

INTRODUCTION



The Irish Presidency of the EU with the Agenda Stability, Growth & Jobs and its resonance with the ACE current priorities provided a wonderful opportunity to hold the recent ACE General Assembly in the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe. The Irish Minister of State for Office of Public Works Mr. Brian Hayes, accompanied by the State Architect Mr. Ciaran O'Connor addressed the General Assembly, acknowledging the role that architects and architecture play in the economic life in Europe.

The historic setting of the university city of Leuven is an example of coexistence of old and new where the repurposing, reusing and renovating of the existing building stock is in excellent balance with sympathetic, careful and creative new interventions, where places for work, study and housing comfortably mix. The architectural language of new buildings largely takes inspiration from the scale and built forms of the old, subtly distinguishing and seamlessly blending-in and providing attractive, safe, friendly and intimate space full of people going about their business. One can see how, when rightly positioned in the holistic planning and executing process, the sensitive work of architects enhances the quality of the built environment and the quality of life of people.

Architects are poised fully to play their role in the growth and jobs agenda in Europe. We are good generalists and by virtue of our complex training, able to perform as problem-orientated specialists. Our work creates other work. Connecting human, technical and environmental needs, with understanding and knowledge of detail, we can plan, lead and coordinate design and construction teams, delivering projects of varied scale and scope. To do this, we do not need subsidies and special treatment, but rather, a legislative environment that provides:

- a Public Procurement regime that does not exclude 90% of practices from the market;
- a professional mobility regime and a system for the mutual recognition of Qualifications that does not undermine existing standards of education and allows our practitioners to compete in the wider-world;
- legislation relating to cross-border Services provision that, instead of seeking to achieve pointless deregulation, rather encourages a better functioning of the IMI (Internal market Information System), consolidates and renders more consistent the performance of Single Points of Contact and makes it easier for cross-border service providers to obtain insurance;
- Energy Efficiency legislation that includes sufficiently ambitious targets to allow Governments fully and significantly to contribute to achieving reductions in carbon emissions and which recognizes the important and connective role that architects can play in achieving greater energy efficiency in existing buildings.

Selma Harrington
ACE President
June 2013

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The European Institutions reach an agreement on the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive



Following the adoption of [Bernadette Vergnaud's report](#) by the Internal Market Committee (IMCO), negotiations between the Parliament, the Commission and the Council of Ministers started with the aim of reaching a first reading agreement before the end of the Irish Presidency. After several trialogue meetings on 20 March, 24 April, and 29 May, a final meeting took place in Strasbourg on 12 June, at which representatives from the three institutions reached an agreement.

The main innovation of the modernised Directive is the introduction of a European professional card (on a voluntary basis), associated with a recognition procedure carried

out under the existing Internal Market Information System (IMI). This card will take the form of an electronic certificate allowing the professional to provide services or become established in another Member State. At the same time, the Directive updates the minimum duration of the training of an architect to gain automatic recognition in other Member States: either five years of study ("5+0"), or four years of study complemented by two years of traineeship ("4+2").

This agreement will be formally approved by the Council and the IMCO Committee in the coming weeks, and then will be voted early September by the European Parliament in plenary sitting.

Review of the Public Procurement Directive: state of progress of the trialogue negotiations



Following the adoption in December 2012 of [Marc Tarabella's report](#) on the review of the 'Classic' Public Procurement Directive (Directive 2004/18/EC), the three European Institutions started negotiations in January 2013 in order to reach a first reading agreement.

Although M. Tarabella welcomed the willingness of the Irish Presidency to conclude the negotiations before the end of June and its readiness to take on board Parliament's position, the negotiations are progressing slowly. Two additional meetings have been scheduled on 21 and 25 June in order to conclude the negotiations under the Irish Presidency.

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 to steer the implementation of the action plan, have started their work. A first round of meetings took place from March to June. As a reminder, these thematic groups are: 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.

Five ACE delegates represent the interest of the profession in these five groups, in close cooperation with the ACE work groups. Following a second round of meetings in September, the final results of this Forum will be presented by the end of the year.

At the same time, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted an [opinion on the Construction 2020 Strategy](#) at its plenary session on 17-18 April, in which it describes notably the forecast development of the construction sector.

Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union



As of 1 July 2013, Lithuania will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Lithuania is the first of the Baltic States to hold the Presidency since joining the Union in 2004. [The Lithuanian Presidency](#) succeeds the Irish Presidency and will focus on the three goals of a *credible*, *growing* and *open* Europe.

Internal Market for Services: State of play and next steps

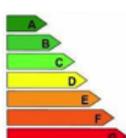
Following a public hearing in February, MEP Anna Maria Corazza-Bildt presented in March her [draft initiative report entitled Internal Market for Services: State of play and next steps](#). According to A.-M. Corazza-Bildt, the EU could gain up to 2.6% of GDP over the next 5 to 10 years if the Services Directive were enforced properly. Following a discussion in the Internal Market Committee (IMCO), her report will be adopted early September in plenary sitting.

Green Paper on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies

On 27 March 2013, the EU Commission adopted a [Green Paper on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies](#). This document launches a public consultation allowing stakeholders to express their views on the EU climate and energy policies with a 2030 perspective. Those views will feed into the Commission's proposals for

the 2030 framework, to be presented by the end of the year.

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive: the Commission asks Slovenia and Spain to adopt national measures



On 25 April 2013, the EU Commission sent reasoned opinions to Slovenia and Spain asking them to notify their implementation measures for the EPBD. Directive 2010/31/EU had to be transposed into national law by 9 July 2012. Under this Directive, Member States must establish and apply minimum energy performance requirements for new and existing buildings, but also ensure the certification of buildings' energy performance. In addition, the Directive requires Member States to ensure that by 2021 all new buildings are so-called 'nearly zero-energy buildings'. If the two Member States do not comply with their legal obligation within two months, the Commission may decide to refer them to the Court of Justice.

Financial support for energy efficiency in buildings

On 18 April 2013, the EU Commission published a [report on financial support for energy efficiency in buildings](#), stressing that the EU needs to improve the financial support in this sector if it wants to meet its 2020 and 2050 targets. This report, which was the basis of a discussion at the Informal Energy Council on 22 April, is

accompanied by a [more detailed Staff Working Document](#).

Energy Efficiency Directive: analysis of national targets reveals gap to 2020 target



On 28 May, the Coalition for Energy Savings presented on 28 May its [analysis of the indicative national energy efficiency targets for 2020](#) reported by Member States. Using data for 18 Member States and the assumption that the remaining 9 Member States would set similar targets, the analysis shows that these targets would not reduce the gap in the EU's 20% energy savings target for 2020, falling short by 62 Mtoe – nearly the annual energy consumption of Belgium.

Social Housing in the European Union

On 11 June 2013, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on social housing, based on [Karima Delli's own initiative report](#). This resolution stresses inter alia the need to encourage a real fair energy transition through the construction and renovation of the social housing stock and calls for the creation of a European Housing Observatory. Alongside this resolution, Alain Hutchinson, elected member of the Committee of the Regions, launched a [petition calling on EU institutions for action in this area](#).



ON-GOING CONSULTATIONS

- Consultation on the new EU occupational safety and health policy framework

The purpose of this consultation is to gather contributions from the public, further to the results of the evaluation of the European Strategy on Safety and Health at Work 2007-2012. This should help identify current and future challenges in the occupational safety and health area, and identify solutions to address these challenges. More information and the online consultation can be found on the [Commission website](#). Consultation open until 26 August 2013.

- Consultation on insurance cover for the provision of services in another Member State

The objective of this consultation is to determine the risks and obstacles individual entrepreneurs and businesses face when attempting to secure insurance cover in another Member State. More information and the online consultation can be found on the [Commission website](#). Consultation open until 16 August 2013.

- Consultation on Single-member limited liability companies

The purpose of this consultation is to get more in-depth information on whether the harmonisation of national laws with regard to single-member limited liability companies would provide companies, and in particular SMEs, with simple and harmonised rules across the EU which could reduce the administrative burden and costs they are currently facing. More information and the online consultation can be found on the [Commission website](#). Consultation open until 15 September 2013.

- Consultation on Stimulating Industrial Innovation in the Construction Sector through smart use of ICT

Online consultation, part of the "Connect & Construct: Building value through IT" project funded by the EU Commission, aiming to improve the competitiveness and efficiency of the construction industry in Europe by stimulating an innovative use of ICT and eBusiness technologies, notably by SMEs. [Access the online consultation](#).

ACE MATTERS

ACE General Assembly – 7 and 8 June 2013, Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe



The 1st ACE General Assembly in 2013 took place on 7 and 8 June at the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe. The Irish Minister for Public Service Reform and the Office of Public Works, Brian Hayes, opened the session with a speech before the ACE delegations. In his address, B. Hayes underlined the importance of coordinated action to increase opportunities

for jobs and growth, and develop an agenda leading out of austerity to build a more sustainable future. In response to ACE's agenda, he described an initiative of the Irish Office of Public Works to offer opportunities for young graduates to gain remunerated work experience. This graduate training programme had already offered Professional Practice Experience to over 130 graduates. The Minister considers that architects have a crucial role to play in the area of energy efficiency, an area which will be at the heart of the recovery. He also underlined the importance of sustainable urban and regional planning, as well as innovation and research, particularly as regards building materials.

Find more pictures of the General Assembly on the [ACE Facebook Page!](#)

ACE President honoured by the Union of Architects of Russia

The ACE President, Selma Harrington, received a commemorative medal marking the 30th Anniversary of the Union of Architects of Russia, which was celebrated last October in Moscow. On behalf of Mr. Andrei Bokov, President of the UAR, Mr. Andrei Kaftanov conferred this honour to Ms. Harrington last April in Belgrade, at the Presidents meeting of the UIA Region II.

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 4 ongoing research projects, funded by the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) and the Innovation and Competitiveness Programme (CIP-IEE). These projects are: [OPEN HOUSE-FP7](#), [SHELTER-IEE](#), [LEEMA-FP7](#), and [INSPIRE-FP7](#). The negotiations with the European Commission for a new project called A2PBEER-FP7 (Affordable and Adaptable Public Buildings through Energy Efficient Retrofitting) have just been completed and the project will start in September 2013. All projects are addressing issues related to sustainability, energy efficiency and renovation, innovative materials and technologies. For more information you can contact the ACE Project Officer: eleni.goni@ace-cae.eu

❖ OPEN HOUSE- FP7 Project



The objective of the [OPEN HOUSE](#) project is to develop and to implement a common European building assessment methodology for planning and constructing sustainable buildings. This three and a half-year project is coming to an end in July 2013. The results of the pilot assessment of a total of 68 case studies all over Europe by means of the OPEN HOUSE methodology were presented in detail in April 2013 as part of a forum organised in line with the [SB13 Munich Conference](#). The final OPEN HOUSE workshop will take place in line with the EU Sustainable Energy Week organised by the European Commission (23-28 June 2013). Currently an [International Weighting Survey](#) is underway: Participants in the survey are asked to weight against each other the developed indicators, relatively to their perceived importance in a sustainability assessment. Moreover, in the following link you can access and download the 2nd Newsletter of the project: <http://www.openhouse-fp7.eu/>

❖ SHELTER- IEE Project



After 3 years of research and exchange, the SHELTER project came to an end. Under the theme "Innovation in the procurement of energy renovation", the SHELTER Final Conference held in Dublin the 22nd of May presented the main SHELTER results: Improving the energy performance of buildings while reducing costs for Social Housing Providers and residents through better planning along the whole renovation supply chain. The outcomes of SHELTER are presented in the following publications: "Recommendations for Public Authorities" and the SHELTER Guide "Innovate to Renovate" (available in EN, FR, IT, BG). The recommendations suggest ways to improve the coordination between professionals in the energy renovation of social housing. Among others, these recommendations highlight the importance of the architects' role in energy renovations. The Guide proposes possible alternatives for the energy renovation process for Social Housing Organisations. These alternatives have been shown to overcome difficulties some Social Housing Organisations have experienced in their existing renovation processes.

To download the SHELTER publications follow the link: http://www.shelterproject-ieee.eu/public/ProjectShelter_results

To download the presentations of the SHELTER Final Conference follow the link: http://www.powerhouseeurope.eu/nc/news_events/events/detail/back/past-events/article/shelter-final-conference-innovation-in-the-procurement-of-energy-renovation-22-may-2013-dubli/

❖ 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. Currently the consortium partners, under the guidance of BSRIA, are collecting data on residential buildings and office buildings from countries around Europe so as to identify the types on which the research should focus on later on in the project. For more information you can access the project website: www.inspirefp7.eu

Recent developments in Slovenia

- Andrej Goljar has been appointed President of the Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia (ZAPS) for a term of 2 years.
- The Slovenian government has adopted a package of deregulation measures, including the abolition of the compulsory membership to the Chambers. At the same time, a proposal for the review of existing planning and building regulation has been put forward.

Election at the Chamber of Architects in Malta(KTP)

At its Extraordinary General Meeting on 10 May 2013 the KTP elected a new Council. Stephen Farrugia was appointed President, Christopher Mintoff Vice President and Amber Wismayer Hon. Secretary.

Recent developments in Croatia

- The Croatian government has adopted the *Croatian Architectural Policies 2013-2020: National Guidelines for Quality and Culture of Building*. The Croatian Chamber of Architects (CCA) played a pivotal role in preparation of this document.
- The 4th Zagreb Energy Week was held on 14 May 2013. This event aimed at raising knowledge and awareness of sustainable development, in order to promote energy saving policies, the implementation of energy efficiency measures, use of renewable energy sources and environmentally friendly fuels. The CCA Day was celebrated on the same occasion. [Access the conclusions.](#)
- The 4th Congress of Croatian Architects will take place in Osijek, on 27-29 September 2013.

Recent developments in CPD in Italy

Legislation brought in at the end of 2012 regarding the reform of the professions has introduced compulsory CPD. The CNAPPC, in agreement with the relevant Ministry, has written the regulations that will govern the detailed implementation of the law's provisions. An experimental phase will begin in July and then compulsory CPD will come into force as of January 2014. Italian CPD will follow the UIA/ACE guidelines and will be overseen by the CNAPPC through its provincial chambers.

Recent developments in France –*Les Matinales des architectes*

In the framework of its *Matinales des architectes*, the French *Ordre des Architectes* (CNOA) organised debates in February and April 2013, on how to teach architecture and on the architectural training. These debates have led to a set of proposals, available on the [CNOA website](#).

RIBA Mini MBA for Architects

Class School of Architecture and *London Metropolitan Business School* have teamed up with the RIBA to offer an architect-friendly approach to learning how to run a practice. The RIBA Mini MBA covers the competitive business environment; accounting and finance for managers; marketing communications; business and corporate strategy; organisational behaviour and HRM; management of change and innovation; business law; project management: risk and investment; corporate and financial planning; logistics. The course is arranged over ten months, and is designed to allow those who are in practice to study during at classes. [More information](#). You may also be interested in the [Business Essentials for Architects five-day course](#).

RIBA Certificate in Construction Project Management

Pick up a new skill, take up a new specialism, and supercharge your career, business and leadership. The RIBA Construction Project Management course with Johnston and Mather may seem intensive, but doing it will be vastly rewarding. Over four classroom days, teams will work together to tackle projects that architects can understand and relate to. There's also online collaboration and substantial and exclusive work books for you to use back at the office. Courses so far planned take place in London on 5 and 6 July and in Leeds on 13 and 14 September and 18 and 19 October. Emirates courses, in Dubai from 27 – 31 October and Qatar from 3 – 7 November. [More information](#).

OTHER MATTERS

2013 winners of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture

On 6 May 2013, A. Filippetti, the French Minister for Culture & Communication, awarded the [Global Award for Sustainable Architecture](#) to five architecture offices from Portugal, Malaysia, Belgium, the USA and Ecuador. It rewards contemporary architects that have demonstrated a commitment to sustainable design practices.

Harpa wins the Mies van der Rohe Award 2013

Harpa, the Reykjavik Concert Hall and Conference Centre, designed by Henning Larsen Architects, Batteríð Architects and Studio Olafur Eliasson, is the winner of the 2013 [European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture](#) (Mies van der Rohe Award).

2013 Green Building Awards

Five new and five refurbished buildings in six European countries have been acknowledged for their energy-saving efforts with the [Green Building Awards](#). Winners include the Austrian office building

Amtshaus Schlagergass, which achieved the highest energy consumption savings (75%), thanks to a newly insulated roof, heat absorption glazed windows and dynamic shading devices.

Bristol, Brussels, Glasgow and Ljubljana shortlisted for the European Green Capital 2015

Bristol, Brussels, Glasgow and Ljubljana have been chosen as the four finalists to proceed to the next stage of the [European Green Capital 2015 Award](#). The European Green Capital Award is an annual prize that goes to one city every year, singling out its environmental performance.

European Observatory of Doctoral Research in Architecture (EODRA)

The [EODRA](#) is an initiative of the European Network of Heads of Schools of Architecture (ENHSA). It is an online database where all research activity in the domain of architecture can be recorded, giving researchers working on similar issues the possibility to network and to offer consultancy regarding the interest and the impact that

a particular research theme has for the broader architectural research community.

Launch of Construction21 International

The founding partners of Construction21 launched in April [Construction21 International](#). Construction 21 is a multi-stakeholder collaborative platform dedicated to all professionals active in the sustainable building sector. The project, supported by the European Union through the Intelligent Energy for Europe (IEE) program, has two main objectives: fasten spread of green building good practices and contributing to the economic takeoff of the sector.

50 City Solutions funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

In April, the Commission published in April a [study on 50 projects having received ERDF investment](#). The study gathers a range of good urban practice, and is a 'state of play' in how the cities have put local urban policies into action with ERDF investment.

News regularly published on [ACE Facebook page!](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Guidebook for Strong Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive

On 29 May 2013, the Coalition for Energy Savings published a [Guidebook for a Strong Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive](#). The Coalition has broken down the Directive into main themes and legal requirements and also developed a list of good practices for a strong, ambitious and complete implementation of the legislation. This Guidebook aims not only at empowering stakeholders to champion successful implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive, but also highlight the importance of energy savings in building a more sustainable and competitive Europe.

Investing in Energy Efficiency in Europe's Buildings: a view from the Construction and Real Estate Sectors

This survey, commissioned by the Global Building Performance Network (GBPN) in collaboration with the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE), explores how companies in the European building sector approach energy efficiency investments. [Access the survey on BPIE website.](#)

The Business Case for Green Building - a Review of the Costs and Benefits for Developers, Investors, and Occupants

This report of the World Green Building Council (WGBC) examines whether or not it's possible to attach a financial value to the cost and benefits of green buildings. It highlights the large number of compelling benefits green buildings bestow on different stakeholders throughout the life cycle of a building. [Access the report on WGBC website.](#)

URBACT – Cities of Tomorrow, Action Today

In May, URBACT, the European exchange programme promoting sustainable urban development, published a new series of six thematic reports entitled [Cities of Tomorrow: Action Today](#). A report is dedicated to *Building Energy Efficiency in European Cities*.

COMPETITIONS

New edition of the ACCESS CITY AWARD

In May 2013, the European Commission launched the fourth [“Access City Award”](#), the European Award for Accessible Cities. The award recognises cities for their efforts to remove barriers of everyday life. It highlights the most successful initiatives that allow people with disabilities to participate fully in society. The award covers 4 key areas of accessibility, including the built environment and public spaces.

EVENTS

“The Future of Architecture, Today!” – 13th Congress of Portuguese Architects, 4-6 July 2013, College of Fine Arts, Lisbon

The title clearly reflects the purpose of the 13th Congress of Portuguese Architects. In this congress the professional practice of architects will be questioned: how is it today – for architects and for the general society; what does it promote, what are today's challenges. More information on www.13congressodosarquitectos.pt.

“Public interest in Architecture” – EFAP Conference, 12-14 September, Vilnius (Lithuania)



The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) and the Architects Association of Lithuania (AAL) are organising, under the auspices of the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment, an international conference on “Public interest in Architecture”. The conference is part of the official program of the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU. Registration and more information on www.efap2013.lt

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



On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the CNOA is organising urban exhibitions throughout Belgium. From 26 June until early September, each of the ten Belgian provinces will host a giant cube made up of images and texts from architects. Early September, the ten cubes will be placed in Brussels for an exhibition running until mid-October. More information on www.ordredesarchitectes.be and www.architect.be.

ENHSA conference: Architectural Education and the Reality of Ideal – Naples, 3-5 October 2013

The European Network of Heads of Schools of Architecture (ENHSA) is organising a second conference in its series on teaching environmental design to architects. [More information on the ENHSA website.](#)

Single Market Month – 23 September – 23 October 2013

The European Commission is organising a *Single Market Month* from the 23 September to 23 October 2013. Besides events in Brussels, online debates will be 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.

This newsletter is available in French and in English on the ACE Website

www.ace-cae.eu

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