



## Pecha Kucha – ACE General Assembly

20/04/2018, Brussels

To be returned to the ACE Secretariat by 15 March 2018

**Please note that your presentation to the ACE General Assembly will be strictly limited to no more than 3 minutes.**

COUNTRY	SPAIN
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### 1. Highlight one or more recent industry development[s] in your country

The financial crisis has had a very profound impact in Spain, and the architecture and building market has slumped dramatically, prompting a drastic decrease in work for architects and, hence, of their income.

Ten years on, the industry is slowly beginning to recover, but still below levels of activity that can be considered normal and that match the European average.

This situation, plus the threat regarding regulation of the professional model for architects in Spain – the architect's mission, powers and functions – and the difficulty in being able to establish guideline scales or mechanisms for calculating fees, all continue to jeopardize one of the models with the highest standard of quality and prestige.

### 2. Describe one or more recent professional development[s] in your country

Seizing the opportunity that the necessary re-adaptation that most Spanish architects are facing implies, architects' associations and the CSCAE are endeavouring to get that re-adaptation oriented towards the conditions that will be laid down in coming years, conscious of the moment of sweeping economic and social change and of the emerging needs and priorities that the EU is addressing.

Identification of new needs that spur the renovation and/or replacement of public buildings and spaces and professional positioning in those spheres - one that should be focused on the past or anchored in the present, but should take into account those future objectives.

Giving impetus to and permanently reinforcing the need for public policies in architecture in order to recognise and put into effect the «general interest» condition of architecture and its role in enhancing people's living conditions.

Architects' associations and the CSCAE are pressing for an Architecture Law to be passed by the State legislator. This objective has had major implementation in the passing by the Government of Catalonia of the Catalan Architecture Law. That Law contains basic elements in defence of architecture and the professional model for architects in Spain (training, good

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professional practice, public procurement based on quality, cultural furtherment, heritage, intellectual property...).

### 3. State what you expect from the European Institutions (and/or ACE) in the coming years.

In 2001, the Council of Europe passed the Resolution on architectural quality in the urban and rural setting.

- Taking into account recent developments in public policies for architecture in Europe;
- Taking into account the Declaration by the European Ministers of Culture on 21-22 January 2018, known as the Davos Declaration, calling for a high quality Baukultur for Europe;
- Taking into account the recent meetings in Milan and Amsterdam;
- Taking into account the ACE Manifesto, passed by its General Assembly in 2014, which includes achieving a European legal instrument that recognises the social, economic and public value of architecture and guaranteeing consumer protection; and
- Taking into account the commitment conveyed to the ACE by the Director of the EU Commission Directorate General for Culture, Michel Magnier, to promote approval of a Recommendation by the Commission that provided for these and other objectives.

The CSCAE urges professional and academic organisations to build a European discourse that establishes the direction of architectural activity, highlighting the permanent role of cultural and historic values and at the same time consolidating public commitment to new social challenges (SDGs, tackling climate change, health, comfort, social cohesion, social use of new technologies...) in which architecture is still a key player, approving, where appropriate, the most suitable legal instruments.