

INTRODUCTION



2014 sees a new Presidency and Board at ACE, so it is with renewed energy that we shall continue the work of promoting the cause of Architecture and that of our profession, in the pursuit of public interest. In anticipation of the European elections in May, we especially look forward to interacting with our representatives, both at national and European level to further the awareness of the importance of our role in impacting on the built environment and as a consequence, on the future of all citizens.

Luciano Lazzari, ACE President
March 2014

ACE CORE ISSUES

Modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive



Following the entry into force of the [2013/55/EU Directive](#) on 17 January 2014, the EU Commission organised a conference on 12 February to discuss the changes introduced by the new Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD). In his opening speech, P. Delsaux, DG MARKT's Deputy Director-General,

emphasised the main innovations of the new PQD: the introduction of a European Professional Card; the update of the minimal training requirements (for the architects, either five years of university level training ("5+0") or not less than four years of study supplemented by a supervised professional traineeship of a minimum of two years ("4+2")); the introduction of the concept of partial access; as well as the promotion and support of CPD. In his closing address, Commissioner M. Barnier stressed that the objective of the on-going mutual evaluation exercise to assess barriers restricting access to regulated professions is not to deregulate but to find the best balance between professional mobility and consumer safety.

The EU Parliament and Council adopt the new Public Procurement legislative package



On 11 February 2014, the EU's Council of Ministers adopted the legislative package modernising the Public Procurement Directives, following approval by the Parliament a month earlier. The EU legislator recognises in the modernised Directive the most important problems in procuring architects' services, namely the lack of real competition resulting from the mis-use of selection criteria and the focus of awarding criteria on price rather than quality. The ACE is currently working on recommendations for the transposition of the new provisions into national law. This guideline document will contain recommendations on the procurement procedure and on the application of European provisions for design contests and will evaluate the application of public procurement rules in the Member States, highlighting examples of good practice and malpractice. These recommendations will aim to help open up the market for young professionals and small offices, and to shift the emphasis from a one-dimensional, price perspective to one that includes other factors such as sustainability, the environment, quality and life-cycle costs. The legislation will enter into force on 17 April 2014. Member States will then have 24 months to implement the provisions into national law. [Access the Directive 2014/24/EU on Public Procurement in all EU languages.](#)

SUMMARY

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An EU tool to help firms compete for public contracts in third countries



On 15 January 2014, the EU Parliament approved plans for a tool to allow EU countries to prevent non-EU firms from bidding for public procurement contracts, unless their home countries reciprocate by allowing EU firms to do likewise. The proposed tool, which could be used only with the EU Commission’s approval, should strengthen the EU’s hand in trade talks with third countries. The tool could be used only for big public contracts (worth €5 million or more) and those in which goods or services originating outside the EU make up more than 50% of the total value of the goods or services involved. It will apply to those countries which do not have an international agreement covering public procurement with the EU but exclude least-developed countries. According to the Commission, 85% of EU public procurement markets are already potentially open to international bidders, compared to only 32% of public contracts in the USA and 28% in Japan. The [approved text](#) will now serve as a basis to negotiate the regulation with the Council.

2030 framework on climate and energy policies

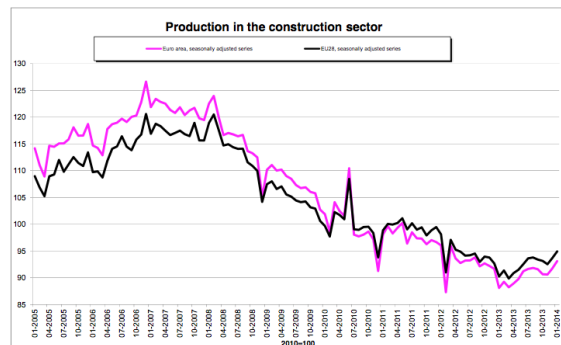
On 22 January 2014, the EU Commission published a [communication on a policy framework for climate and energy policies in the period from 2020 to 2030](#). In this document, the Commission proposes a new reduction target for domestic green house gas emissions of 40% compared to 1990, accompanied by a coherent headline target at European level for renewable energy of at least 27%. However the Commission postponed the decision on whether or not to set 2030 energy savings targets to the review of the

Energy Efficiency Directive that is announced for July. The Architects’ Council of Europe fully supports the [position of the Coalition for Energy Savings](#), of which it is a member: only a 40% binding energy savings target for 2030 can deliver EU objectives for competitiveness, energy and climate. EU Ministers will examine the EU’s 2030 climate and energy framework during the next European Council meeting on 20-21 March and then adopt conclusions in June.

Production in construction up by 1.3% in EU28



In January 2014 compared with December 2013, seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector grew by 1.5% in the euro area and by 1.3% in the EU28, according to first estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU. In January 2014 compared with January 2013, production in construction increased by 8.8% in the euro area and by 7.3% in the EU28. The highest increases in output in construction were observed in Slovenia (+22.4%), Spain (+5.8%) and Germany (+4.4%), and the largest decreases in Romania (-4.3%), Slovakia (-3.9%) and France (-2.2%). [More details for each Member State in the Eurostat press release.](#)



ACE MATTERS

New ACE Project Officer



In March 2014, Veronika Schröpfer joined the team of the ACE Secretariat as Project Officer. V. Schröpfer holds a Diplom in Architecture (Heidelberg University) and a Master of Engineering in Real Estate Economics and Facilities Management (Oldenburg University). From 2009 to 2014, she carried out a PhD on “*Knowledge transfer in project teams delivering office buildings to sustainable building standards in Germany and the UK*” (Oxford Brookes University). Before joining the ACE, she gained 5 years’ work experience in different sectors of the built environment, from small independent architecture practices to global blue chip companies in Europe and the US.

ACE support for the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact



In partnership with the [Panamerican Federation of Architects Associations](#) (FPAA), ACE declared its support for the [Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact](#), with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. With this commitment, ACE expresses its intent to advance these principles within its spheres of influence. The UN Global Compact recognises that cities, in particular, have the potential to make enormous strides in creating sustainable

societies, where economic, ecological, political and cultural issues are integrated and advanced. [Learn more about the Global Compact Cities Programme.](#)

12th ACE Economic Trends Survey

Encouraging signs of recovery of the architectural market

The twelfth ACE economic trends survey, carried out in December 2013 and January 2014, shows encouraging trends in the profession and the architectural market. Over the last year, the number of respondents considering that the current situation for architectural practice is good or very good has more than doubled, increasing from 9.1% in January 2013 to 21.9% in January 2014. Nevertheless, despite a downward trend, more than half of respondents still consider that the current situation is bad or very bad.

Figures show that the situation differs greatly from one country to another. Whereas the market in Southern and Central Europe seems to remain at standstill, the situation in Northern Europe, headed by Norway, Sweden and Finland, remains very good.

The increased level of optimism is probably fed by a slight increase in short-term workload forecasts. While respondents report upward trends in workloads in all the segments of the market, the public and private housing sector sees the most significant evolution.

These positive trends are reflected in staff changes and short-term staffing forecasts. The number of offices with growing staff numbers since 2008 has increased and the number of those expecting an increase in staff numbers for the next three months has steadily grown since 2010 (from 10.1% to 15.2% in 2014).

The survey confirms, therefore, that the situation is stabilising and that the tentative signs observed in the previous surveys have turned into encouraging trends, suggesting a gradual recovery of the market.

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

EU FUNDED PROJECTS

ACE is currently involved in three research projects, which are partially funded by the 7th European Framework Programme (FP7) for Research and Technological Development: [LEEMA](#), [INSPIRE](#) and [A2PBEER](#). These projects are addressing issues relating to energy efficient retrofitting of buildings, and innovative materials and technologies.

❖ LEEMA - www.leema.eu



ACE has developed the new project leaflet presenting the project aims. [Click here to see the leaflet.](#)

❖ INSPIRE - www.inspirefp7.eu



New ACE Project Officer, V. Schröpfer, attended the third project meeting, which took place in Verona on 11-12 March. For an update on the progress of this project, that is to develop systemic renovation kits for residential and office buildings [read the latest project newsletter.](#)

❖ A2PBEER - www.a2pbeer.eu



The aim of this project is to develop a retrofitting methodology for public buildings. Currently, six months into the project, ACE will assist in developing a summary of EU-wide energy efficiency requirements and standards for the target buildings, i.e. administrative buildings, schools and museums.

Elections in ACE Member Organisations

- [Ordem dos Arquitectos \(OA\)](#)

Arch. João Santa-Rita was elected as President of the Portuguese [Ordem dos Arquitectos](#), and Arch. Pedro Ravara elected as Vice President.

- [Czech Chamber of Architects \(CCA\)](#)

Petr Leseck was elected as President of the [CCA](#). He succeeds Mr Josef Panna. Mr. Pavel Hnilicka was elected as first Vice-President and Mr. Josef Smutny as second Vice-President.

- [Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España \(CSCAE\)](#)

At its meeting of 6 November 2013, the [CSCAE](#) re-elected Jordi Ludevid as President for the term 2014-2017. Esteban Belmonte was elected as Vice President and Alfonso Samaniego was re-elected as Treasurer. On 16 January, Eloy Algorri García was elected as new Secretary General.

Italy: only architects can intervene on monuments and listed buildings

Following an engineer's appeal against exclusion from a public work, the Italian High Court reiterated in January 2014 that only architects can intervene on monuments and listed buildings. Other professions may participate (e.g. structural engineers) but an architect must always be the coordinator of the project. [Read the ruling \(in Italian\)](#).

International Spanish Architecture Awards

In 2012, the CSCAE launched the Forum of Spanish Architecture in order to present the high quality of the Spanish architects and companies. The 2013 awarding ceremony was held in the Senate on 3 December 2013 under the Presidency of HRH the Prince of Asturias. [Find out about the winners and more information on the awards](#).

Latvian Association of Architects (LAA)

- **The LAA celebrates its 90th anniversary**



LATVIJAS ARHITEKTU SAVIENIBA

In February 2014, the [LAA](#) celebrated its 90th anniversary. The celebration events were followed by a conference on links between architecture and related fields like culture, politics, history and business.

- **Latvian Architecture Award 2014**

The [Latvian Architecture Award \(LAA\)](#) is an annual competition aiming to acknowledge and promote Latvian architecture. It is the biggest annual event in Latvian architecture. The exhibition of works will be opened to the public from 13 May, with the awards ceremony and lectures of jury members on 16 May.

- **Searching for modernism in architecture in Latvia.**

The Latvian Pavilion at 14th Venice Architecture Biennale will be dedicated to research about modernism in Latvian architecture, under a concept called *UNWRITTEN*. [Learn more about Latvian modernism](#).

OTHER MATTERS

International Energy Agency Survey on Advanced Lighting Solutions for Retrofitting Buildings

[The Solar Heating & Cooling Programme](#) of the International Energy Agency (IEA-SHC) is running an on-line survey on Advanced Lighting Solutions for Retrofitting Buildings directed to all actors involved in building retrofit processes. This survey focuses on practices regarding electric lighting and design strategies to increase daylight utilization. [Access the on-line survey](#).

The UIA announces the creation of the internet extension *.archi*

The UIA has supported the internet extension project, *.archi* – an internet extension for architects and for their organisations which will be available in the spring of 2014. Architects will henceforth be represented on the Internet as members of an identifiable community of professionals. The *.archi* ensures increased clarity and transparency for architects, greater visibility for professional organisations and for their members, as well as a guarantee for clients. [More information about the *.archi* extension](#).

Connect and Construct is looking for pilot participants

Connect and Construct is a two-year project initiated by the EU Commission that aims to improve the competitiveness and efficiency of the European construction industry by making it easier for construction companies to exchange information and data. The project is now looking for companies to pilot a free-of-charge information exchange platform. [See how the platform can benefit your company and what is expected from you as pilot participant.](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Frequently Asked Questions on the Recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

FAQ document produced by the European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ECEEE) as a [guide to understanding the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) (EPBD), adopted by the EU in 2010.

COMPETITIONS

Museums for the City Park in Budapest

The Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest and the Városliget Zrt (City Park) have announced four open competitions for the design of museum buildings within the framework of the Liget Budapest Project on the territory of the City Park Budapest. [More information.](#)

EVENTS

European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) – 23-27 June 2014

The EUSEW is a week of events organised by the EU Commission to showcase activities dedicated to energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. It is designed to spread best practices, inspire new ideas and build alliances to help meet the EU's energy and climate goals. [More information.](#)

UIA Congress in Durban – 3-7 August 2014



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. [More information.](#)

BUILD UP: Playback presentations and video recordings of previous web-seminars



BUILD UP, the European portal for energy efficiency in buildings, regularly organises web-seminars. Playback presentations and video recordings of past web-seminars are still available on BUILD UP website:

- [Funding energy efficiency in buildings under Horizon 2020](#)
- [CEN standards for the energy performance of buildings](#)

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

www.ace-cae.eu

The ACE Info will now be issued every two months!

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