

1st European Engineers' Day, Brussels 08.12.2011

Key Note Speech WFEO President Adel Al Kharafi

Dear Commissioner Mrs Maria Damanaki,
Dear Ambassadors,
Dear Members of the European Parliament,
Dear General Directors of European Commission,
Dear Members of the National EU Representations,
Dear Presidents and Delegates of European and National Engineering Organizations,
Dear Colleagues Distinguished Engineers,

It is a pleasure for me to participate in the 1st European Engineers' Day, at this important event organized by the European Engineering Organizations (amongst the leadership of the European and National Engineering Organizations, the EU Decision Makers and our European Colleagues Engineers) and focused on these very critical topics such as : The role of Engineer serving the Public Interest, Professional Recognition and Mobility and Public Procurement Procedures.

The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) is an international, non governmental organization representing the engineering profession worldwide. Now we have 120 Members – Engineering Organizations (National and International) representing all the continents.

Founded in 1968 by a group of regional engineering organizations, under the auspices of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, the WFEO represents some 15 million Engineers from around the world.

WFEO every year organizes a broad range of annually high level activities (in which You are all kindly invited to participate), to follow and succeed our WFEO Mission:

- To represent the Engineering Profession internationally, providing the collective wisdom and leadership of our profession to assist

national authorities to choose appropriate policy options that address the most critical issues affecting countries of the world

- To enhance the best practice of Engineering
- To make information on engineering available to the countries of the world and to facilitate communication between its member nations of world best practices in key engineering activities
- To foster socio-economic security and sustainable development and poverty alleviation among all countries of the world, through the proper application of technology
- To serve society and to be recognized by national and international organizations and the public as a respected and valuable source of advice and guidance on the policies, interests and concerns that relate engineering and technology to the human and natural environment

The Mission the Scopes and the Activities of WFEO are in the core – target of Your and Our message “Engineers serve the Public Interest and the Humanity Needs, Building Life Quality and a Sustainable Environment”.

Our main task in the International Engineering Organizations, is how we can continuously promote and disseminate this message to Our Societies and to Decision Makers, enhancing the visibility of our Engineering Profession and the visibility and societies’ recognition to the Engineering Activities building the Sustainable Development worldwide. On that, we have to coordinate our activities seeking the effective launching of our Message. We can use many means of that eg Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Awards, many proper events with eligible material dissemination to the Press Media, Contacts with the Decision Makers etc WFEO organizes in cooperation with the National Engineering Organisations the great worldwide events, the World Engineering Conventions (WECs), this year the WEC 2011 successfully on September 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland and from now we prepare the WEC 2015 I Kyoto/Japan.

The WFEO running of its works on the scientific and technical level are executed by the following Standing Committees (consisted by experts in each subject) on

- Young Engineers – Future Leaders
- Women Engineering
- Information and Communication
- Education in Engineering

- Technology
- Engineering Capacity Building
- Energy
- Anti-Corruption
- Engineering and the Environment
- Disaster Risk Management

WFEO has a permanent cooperation and participation in UNESCO activities. The recent WFEO publication (2011), “Guidebook on Engineering Capacity Building” it is for great importance especially for the countries with an ongoing development and the role of the National Engineers there, as well as the contribution and support by the International Engineering Organisations.

The New Standing Committee (previously TF) for Young Engineers – Future Leaders with all motivated participants from our National Organizations, is expected to have an important role concerning the perspectives of our young colleagues, as well as the future of our engineering professionals.

Dear Mrs Commissioner,
Dear Colleagues Distinguished Engineers,

The subject of Mutual Professional Recognition and Mobility is a high priority topic for our individual Engineers, needing to have cross-border or distance, overseas etc mobility to act as Professionals in other countries. The factor of mobility will be a critical one for the Young Engineers, not only for acquiring experience but for the facing of the engineering skills shortages due to the rapid technology innovation evolution and to meet the requirements in a global competitive world market of services and products as well as to face the global challenges for sustainable development.

For my evidence, the profile of an “Engineer of the World” who is equipped apart of the special educational pre-requisites and technical skills with communication, management, languages, leadership skills and in a general with an international formation profile, will be indispensable for the Young Engineers-Future Leaders and our Professional in the present and in the future.

International Engineering Organizations have to meet these requirements preparing properly with the cooperation of National Members the

Individual Engineers. The National Engineering Organizations have to establish the relevant framework for the formation of Engineers, access in the profession and then control and update the competencies with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) procedures.

We need well educated and qualified Engineers, we need competent skills for high level quality services provided by our Professionals, we need strictly implemented Code of Ethics in order our Professionals to act in a high moral framework.

We need also national and international legislation facilitating the mobility of Engineers. In Europe, You have approached that by the European Union (EU) Legislation with the EU Directives the Mobility of Professionals in general and especially of Engineers and now a new revised Directive modernizing and more facilitating the already existing legislative framework is going to adopt introducing the Engineering Professional Card. We have analytically informed on that by the Special Advisor of WFEO Mr Vassilis Economopoulos and we follow up these evolutions that they will be very important for the Trans-European Mobility of Engineers. In our Geneva GA Meetings, a special meeting on the Professional Recognition and Mobility was held between our WFEO International Members with the leading participation of a World Trade Organization (WTO) representative. As you probably know in other continents there are similar efforts introducing relevant Accords.

In WFEO we are glad to share and disseminate all this valuable information and the European Key Example on the subject (EU Directive 2005/36 and its improvement with the New Revised Directive be launched at the beginning of 2012 and of course to participate actively in the discussion for introducing a worldwide approach. We have also to mention that since the Engineering Profession is closely related to the safety and the security of the constructions and the sustainable environment, improving the quality of life of the citizens in the transnational mobility we need to ensure the educational pre-requisitions and the competent skills for acting as a Professional Engineer providing corresponding qualitative engineering services.

On the Public Procurement topic, the International Engineering Organizations should promote:

- Transparency, equal and proportional conditions of access to all competent engineering companies or individuals
- Close relationship between Quality and Price in the evaluation of all our Engineering Services

- Open and early announcements of the forthcoming Public Procurement Calls for Expression of Interest or Bids and broad dissemination of them by proper electronic and other means
- Incorporation of the dimensions of Sustainability, Innovation and “Greening” the Public Procurement
- Promotion and ensuring of Anti-Corruption attitudes, best procedures and practices in the Public Procurement
- Enhancing the participation of (Small and Medium Engineering Enterprises) SMEs in Public Procurement.
- Promotion of stable and unified types of Announcements, Bids and Contracts for Public Procurement in National and International Level

On that critical also point, WFEO follows up the EU unified legislation in Public Procurement and we consider such a model on continental and international basis.

Dear Colleagues Distinguished Engineers,

I wish all the best to the 1st European Engineers’ Day and let us take this as a landmark also to strengthen and enlarge our cooperation with WFEO.

I am at glad position to announce as we discussed before in the 4th Presidents’ of the European Organization Meeting under my proposition, the WFEO will host the 5th Presidents’ Meeting in Ljubljana (September 2012) within the works of WFEO ExCo and SCs Meetings there.

Mrs Damanaki, the EU Commissioner, Chemical Engineer is also kindly invited by the WFEO President to participate as key note speaker in our International Event on “Sustainable Engineering” in the same period in Ljubljana.-