

Standing Committee Development & Business Environment

Chairman: Karlheinz ZACHMANN

Vice-Chairman: Aris CHATZIDAKIS

ExCo Rapporteur: Murt COLEMAN

Presentation prepared by:

Karlheinz ZACHMANN

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Introduction

- The main issue of activity since the last General Assembly in Brussels:

Presence and active participation in the
EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION FORUM (ECF)
(December 7, 2006 and February 12, 2007)

- ECF = informal gathering of 9 professional Associations/Federations directly linked with the Construction sector:
 - ACE
 - CEMBEREAU
 - CEPMC
 - EAPA
 - ECCE
 - EFBWW
 - EFCA
 - FIEC
 - UEPC
- ECF meets 4 times a year.

EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION FORUM:

Main items and issues discussed and considered

1. Energy Saving in Buildings

- EU Member States (25) have not yet transposed / implemented the relevant Directive.
- EU-Commission is prepared to go to COURT.
- Up to the end of this year ECF is planning an action / exposition within the EP
- In order to demonstrate what contribution the whole Construction sector can provide to ENERGY SAVING.

EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION FORUM:

Main items and issues discussed and considered

2. Internal Market

- On 14/2-07 the EU Commission has presented to EP and Council its Internal Market Legal Package (the new New Approach)
- This initiative consists of a Communication, a Regulation and a Decision
- The most important points:
 - Compulsory accreditation of all "notified bodies" (provided for in the various Directives);
 - Strengthening of the Market Surveillance through minimum obligations for Member States and compulsory networking with Commission and all Member States.
 - Legal protection of the CE Mark
 - Harmonisation of relevant Legal definitions (e.g. "putting on the market")
 - Clarification of the modules for attestation of conformity

EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION FORUM:

Main items and issues discussed and considered

3. Modification of the Construction Products Directive (CPD)

- The relevant sector study (competitiveness) is highly criticised by the Profession for being too vague and based on unscientific assumptions;
- Actually an economic Impact Study with respect to the likely modified CPD is under way.
- The solutions for the revision are still completely unknown; Service Providers like Civil an Consulting Engineers and Architects are to be alert with respect to clear performance related product specifications and the conformity attestation of Construction products;

EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION FORUM:

Main items and issues discussed and considered

4. REACH

- After the formal agreement by EP and Council it is now to see how the system will work and what may be the points to be revised within one year;

5. Services Directive

- Up to now only ACE voiced its concern with respect to the obligation to subscribe a liability Insurance and provide securities.
- Do Civil Engineers have the same or other problems?

COMPETITION

- The relevant EC-DG presented in 2004 a study on services. This study was updated in 2005.
- The Commission is mainly negotiating with the Member States on the withdrawal of discriminatory Legal provisions and measures in order to insure free competition within the EU.
- ACE (Architects) have taken a quite critical position.
- If needed and requested the relevant service of DG COMPETITION is ready to meet with European Federations / Associations concerned.

DIVERS

**On occasion of an EGOLF Conference,
scheduled for June 19, 2007
the Chairman of the ECCE SC Development
&Business Environment
will make a short statement on
the specifiers needs in view of the coming
revision of the CPD**