launched against a number of other Member States for non-transposition or only partial transposition of the EPBD.

Proposal for "end-to-end e-procurement"



On 26 June 2013, the European Commission proposed a [draft Directive on e-invoicing in public procurement](#), accompanied by a [Communication setting out its vision for the full digitisation of the public procurement process](#), so-called 'end-to-end e-procurement'. The Communication on end-to-end e-procurement presents the Commission's vision on the digitisation of the public procurement process. It identifies the current state of play in the implementation of e-procurement and e-invoicing across the EU, and sets out the areas in which actions should be taken to achieve the transition towards end-to-end e-procurement. The transition to end-to-end e-procurement could facilitate SME participation in public procurement by reducing administrative burden, by increasing transparency over business opportunities, and by lowering participation costs. The Communication will serve as a basis for possible future initiatives on further digitisation of the public procurement process.

Croatia becomes the 28th Member State of the EU



On 1 July 2013, Croatia became the 28th Member State of the Union. Access the [European Commission press release](#) and a [selection of economic and social indicators](#), published by Eurostat on this occasion. The [Croatian Chamber of Architects](#) (CCA) is a member of the Architects' Council of Europe.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Evaluation of the Energy Labelling Directive and certain aspects of the Ecodesign Directive

This public consultation enables stakeholders to express their opinions on the various aspects of both Directives. The results will be used to contribute to an analysis of the performance of the Directives to date and how they can be improved in future. More information and the on-line questionnaire can be found on the [Commission website](#). Consultation open until **30 November 2013**.

ACE answers to previous EU public consultations

ACE recently responded to the following consultations:

- [Consultation on insurance cover for the provision of services in another Member State](#),
- [Consultation on Sustainable Buildings](#).

ACE answers will be soon available on the Commission website.

ACE MATTERS

Results of the 11th ACE Economic Trends Survey



In August 2013, ACE published the results of its 11th Economic Trends Survey, which gives a detailed picture of the nature and impact of the economic downturn on the architectural market. This 11th survey reveals that the architectural profession remains very pessimistic: around two thirds of European architects responding to the survey consider that the economic climate in which they are currently working, is not favourable to their activities, and only 6% declare themselves optimistic about the current situation for architectural practice in Europe. However, figures show that the situation differs significantly from one country to another. Whereas the level of optimism in Northern Europe, headed by Sweden and Finland, is very high, countries of Southern and Central Europe seem to remain in an impasse. Most architects (47,5%) expect their global workload to remain stable for the next three months. Compared with the beginning of the year, fewer respondents foresee a decrease in their workload (29,8%, compared with 34,1% in January 2013) and around one fifth even anticipate an increase. The analysis of the breakdown by building type reveals an improvement in the private housing sector. Given overall stable workload forecasts, and despite the adverse economic climate, a large majority of respondents (67,8%) is not expecting any change in staff numbers in the short term. Fewer than one fifth of the respondents (18,6%) intent to reduce staff in the coming months (compared with 20,8% in January 2013). The survey shows, therefore, that the general mood among the profession remains pessimistic while the architectural market is at a standstill. However, the situation seems to have stabilised and there are some tentative signs and positive trends suggesting possible improvements in the not too distant future.

Read the full survey results [on the ACE website](#).

Participation of the ACE President and Secretary General in the EFAP conference in Dublin



On 8-10 May 2013, ACE President Selma Harrington and ACE Secretary General Ian Pritchard attended a conference in Dublin organised by the European Forum on Architectural Policies (EFAP). The key objective of the conference was to discuss how to build on the 2008 *Council Conclusions on Architecture*, within the context of the overall theme of the Irish Presidency. The *Council Conclusions on Architecture* aimed primarily at ensuring a greater recognition of architecture in the EU and national policies. On the occasion of this conference, a [preliminary report on the implementation of the Council Conclusions, entitled *Taking Stock 2013*](#), was presented.

EFAP-AAL conference in Vilnius – “Public interest in architecture”



On 12-14 September 2013, ACE President Selma Harrington and ACE Secretary General Ian Pritchard attended in Vilnius an international conference organised by the European Forum for Architecture Policies (EFAP) and the [Architects Association of Lithuania](#) (AAL) on the theme „*Public interest in architecture*“. The conference, organised as part of the program of the EU Lithuanian Presidency, addressed the role

of architecture in the social, economical, cultural development processes; the possible models of collaboration, innovative practices enhancing the quality of the urban environment and the report of the Irish Presidency [Taking Stock 2013](#). The implementation of architecture policies in the context of the 2014-2020 programming period was also discussed.

Information visit of an ACE delegation to the European Commission



On 20 September 2013, 20 ACE delegates participated in an information visit to the European Commission. After a first presentation of the state of the Union and the EU decision-making process, Commission Officials presented the EU research and innovation policy and the sustainability policies for buildings.

EU FUNDED PROJECTS

Through its involvement in EU Funded Projects, the ACE is supporting sustainable development in the built environment and is promoting the architects' role in energy renovation processes. Currently there are 3 on-going research projects, funded by the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) and the Innovation and Competitiveness Programme (CIP-IEE). These projects are [LEEMA-FP7](#), [INSPIRE-FP7](#) and [A2PBEER-FP7](#). All projects are addressing issues related to sustainability, energy efficiency and renovation, innovative materials and technologies.

❖ INSPIRE- FP7 Project



[INSPIRE](#) is a four-year, EU-funded project that aims to tackle the problem of high-energy consumption by producing systemic renovation packages that can be applied to residential and office buildings. The renovation packages to be developed by iNSPiRe will aim to reduce the primary energy consumption of a building to lower than 50kWh/m²/year. The [first newsletter of the project](#) was published in July. For more information you can access the project website at www.inspirefp7.eu.

❖ A2PBEER-FP7 – Affordable and Adaptable Public Buildings through Energy Efficient Retrofitting



The low renovation rate of building stock (1% per year) means that boosting energy efficient buildings' retrofitting is the only way to reach EU "20-20-20 targets". The higher impact will be achieved through interventions in non-residential buildings, as their energy consumption is 40% higher than in residential buildings, (public buildings represents more than 30% of the non-residential buildings in EU). A2PBEER will develop a systemic energy efficient buildings retrofitting methodology, which will include already available building solutions and more innovative ones developed by the project. A kit-concept will be applied in the development of new adaptable and affordable solutions. The methodology and developed kits will be demonstrated and validated through three real retrofitting deployments. This project has a budget of 10.4 million, of which 6.5 million euros funded by the EU. The kick-off meeting of the project took place on 16-17 September in Bilbao (Spain).

NEWS FROM ACE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Elections at the Slovak Chamber of Architects



At its General Assembly of 25 May 2013, the [Slovak Chamber of Architects](#) (SKA) elected a new Executive Board. Ing. Arch. Imrich Pleidel was elected President, Ing. Arch. Pavol Paňák First Vice-President and Eva Wernerova Vice-President.

New Head at the BAK Brussels Office

Since 1 September 2013, the Brussels EU-Liaison Office of the [Federal Chamber of German Architects](#) (BAK) has a new Head of office, Mrs. Daphne TRUMPF, who set up and initially ran the office from 1997 to 2000. Since then she has extended her professional career, working for Deutsche Telekom AG as Senior Legal Expert, and from 2007 as freelance Business Coach and Counsellor, offering seminars and supervision. She also has a lectureship on EU Public Affairs at the University of Flensburg.

Istanbul: German-Turkish Economic Dialogue on Architecture



The [Bundesarchitektenkammer](#) (BAK) and its Network for Architecture Exchange have started a German-Turkish Economic Dialogue on Architecture. In cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development, with the German Consulate in Istanbul and the company GEZE, a delegation of German Architects met their Turkish colleagues in Istanbul on 29 August 2013. The Network would like to strengthen the bi-national relationships of architects and planners and encourage cross-border cooperation. The German-Turkish Economic Dialogue on Architecture offers the opportunity to break down barriers and to create a transfer of knowledge. To generate synergies, German and Turkish architects, representatives of the construction industry and potential clients should establish a closer network. The German-Turkish Economic Dialogue on Architecture has started this process.

RIBA Advanced CPD course – Practice in the UK



The Cass School of Architecture / RIBA Advanced CPD course, “Practice in the UK”, is designed to give EU registrants working in the UK a rigorous introduction to the practicalities of practicing there. The course will be delivered in London in 10 sessions of 2 ½ hours, in the evenings, and will cover: Introduction & Sources of Information; Professionalism; The Role of the Architect; Controls over the Built Environment; the UK Legal Framework; Contract & Procurement; HR issues; Appointments & Charging Clients & Risk, Insurance and Dispute Resolution. More information may be found at: <http://www.thecass.com/courses/short-courses/riba-practice-in-the-uk>.

The Ordre des Architectes de Belgique (CNOA) celebrates its 50th anniversary



On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the CNOA has organised a series of urban exhibitions throughout Belgium. The local exhibitions spread across in the ten Belgian provinces were then brought together in early September in Brussels. On 18 October 2013, the CNOA is also organising an event at the Palais des Beaux-Arts of Brussels, to which all its members are invited. More information on www.ordredesarchitectes.be and www.architect.be.

OTHER MATTERS

2016 European Green Capital Award

The Commission has launched its search for the 2016 European Green Capital. The European Green Capital Award recognises cities that are at the forefront of environmentally-friendly urban living. The annual award is intended to inspire European cities to take action to become more attractive and healthy places. For the first time, cities across Europe with more than 100,000 inhabitants can apply for the title. Previously only cities with a population of 200,000 or more were eligible. The award is now accessible to over 400 cities across Europe. [More information on the Commission website](#).

Results of the MaTrID project on Integrated Design

The [MaTrID project](#) is a European project on Integrated Design dealing with the market transformation of buildings towards nZEB through widespread use of Integrated Energy Design. The benefits of interdisciplinary collaboration and integrated technical solutions will be investigated in pilot projects in [11 partner countries](#). One of the core elements of the project are [ID process guidelines](#). Draft versions of a Client Brief, a Tenant Brief and Scope of Services can be downloaded [here](#). The MaTrID project team would highly appreciate feedback on their documents. Some experts who provide us with high quality input may be appointed to participate in the [European expert workshop](#), to be held on 21 January 2014 in Riga. Application for the [first ID award](#) is open. For more information, contact Mr S. Amann at [stefan.amann\(at\)e-sieben.at](mailto:stefan.amann(at)e-sieben.at) and visit the [project website](#).

Reference Framework for European Sustainable Cities (RFSC)



The RFSC is an online toolkit designed to help cities promote and enhance their work on integrated sustainable urban development. This tool is available free of charge to all European local authorities and offers practical support in integrating sustainability principles into local policies and actions. ACE has been engaged over the last years in its definition process and is now involved in its dissemination process. Find more information on RFSC at <http://www.rfsc-community.eu>.

PUBLICATIONS

Energy Performance Certificates in Buildings in their impact on transaction prices and rents in selected EU countries



On 20 June 2013, the Commission published a study entitled [Energy performance certificates in buildings and their impact on transaction prices and rents in selected EU countries](#). The study shows a positive impact of the Energy Performance Certificate under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Directive 2010/31/EU) on sales and rental prices indicating that better energy efficiency is rewarded in the market. It was found that higher energy ratings result in substantially higher sales or rental values of buildings on average in most of the Member States that were analysed.

Euractiv special report on the construction sector

Euractiv, a media portal dedicated to EU affairs, published a special report in late June on the construction sector, consisting of five articles:

- [Governments short-change energy efficiency, investors say](#)
- [EU smart meter roll-out lags behind ambition](#)
- [A wider view: Shifting paradigms in the buildings sector](#)
- [Commission hamstrung in Brussels buildings renovation drive](#)
- [Buildings renovation takes centre stage as debate heats up over energy efficiency targets for 2030](#)

Modernising Building Energy Codes to Secure our Global Energy Future



The International Energy Agency (IEA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partnered to analyse current practices in the design and implementation of building energy codes. In a study entitled [Modernising Building Energy Codes to Secure our Global Energy Future](#), published in August 2013, IEA and UNDP encourage more attention to the role of the built environment in a low-carbon and climate-resilient world. It should be noted that buildings are the largest consumers of energy worldwide and will continue to be a source of increasing energy demand in the future. The sector's final energy consumption doubled between 1971 and 2010 to reach 2 794 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe).

COMPETITIONS

UIA Durban 2014: Warwick Junction – International Competition for Architecture Students



As part of its next Congress taking place in South Africa on 3-7 August 2014, the International Union of Architects is organising an international competition for architecture students on 'Warwick Junction', a transport node within central Durban. Based on the Congress theme '*Architecture Otherwhere*', the aim of this competition is to highlight the complex ecology of Warwick Junction and its economic, social and cultural dynamic by proposing solutions that will be to the benefit of the half a million people who frequent this area every day. Projects must propose three visions simultaneously: a long term - large scale solution; medium term - medium scale solution; an immediate small scale intervention. Registration deadline: **31 October 2013**. Deadline for submitting projects: **31 March 2014**. [More information on UIA website](#).

Durban 2014 – Architecture Otherwhere – First call for papers



UIA 2014 Durban invites practitioners, academics, designers and students from all disciplines involved with city making to contribute to a unique debate on human settlements and the evolution of cities. The Congress theme, "*Architecture Otherwhere*" will celebrate diversity by exploring other communities, other regions, other disciplines, and other ways of thinking about, practising and teaching in the built environment. Abstract submission deadline: **31 October 2013**. [More information on UIA website](#).

Art in the Concrete Panel Housing Complexes of Sofia – International competition



The [Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria](#), with the support of Sofia Municipality, is organising an international competition for Art installations in spaces of the socialist era. The main goal of the competition is to stimulate the revitalization and social cohesion of these areas. The competition is a creative challenge for the development of arts in a network of 5 specific points that will determine a cultural itinerary in Sofia. It is part of the annual competition for Sustainable Architecture in Bulgaria organised by the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria. Deadline for submitting projects: **30 October 2013**. More information at: <http://architecturalspaces.org>.

Innosite – Open Innovation in the construction industry

The [Danish Architects' Association](#) is holding this competition with the objective of finding innovative and functional ideas for the design of level-free entrances to buildings. Level-free entrances to buildings constitute a basic prerequisite for society to develop in a more equal direction, so that physically challenged men and women are given the same accessibility as every other member of society. [Read more about the contest](#).

EVENTS

2013 World Architecture Day – 7 October 2013

The International Union of Architects (UIA) invites its members to celebrate World Architecture Day on 7 October 2013, by creating events that highlight culture as a vital part of the architectural process and illustrate its potential to help resolve the challenges architects face in the practice of their profession. By choosing “Culture-Architecture” as the theme for the 2013 World Architecture Day, the UIA hopes to generate a wellspring of interpretations and illustrations of architects' diversity, richness, imagination, and capacity for invention through their designs and realisations. This celebration will take place in conjunction with the World Habitat Day organised by UN-Habitat.

Single Market Month – 23 September – 23 October 2013

The European Union is organising the Single Market Month – a month of online debates between individuals, businesses, organisations, policy-makers and EU leaders to discuss ideas to improve the EU Single Market. Besides events in Brussels, online debates are organised in all Member States on four themes: 1) Working in Europe, 2) Social Rights in the Single Market, 3) Europe, banks and you, 4) Buying, selling and communicating online. More information on <http://www.yourideasforeurope.eu>.

OPEN DAYS 2013, the European Week of Regions and Cities – 7-10 October, Brussels

The 2013 edition of the OPEN DAYS will have the slogan *'Europe's regions and cities taking off for 2020'*. Workshops will address three themes: 1) Managing change 2014-2020", 2) Synergies and cooperation and 3) Challenges and solutions. Alongside with conferences organised in Brussels, local events will take place all across Europe. [Access the full programme on the Commission website](#).

CONCERTO Conference – Energy Solutions for smart cities and communities – 22-23 October 2013, Brussels

70% of the EU's energy consumption takes place in cities, and 40% in building-related services. How can cities and communities meet the energy and climate challenge? How do citizens benefit from the implementation of renewables and energy efficiency measures? This conference presents the lessons learned in the 58 demonstration sites of the 2005-2010 CONCERTO initiative, and discusses the implication for Smart Cities and Communities with stakeholders from cities, communities, industry, business, research and policy making. [More information](#).

This newsletter is available in French and in English on the ACE Website
www.ace-cae.eu

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