PRESS RELEASE 4-07
4 December 2007

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2008 AND 2009

Juhani Katainen, Architect, Finland, has been elected President of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) by its General Assembly for a two-year period that will commence on the 1st January 2008. Together with the other members of the Executive Board, five of whom were elected at the same time as the incoming President and four of whom continue from 2007 as members serving by virtue of a country rotation principle that ensures continuity in the Executive Board, the President will undertake the task of furthering the implementation of ACE Policies as set out in the adopted Political Agenda of the ACE and Multi-Annual Work Programme that covers the period 2006-2008 while setting new priorities as appropriate.

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) directly elected its President from three candidates during its General Assembly Meeting that was held in Brussels on the 30th November and 1st December last. The election of Juhani Katainen marks a unique event in the ACE as he already served as President in 2002 by virtue of the rotation principle at the time, thus becoming the first person to serve as President twice. He will succeed Jean-François Susini, President 2006-2007 and will take up his duties on the 1st January 2008.

Also elected at the General Assembly were:

Vincent Cassar, Malta
Olgierd Dziekonski, Poland
Jordi Querol, Spain
Jean-Paul Scalabre, France
John Wright, UK

The four other members of the ACE Executive Board 2008 (by virtue of the rotation principle) are:

Pedro Guilherme, Portugal
Wolfgang Haack, Germany
Vladimir Krajcar, Slovenia
Georg Pendl, Austria.

Paramount among the tasks facing the new President and the Executive Board is the finalisation and hosting of the ACE Conference Designing for the Future: The Market and Quality of Life (10th April 2008, Brussels). Other important tasks notably include steering the Member Organisations of the ACE in the implementation of the Services and Professional Qualifications Directives (including the consultation process between the profession and the schools), monitoring the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, making input to the review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, consolidating the new working structure of the ACE established in 2005 around the three Thematic Areas of Access to the Profession, Practice of the Profession and Architecture and Society and managing the further enlargement of the membership base of the ACE.

In this context, it is noteworthy that, during the same General Assembly meeting, Croatia and Turkey were granted Special Member Status as full Members of the ACE.

For further information contact the ACE Secretariat by email at:

1 Founded in 1990, the headquarters of the ACE is located in Brussels. It currently has 44 Members who are the representative and regulatory architectural bodies from all of the EU Member States, the Accession States and Norway and Switzerland. It therefore represents, through its Members, over 450,000 architects across Europe.

For further information on the ACE see: www.ace-cae.org or contact Alain Sagne, Secretary General at: info@ace-cae.org