



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

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Rules for Cross-Border Service Providers must be Coherent

The Architects Council of Europe (ACE)¹ welcomes the fact that the EU Institutions are paying attention to the problems that are being faced by service providers in getting adequate insurance cover (at a reasonable price) to protect the interests of consumers, when providing services across borders in the EU. However, it points out the incoherence being displayed by the European Parliament in a new report due to be adopted on Wednesday 26th September next.

The own-initiative report on the obligations of cross-border service providers (2006/2049/INI) has been prepared by the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), with Lasse Lehtinen (PSE, FI) acting as rapporteur.

The ACE supports the call made by the Parliament on the Commission to prepare a work programme for an appropriate assessment of the impact of existing and upcoming legislation on the obligations of cross-border service providers as this will give a picture of the situation that will permit evidence based policies to be drawn up and adopted.

The ACE also supports the proposed amendment to the report, tabled by Diana Wallis on behalf the ALDE group and Malcolm Harbour on behalf of PPE-DE that calls for the deletion of Paragraph 20 on the issue of Codes of Conduct from the draft Parliamentary Motion for a Resolution.

The report prepared by the Parliament includes, in Paragraph 20, a call on the Commission to draw up a voluntary code of conduct in which service providers could participate. The ACE is of the opinion that if the Parliament adopts this provision it risks taking an incoherent approach to this very important issue that would run counter to the final text of the Services Directive, in which the issue is fully dealt with. It is recalled that the Parliament adopted the Services Directive by a very substantial majority.

Such incoherence would send a wrong message to the citizens of the EU in that the issues at stake are essential to the proper protection of consumer interest, to the delivery of high quality services and to the completion of the Internal market.

The ACE has already called on the Institutions of the EU to give time to the provisions of the Services Directive to take effect before deciding on any further measures relating to issues covered in that Directive. On the question of voluntary Codes of Conduct, the ACE has already drawn up a voluntary Code at EU level that has been notified to the Commission.

For access to the report, go to:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A6-2007-0294&language=EN&mode=XML>

For more information on the position of the ACE, contact Alain Sagne, Secretary General at: info@ace-cae.org

¹ The ACE is the professional representative organisation of the architectural profession in Europe. It currently has 44 Members who are the representative and regulatory architectural bodies from 31 Countries including all of the EU Member States. It therefore represents, through its Members, over 450,000 architects across Europe.