



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

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ACE Info

The electronic note from the Architects' Council of Europe

Issue 1-08

English version

Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of *ACE Info* in 2008. The ACE welcomes feedback and comments on the content of this publication, so please feel free to write to us at info@ace-cae.org

This issue is also available in French.

ACE Conference 2008

EU Institutions Bring Strong Support to ACE Conference

With just eight weeks to go before the holding of the ACE Conference “*Designing for the Future; The Market and Quality of Life*”, on the 10th April 2008, the ACE is delighted to inform you that Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission will open the proceedings of the day and Janez Podobnik, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, President-in-office of the EU Council of Ministers responsible for the Environment and the Territorial Agenda, will give the closing speech. Furthermore, the European Parliament is involved in the Conference, notably its Inter-Group Urban.Logement.

Siim Kallas is the Commissioner from Estonia and he is, as Commissioner responsible for Administration, in charge of the Buildings Policy of the Commission. Indeed, as readers of the *ACE Info* will be aware, the Commission published its new Buildings Policy in mid-2007 and it announced, at the time, that it is preparing a specific document on its future Architectural Policy to complement its Buildings Policy – a matter on which the ACE has offered its assistance.

Work on the themes for the Conference is ongoing with focussed preparation underway with many of the confirmed high-level speakers (see programme on the website mentioned below). In this work both the Organising Committee and the appointed moderator for the event, Jan Maarten de Vet (of Ecotec), are engaged in ensuring that the quality of the presentations and of the discourse on the themes of the day will be of a consistently high calibre so that the event will be a true milestone for the ACE. Moreover, it is intended that the Conference will adopt conclusions and that these will be widely disseminated.

Register now to participate in the ACE Conference, for which there is **no registration fee but** for which **pre-registration is required**, by going to the following webpage:

The banner features the ACE logo on the left and the following text on the right: "European Conference 'Designing for the Future: The Market and Quality of Life' Brussels, 10 April 2008 - Flagey Building".

http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/mee/cnf/conf_info.html

Core Issues

Study on Conveyancing Services Published

The European Commission published, on the 29th January 2008, the study that it had commissioned in 2006 on the subject of the EU market for legal services associated with house and land sales (Conveyancing services). The study follows the extensive work that the Commission undertook some years ago on competition in professional services and which it has continued to pursue. The latest study, carried out by independent consultants ZERP at Bremen University, finds that consumers in deregulated systems have greater choice, are paying less for Conveyancing services and are suffering no measurable loss of quality.

The study is in two parts, the first of which looked at the legal regimes in force in 21 countries finding that most of the arguments put forward do not seem to justify restrictions of the sort that feature in highly regulated systems. The second part looks at economic aspects in that sector of activity and concludes that high levels of regulation generally go hand in hand with high prices whilst not resulting in higher levels of quality – one of the principal arguments put forward by those defending regulation.

To access this report and earlier work by the Commission, go to:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/sectors/professional_services/studies/studies.html

Commission Includes Sustainable Construction in Lead Markets Initiative

“Lead Markets” are high-growth potential markets for research and innovation-rich goods and services and is a concept that was introduced into EU terminology by the “Aho Report” (see *ACE Info 2/06*). Lead Market initiatives will focus on areas where public authorities can facilitate industry-led innovation by creating favourable legal and regulatory frameworks, setting standards, improving access to risk capital, providing support for research and acting as launch customers.

The six areas chosen by the Commission are e-Health, Protective Textiles, Sustainable Construction, Recycling, Bio-based Products and Renewable Energy. In launching the initiative on the 21st December 2007, the Commission has set out an action plan for each of the areas for the coming years and there is clear potential for any proposals that display innovative approaches to any one of the areas receiving support, thus being potentially relevant for architects who devise innovative approaches to Sustainable Construction.

To view the Commission documents on the subject, go to:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/leadmarket/leadmarket.htm>

The Commission Launches Legislative Proposals to Engage Europe on the Road to a Low Carbon Economy

On the 23rd January last, the European Commission presented, after lengthy and sometimes acrimonious negotiations, a package of concrete measures that it hopes will be as binding as the objectives of the European Council of March 2007 on energy and climate. The package includes proposals for the revision of the Community emissions trading scheme (ETS), a directive on the promotion of the use of renewable energy and other measures to combat global warming. In each of the measures, which collectively aim to ensure that the EU achieves its 20-20-20 target by 2020, the targets for each Member State is expressed as a function of its GDP per inhabitant, thus recognising the very different starting points for each Member State.

To access the Commission package and read more, go to:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/focus/energy-package-2008/index_en.htm

ACE Matters

The CNOA(F) Inaugurates its New Offices in Paris

On the 23rd January last, the French Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes (CNOA(F)), inaugurated its new headquarters in the presence of a number of dignitaries. The new headquarters is located on the 47th floor of the landmark *Tour Montparnasse* building, which guarantees a spectacular view of the famous Parisian skyline to staff and visitors alike. Present at the inauguration were officials from three French Ministries linked to the profession: The Ministry of Culture and Communication, The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and The Ministry of Housing and Cities.

Also present was the President of the International Union of Architects (UIA) Gaëtan Siew as the UIA now has its Secretariat in the same premises as the CNOA(F) in the *Tour Montparnasse*.

Changes in the Presidium of IARP

The National Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland (IARP) has announced that Sławomir Żak was recently appointed President and that he took up his role on the 9th December. He succeeded Tomasz Taczewski who was an acting President from 26th June 2004 and served as President from 10th June 2006 to 8th December 2007.

The full Presidium of IARP consists of:

Sławomir Żak- the President of the National Chamber of Architects of Poland (from 9th December 2007)

Krzysztof Baczyński- the Vice president of foreign affairs (from 19th December 2007)

Krzysztof Gerbszt- the Vice president of internal affairs (from 24th November 2006)

Piotr Rożen- the Vice president of legislation (from 19th December 2007)

Izabela Klimaszewska- the Vice president of information (from 19th December 2007)

Waldemar Jasiewicz- the Secretary

Marek Mikos- the Treasurer (from 24th November 2006)

Andrzej Kaliszewski- the member of the Presidium

Website of the IARP:

<http://www.izbaarchitektow.pl/>

BAK and BAIK Representation in Brussels – New Faces

The BAK, one of the four German Member Organisations of the ACE and the BAIK, the Austrian Member Organisation of the ACE, have, for some time, had a Liaison Office in Brussels and there has been a number of recent changes in personnel at that office. Following the departure of Anton Bauch as Head of Office and the redeployment of Tanja Waldmann to Berlin to the post of Head of the Public Affairs Department, Joachim Jobi (a lawyer by profession) has been appointed as Head of the Liaison Office in Brussels with Thomas Haas (a Landscape Architect by profession) taking up the post of Adviser. To see the full list of permanent staff at the BAK, go to:

<http://www.bak.de/site/208/default.aspx>

ACE Events and Meetings in February and March 2008:

Tenth Meeting of the ACE-EAAE Joint Working Party – 15th February – Brussels

Work Group Insurance – 21st February – Brussels

CEO's – Correspondents Meeting – 28th February – Brussels

Finance Committee Meeting – 29th February – Brussels

Second Executive Board Meeting – 29th February and 1st March – Brussels

Work Group Procurement of Architectural Services – 7th March – Brussels

Thematic Areas Workshop – 14th March – Brussels

Other Matters

URBACT II – Metka Cernelc, Slovenia, President of the Monitoring Committee

Mrs Metka Cernelc, Director general, Spatial Planning Directorate, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, with whom the ACE enjoys a very good relationship, has taken over from Lothar Blatt as the President of URBACT's Monitoring Committee. Mrs Cernelc is deeply involved in the activities of the European Forum for Architectural Policies and she is a Member of the Board of Administrators of its Supporting Association, EFAP-FEPA aisbl, in which the ACE is represented by its Secretary General, Alain Sagne.

Readers should note that the closing date for the declarations of interest for thematic networks and work groups under the first call of the URBACT II Programme (2007-2013) is set on the 15th of February.

For further information go to:

<http://urbact.eu/towards-urbact-2/project-ideas.html>

Vicente Leoz-Arguelles Returns as Head of Construction Unit in DG Enterprise

Following the recent re-shuffle within DG Enterprise in which Mr. Reinhard Klein was appointed Head of the Entrepreneurship Unit at DG Enterprise, Mr. Vicente Leoz-Arguelles has resumed his post as Head of the Construction Unit, a post he held until 2006 when he was appointed to steer the revision of the Construction Products Directive. In that context, the ACE was invited to a stakeholder consultation on the subject in December 2007 at which it learned that the Commission is proposing to replace the Directive by a Regulation that simplifies many of the complicated provisions of the Directive. The proposed Regulation is currently in Inter-Service consultations in the Commission and will have to be adopted by the Parliament and Council after the Commission adopts it.

Commission Preparing to Launch a Study on Liability and Insurance Regimes

The Construction Unit of the DG Enterprise is currently preparing a Call for Tenders for the carrying out of a European study of liability and insurance regimes in the construction sector. The ACE was invited to a stakeholder consultation on the matter at which it expressed its views on the subject and on its hopes for the outcome of the study. The ACE highlighted, among other things, the need to ensure that insurance policies truly protect the consumer interest, that all actors in the project team carry insurance appropriate to their input and that the law of the country in which the asset is constructed is the one that applies in case of dispute.

The Commission reported that the Study will survey the existing regimes in the Member States and that it will give an accurate overview of the situation in the EU. It also recalled that the Study is being undertaken in the context of earlier work in the 1990's on the Competitiveness of the Construction Sector and in the context of the requirements of the Directive on Services in the Internal Market.

President Sarkozy Commissions Two Nobel Prize Winners to Re-examine GDP

The ACE notes with interest the recent mission that President Sarkozy of France has given to two Nobel Prize winners (for economics) Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz, to consider ways and means to get away from a highly quantitative approach to measuring wealth and collective performance to somehow include well-being and satisfaction or other indicators of real wealth. Readers will recall that in *ACE Info 7/07* that we reported on steps being taken by the European Commission to work in this direction too. These developments give support to the calls that the ACE has now been making for many years that pure economic prosperity (expressed as GDP per capita, for example) is not sufficient as the only measure of quality of life. It has highlighted the need to ensure that more indicators, particularly those that can "measure" the quality of the built environment need to be devised and integrated into national statistics. The ACE will track these interesting developments and report back on any significant progress that either initiative makes.

European Commission to Examine New Planning Law in Belgian Commune

On the 20th December last, the European Commission announced its intention to analyse the legal provisions of a regulation that will allow the commune of Zaventem (located just outside Brussels in Flanders) to exclusively reserve the acquisition of building land to persons who speak Flemish or who are taking Flemish lessons in a recognised school. No further details are available at the present time.

EUA Requested by French Presidency to Develop Lifelong Learning Charter

In setting out the higher education priorities of the future French Presidency of the EU, the French Prime Minister, François Fillon, invited the Presidents of the 34 National rectors Conferences of the European University Association (EUA) to debate how universities could contribute to the development of European society and the labour market. In response the EUA President, Georg Winckler, promised that he would strive to ensure that the EUA would develop a Charter that is supported by all its member universities. For more information, download:

http://www.eua.be/fileadmin/user_upload/files/Press/EUAParispostdef.pdf

European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

The President of the Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, launched the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Ljubljana on the 8th January last. There are high hopes that this initiative will mean that culture will come more centre-stage within the policies of the EU and that it will lead to greater

understanding between different cultures. According to a recent Eurobarometer public opinion survey, two thirds of Europeans interact with at least one person of a different religious, ethnic or national background every day, a fact that underlines the fact that intercultural dialogue is a common daily feature of life in the EU.

This focus on culture comes at a time when the European Parliament has called for a sharper focus on the jobs and growth potential of cultural industries. It made the call in a report, prepared by Guy Bono (PSE, FR) that urges, among other matters, the Commission to set up a task force on culture and the creative economy. To read the report go to:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/684/684266/684266en.pdf

Also readers should note that the European Cities of Culture for 2008 are Liverpool in the UK and Stavanger in Norway:

<http://www.liverpool08.com/> and <http://www.stavanger2008.no/>

Video Game as Instructive Tool

A new French Company, Palludio Games, founded by Jacques Allemand, Vincent Cousin and Pierre Martin, has announced the launch of a new game called "*Building and Co. – You are the Architect!*" which is available in French and English at the present time. The gamer can play the roles of the developer, the architect or the builder and it involves a realistic 3-d interface of a building site that you manage during the construction process with the aim of ensuring that the building is built on time and within budget. Its complexity and realism is such that it could be considered to be an effective means of teaching project management techniques. For more, go to:

<http://www.buildingandco.com/>

Architects for Aid Launches a Built Environment Action Register (BEAR)

The ACE is pleased to support the launch of the Built Environment Action Register (BEAR). BEAR is a database of professionals willing to volunteer their time, skills, and expertise for humanitarian architecture projects for communities in need all over the world. The idea for BEAR was initiated in November 2006 at the ACE General Assembly in Brussels in response to an urgent need voiced by humanitarian shelter providers including [Architects for Aid](#), [Architecture de L'Urgence](#) (France), [Architects Sans Frontieres UK](#), [Architects for Humanity UK](#), and the [Shelter Centre](#) to match qualified and interested volunteer professionals to aid agencies.

The BEAR database will be a resource to international aid agencies as well as country-specific charities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to contact volunteer architects, engineers, and other relevant professionals for post-disaster recovery and rebuilding as well as ongoing development and restoration efforts. Interested volunteers may be called on for specific assignments such as needs assessments, site and building analyses, architectural design, engineering best practices, cost analyses, project management, construction supervision, and collaboration with local communities.

To register your name, please go to <http://www.a-4-a.org/call-for-volunteers.htm>.

For more information on the BEAR, please contact Architects for Aid at +44 (0) 20 7466 1222 or email Victoria-Harris@a-4-a.org

Eurochambres Survey of State of Play in Transposition of Services Directive

The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Eurochambres) has published the results of a survey carried out among 26 national Chambers of Commerce on the progress made and delays accumulated by Member States in the transposition of the Services Directive (2006/123/EC). Although 85% of Member States have launched national plans for transposing the directive, the survey shows that significant national differences concerning specific provisions exist. In particular it notes that there is still a lack of clarity when it comes to the model of organisation for the *one-stop shops*. Some Member States have chosen to give exhaustive competences to their proposed *Points of Single Contact (PSC)*, while others have only given them the role of facilitator. In some countries the national Chambers of Commerce are looking at the possibility of acting as the PSC.

To download the full report, go to:

<http://www.eurochambres.eu/DocShare/docs/4/PEACBIAADGIIKLCNLELIFFKOBWBYPY9A8T5DVAH T56SD/EUROCHAMBRES/docs/DLS/080121-SurveyServicesDirective-2008-00207-01-EN.pdf>

The “Covenant of Mayors” Launched

On the 29th January in Brussels, in the presence of elected representatives from London, Helsinki, Riga, Berlin, Bonn, Milan, Venice, Nantes, Ljubljana, Warsaw and other cities, the European Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs and the President of the Committee of the Regions, Michel Delebarre, officially launched the Covenant of Mayors. This initiative aims to involve citizens in the fight against global warming and was part of the second European Union Sustainable Energy Week. Almost 100 cities, including 15 capital cities have expressed their support for the Covenant. Mr. Piebalgs said that cities are becoming the places to deliver new ideas and innovative projects against global warming and he affirmed that the approach to tackle the climate crisis challenge can only be holistic, integrated, long-term and, most of all, based on the participation of citizens.

The ACE will be tracking the impact of this Covenant and reporting back through *ACE Info*. For further information, go to:

<http://www.managenergy.net/products/R2008.htm>

Conference on *Competences on Urban Transport: Who Does What?*

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) with the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions held a conference on the 9th January on the above subject. More than 160 participants took part and the debates at the Conference permitted those present to better understand the options available to improve transport systems so as to increase their sustainability and efficiency. Two main conclusions were arrived at; the European Union can and must intervene whilst applying the subsidiarity principle and local cooperation on the issues should be urgently established.

to read more about the event, go to:

[http://www.alde.eu/index.php?id=42&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=9092](http://www.alde.eu/index.php?id=42&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=9092)

Publications

RESPIRO Guide on Responsibility in Procurement

The final output of a European project in which the ACE played a small part, this Guide covers the topic of socially responsible procurement of building construction works. The project partners were ICLEI, EURO CITIES, FIEC, EURATEX, ETUF and the EFBWW. The guide can be downloaded at:

<http://www.respiro-project.eu/index.php?id=4919>

Call for Papers

The ACE frequently receives notifications of “Calls for Papers” for conferences and seminars worldwide. You may have written a thesis or doctorate paper that you would like to present or you may have an idea that you wish develop and to share with a wider audience – here is your chance:

Concrete: 21st Century Superhero – Building a Sustainable Future

This Conference will be held in London from the 22nd June to the 24th June 2009 and is organised by The Concrete Society under the auspices of *fib* (*The International Federation for Structural Concrete*) and in collaboration with the Japan Concrete Institute. The organisers have launched a call for papers with a deadline of 31st march 2008. For full information, go to:

www.fiblondon2009.com/abstracts

Events

ACE Conference – Designing the Future: The Market and Quality of Life

The ACE is holding a major European conference in Brussels on the 10th April next (see front page). It will address some of the key issues affecting the quality of life for EU citizens, concentrating on the positive contribution that high quality in the built environment can have on that quality. To get more information on the themes of the conference go to:

http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/mee/cnf/conf_info.html

World Sustainable Energy Days 2008

To be held in Wels, Austria, this major convergence of events takes place from the 5th to the 7th March 2008. During these few days a high number of exhibitions, workshops and conferences will all take place. For full information, go to:

www.wsed.at

Greening the Economy – New Energy for Business

To be held on the 21st and 22nd February in Brussels, this Conference will provide a platform for dialogue between business leaders and policymakers and will address the pressing questions that business must now address in relation to climate change and the need for greater energy efficiency.

For full details go to:

<http://www.ebsummit.eu>

Listing of events relating to Urban Issues

The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) maintains a very good listing of events that relate to urban issues on its website, many of which are interest to architects. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.eukn.org/eukn/meetings/index.html>

UIA Turin 2008 – Congress Website

The next triennial UIA (International Union of Architects) Congress is to be held in Turin from the 29th June to the 3rd July 2008 at the Lingotto, once the main factory and trial centre for Fiat, it was converted in recent times to a convention centre by the world-renowned architect Renzo Piano. The website for the Congress has now been opened at:

<http://www.uia2008torino.org/>

Competitions

Espoo Hospital Two-stage Open Architectural Competition

The City of Espoo, located to the west of Helsinki in Finland, has announced an open international two-stage architectural design competition for the design of Espoo hospital and the conversion of the existing Puolarmetsa Hospital into high quality accommodation for old people. The first stage opened on the 14th January last and closes on the 30th April. For full details on how to participate, go to:

<http://www.suunnittelukilpailut.fi/kilpailut/?cat=2>

European Prize for Urban Public Space 2008

The call for entries for this competition is currently open and will close on the 15th March 2008. This is a biennial competition that is organised by a group of institutes acting together, whose objective is to recognise and encourage activities aimed at recovering and creating spaces of cohesion in cities. Full details can be found at:

<http://urban.cccb.org/prize/>

Useful links

European Commission homepage

http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

Search page for Commission documents

http://europa.eu/documents/comm/index_en.htm

The Barroso Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/index_en.htm

Website of the Slovenian Presidency

<http://www.eu2008.si/info/en/>

European Forum for Architectural Policies

<http://www.architecture-forum.net>

URBACT Hous-Es Network website:

<http://urbact.eu/projects/hous-es.html>

Sustainable building website

www.sustainablebuilding.info

Collegi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya (COAC) international relations database:

<http://www.coac.net/international/>

Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori (CNAPPC) database - ArchiEuro:

<http://www.archieuro.archiworld.it>

Website of the European Construction Technology Platform:

<http://www.ectp.org>

Register of Expert Groups of the European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/secretariat_general/regexp/

ArchiEuropa website – comparative information on practice of architecture:

<http://www.arvha.net/selectionlang.php?s=AXMIG1FZFB>

Archi-Student website – a wealth of information on schools and students of architecture in Europe:

www.archi-students.org

Link to the Newsletter of the International Union of Architects (UIA):

<http://www.uia-architectes.org/texte/england/Menu-2/4-lettre.html>

Website of the UIA Practice Commission – contains useful information on the work of the global architectural association, UIA, on practice related issues:

www.aia.org/about_uia

ACE Website:

<http://www.ace-cae.org>

Useful tip:

In the website addresses given in *ACE Info* for the documents of the EU, you will frequently see the following near the end of the address: “_en”. These two letters define the language of the document (English in the case of “en”) and you can usually change these two letters in order to bring you to a different language version as follows:

French _fr	German _de	Danish _da	Swedish _sv
Italian _it	Spanish _es	Greek _el	Dutch _nl
Portuguese _pt	Finnish _fi	Czech _cs	Maltese _mt
Estonian _et	Latvian _lv	Lithuanian _lt	Polish _pl
Hungarian _hu	Slovene _sl	Slovak _sk	Bulgarian _bg
Romanian _ro			

Editor's note

The editorial board for the compilation of *ACE Info* is:

The ACE President:	Juhani Katainen
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The Secretary General of the ACE:	Alain Sagne
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ACE Info is issued on a regular basis, with about eight editions per year. You are free to circulate the document as widely as you wish, to translate its contents for use in your publications and to refer to the information it contains once you credit the ACE as the origin.

If you wish to receive *ACE Info* regularly and you are not on the mailing list, you can register online at: <http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/sub/sub/subscribe.asp>

If you have information that you wish to have included in the next edition then e-mail it (in English or French please) to adrian.joyce@ace-cae.org. The deadline for submissions is the first Friday of each month.

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adrian.joyce@ace-cae.org - Comments and contributions welcome