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ECEC News



European Council
of Engineers Chambers



**Dear ECEC Members,
Dear colleagues and friends,**

The current situation is a challenge for all of us – personally as well as professionally.

As ECEC we want to communicate the needs and requirements of the profession to the European authorities and at the same time demonstrate its relevance and importance in regard to overcoming this crisis. Therefore, I would like to appeal to you to keep us informed about the situation in your country and also about any analyses you do and positions you formulate on national level. Only on the basis of such information we are able to transport your interests to the European Institution.

Beside all the suffering and negative economic impacts of the crisis it offered us the opportunity to rethink our personal and professional values. The world after COVID-19 might have become a little more open to braver

solutions for current challenges as the climate change effects. So, this is a good time for European Chartered Engineers to demonstrate solutions and approaches based on engineering intelligence and thus proving their importance for the functioning of daily life and for facing the challenges of our times.

I believe that more than ever the main professional challenge in our daily work is to bring forward globally sustainable and holistic engineering approaches to create a better life and save the environment.

Hereby, I would like to wish you an inspiring and refreshing summertime with your loved ones. Stay safe and healthy!

Klaus Thürriedl
ECEC President

NEWS | COVID-19



ECEC Statement COVID-19

On 22 April 2020 the ECEC has published a Statement regarding the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on Chartered Engineers. It was also addressed to EC Commissioner Breton and the Members of the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament.

The paper focuses on the considerable extra efforts that engineers had to provide which were not foreseen and are not regulated in the contracts; on the importance to support engineers to keep their high qualified personnel throughout the crisis and on the necessity to draw the right conclusions from the crisis: As the COVID-19 crisis once again shows the important role of liberal professions for health, safety, and welfare the longstanding European Commissions' deregulation approach in broad areas of policy needs rethinking in order to not risking the high quality of systemically important liberal professional services on which society is dependent especially in times of crisis.

In addition to this first position the ECEC will analyse the medium- and long- term consequences of the crisis on the professions of Chartered Engineers. This will be based on the information of ECEC member organisations on the situations in their countries. Several member organisations have conducted surveys among their members and will continue to do so in order to measure long-term effects.

[Click here to download the Statement](#)

COVID-19 required postponement of 4th European Engineers Day

Due to the situation and the resulting travel restrictions, the 4th European Engineers Day, once again commonly organized with the partner organisations FEANI and ECCE and scheduled for 24 June 2020, had to be postponed. It is planned to organize the event

around the same time in 2021 and preparations are going to start soon.
We will keep you informed.

Public Procurements and the COVID-19 crisis

In April 2020 the European Commission has made available a guidance on how to use all the flexibilities offered by the EU public procurement framework in the emergency situation caused by the coronavirus outbreak. It stresses the existing possibilities to use flexible solutions for rapidly satisfying urgent needs. This also showed that there is no political will to offer flexibility that goes beyond what is already legally possible within the directive.

[See the link](#)

EU NEWS

European Commission: New Deputy Director-General in DG GROW

On 17th of June, the European Commission has announced that the college has taken several decisions concerning functions at Deputy Director-General level. Mr Hubert Gambus, who is currently holding the position of Director for Services in the Single Market and Digitalisation in the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW) was appointed to the function of Deputy Director-General in the same DG.



He is well known within the European family of Chartered Engineers and is familiar with its positions and concerns.

In 2017 he was one of the speakers at the 3rd European Engineers Day.



SME Strategy

The EU SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe was announced by Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for Internal Market, on 10 March 2020. Its aim is supporting European SMEs through strengthening their capacities to adapt to climate neutrality challenges, help them to reap the benefits of digitalisation, reduce the regulatory burden that SMEs face, and improve their opportunities to access finance. [See link](#)

The ECEC has submitted a position to Commissioner Breton and the competent departments of the European Commission and also to the IMCO Members of the European Parliament in order to stress some aspects of importance for our

profession such as the necessity of good regulation, of unburdening standardization, of improving access to finances for micro-sized enterprises, of better access to finances etc.

[Click here to download the ECEC Statement](#)

Single Market News

At the same time the European Commission published the "Long-term action plan for better implementation and enforcement of single market rules". The plan contains a broad variety of concrete enforcement actions. Among them is the plan to give more guidance to Member States and businesses in regard to single market rules (e.g. update of handbook for the Services Directive, update of the "Reform recommendations for regulation of professional services" from 2017 that had a focus on national regulations for engineering professions, Guidance on strategic (social, innovation, green) and other aspects (collusion) of public procurement, Guidance on the principle of Mutual Recognition etc.) and to make better use on existing preventive mechanisms (such as the Proportionality Directive for any new professional regulations) and pilot and infringement procedures.

Full text see [here](#)

The European Parliament has initiated an own-initiative report (= non legislative initiative) on the topic: The IMCO committee, in charge of Internal Market issues, is preparing a report on strengthening the Single Market: the future of free movement of services. Rapporteur is MEP Morten Lökkegaard.

Read more on the [EP website](#)

Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment

On 11 March, the Commission published the so-called Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) with a Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment for 2021, in order to "ensure coherence across the relevant policy areas such as climate, energy and resource efficiency, management of construction and demolition waste, accessibility, digitalisation and skills". It promotes circularity principles throughout the lifecycle of buildings by different measures such as addressing the sustainability performance of construction products in the revision of the Construction Product Regulation, promoting measures to improve the durability and adaptability of built assets in line with the circular economy principles for buildings design and developing digital logbooks for buildings and using levels to integrate life cycle assessment in public procurement and the EU sustainable finance framework.



For details [see here](#)





European Semester

On 26 February, the EU Commission published its Winter 2020 European Semester Package with country reports about the Member State's key economic challenges. In many countries the high level of regulatory restrictiveness of regulated professions is once again an issue.

Download the country reports on the [Commission website](#)

Public Consultations of the European Commission

Please note that the European Communications regularly does Public Consultations many of which are very relevant for the engineering professions. We would therefore advise to regularly check the page and contribute to relevant topics: [LINK](#)

Study on indemnity insurance for service provider including engineering services

The European Commission is conducting a study on professional indemnity insurance for services providers (under the Services Directive) in order to gain insight in experiences on service providers in regard to indemnity insurance requirements and their impacts on cross border services. Especially those of you with cross border experience might be interested to share their experience.

Please note that the survey will be running until Sunday 26th July, hence, we would be very grateful if you could provide your input by then. [Click here to see the link](#)

ECEC ACTIVITIES

ECEC Executive Board Meetings

The ECEC Executive Board had a first meeting at the beginning of February in Berlin, hosted by the German Chamber of Engineers (BIngK). After the outbreak of COVID-19 and the resulting travelling restrictions/warnings, all physical meetings were cancelled and held as digital conferences only. In 5 videoconferences in the period of March – June, the EB analysed the situation in the member states and worked out the statement on the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the profession, further also finalized the statement on the SME strategy.

As it seemed clear that the annual General Assembly Meeting, which has been scheduled for 25th of June in Brussels, would have to be postponed, the ECEC EB took precautions and set the meeting to be in digital form only.

Digital General Assembly Meeting

On 24th June, the ECEC had its first General Assembly held solely via video-conference. All 20 ECEC members, including 16 full members and 4 associate members, took part in the virtual meeting.



The financial report, budget plan 2021 as well as the membership fees were approved by the General Assembly. Two auditors for the year of 2020 have been elected (Nina Dražin Lovrec – HKIG, HR and Juan Blanco Lino – UPCI, ES).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SAVE THE DATE - 4th European Engineers Day – June 2021
 - 77th Executive Board Meeting: 03 September 2020
 - 78th Executive Board Meeting: 14 November 2020
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