

CEPLIS TELEGRAM



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Report of the 2nd European Engineers' Day

The 20th of November, the European Council of Engineering Chambers (ECEC), the European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI) and the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) co-organised the 2nd European Engineers' Day. The event was focused on the subject: *"Mobile Engineers build an Innovative Europe: the challenges of the Engineering profession to meet the expectations of society and how EU policies can help the Engineering profession to meet these expectations"*.



This Day was an opportunity for Engineers to reinstate their *"support to mobility through business internationalization in line with Jean-Claude Juncker's plan"* to quote ECEC President Crtomir Remec. The panel of the day was quite interesting and included amongst others, **Dr Andreas Schwab** (GE - MEP), **Prof. Dr. Fernando Branco**, **Prof. Dr. José Viera** and **Prof. Dr. Hans Lechner**.

Another key speaker was **Mr Martin Frohn**, **Head of Unit at the European Commission's DG Internal Market, Industry and SMEs**, he underlined the importance of the **European Professional Card** which aims to facilitate the free movement of professionals in the EU.

After him, **Mr José Manuel Vieira**, **President of FEANI**, made a very interesting presentation about the importance of **Continuing Professional Development and Lifelong Learning for Engineers**.

Five highly important points are to be mentioned as a conclusion of this event:

- Many of today's societal challenges such as sustainability of the environment, aging infrastructures, deployment of innovative renewable sources of energy and economic growth are of an international nature. Therefore, **internationalization and cross-border recognition of Engineering qualifications are important and vital to insure a better future for society.**

- Professional Engineers ensure that the public is protected from harm. To do so, professional Engineers must possess the relevant underpinning knowledge and maintain their technical and managerial competence so **they promote the excellency of the services they provide**. The importance of **quality assessment of their initial and continuing education** needs to be recognised.
- **Professional regulation**, in its varying forms, is the mechanism by which the public can be independently **assured of an individual Engineer's professional competence and personal commitment to be bound by professional codes of practice**. To quote the First Vice-President of CEPLIS, **Mr Rudolf Kolbe** : *"Engineers deliver trust around the world and that is why they are really important"*.
- Due to the high complexity of Engineering services and their technologies, it can be difficult for **procuring authorities** to compare the content of offers, which **can lead to decisions based on the lowest price only**. This may run contrary to the interests and intentions of the consumer/client and may lead to a lack of quality in the project, unfulfilled expectations in design and exaggerated unforeseen costs. Therefore, **a quality based contract assessment for Engineering services is essential**.
- **The success of the European economy will depend upon our ability to unlock the potential of the SME-sector** and our endeavours to support Engineering entrepreneurship in our countries. Only high-quality Engineering services can guarantee that the costs of a project do not explode due to weak design.

Our Secretariat will be delighted, as always, to read you and to answer your questions on this subject.

ECEC General Assembly Meeting

On the 19th of November, the European Chamber of Civil Engineers (ECEC), an active member of CEPLIS, held its 11th General Assembly meeting in Brussels. ECEC has kindly invited CEPLIS to participate in this event which was concluded by an evening reception at the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Institutions where the Engineers Association has awarded its Medal.



A picture of the meeting: in the first row, CEPLIS First Vice-President and ECEC Past-President, Mr Rudolf Kolbe.

The General Assembly Meeting of ECEC was the occasion for its members to discuss a wide range of topics relating to the standards of the European Professional/Chartered Engineers. ECEC stressed the importance of supporting the Commission's initiative on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for European Chartered Engineers and debated on the aspects of its national implementation. Another important topic of discussions was the current regulatory framework with regard to fee scales for Engineering services in the Member States. Following the kind invitation of **Mag. Črtomir Remec**, the President of ECEC, CEPLIS' Director General, had the privilege to close the meeting with a short presentation on the new College of Commissioners under Jean-Claude Juncker's Presidency and its expected impact on the liberal professions.

After the meeting, all participants were invited to a reception in the prestigious headquarters of the European Representation of the Free State of Bavaria. The reception was a golden occasion for interesting informal discussion with the numerous MEPs and ECOSOC representatives present.

It was also an occasion for ECEC to honour those who have contributed to the promotion of quality engineering within the Single Market. This year, ECEC's Executive Board has decided unanimously to award the ECEC medal to the President of the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers and Former MEP, **Etelka Barsi-Pataky**.

Mrs Barsi-Pataky was an efficient and successful national politician and Member of the Hungarian Parliament, who has also worked in the practical field as a project engineer for 25 years. Organisations from all over Europe have benefited from her comprehensive experience. Her supportive and active attitude towards the Liberal Professions is and has always been highly valued.

As President of the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers (since 2009) elected for a second term in 2013 and Government Commissioner for the EU Danube Strategy (during the Hungarian presidency of the EU in 2010) Mrs Barsi-Pataky is still strongly involved in engineering activities far beyond the Hungarian Border.



Mrs Barsi-Pataky surrounded by President Remec and members of the ECEC Board

The Sustainability in the Ethical Codes of Regulated Professions

On the 25th of November, Union Professional, the Spanish Interprofessional Member of CEPLIS, organised, in the context of the 12th Spanish Congress of Environment, an event dedicated to the Sustainability in the Codes of Regulated Professions. This event featured contributions from various Councils and Regulatory Bodies, members of Union Professional, and experts in ethics, economy and environment. We are pleased to share with you their report on the event in question.



From left to right : Emilio Cerdá, Carlos Carnicer (UP President and CEPLIS Vice-President) and José Manuel R. Uribes

The event was launched by a speech of the President of UP and Vice-President of CEPLIS, **Mr. Carnicer-Diez** who has pointed out the steady commitment of Union Professional towards the Environment, proven by the organization of a biennial Congress on Environmental issues since 1992.

Amongst the speakers, **Mr. Gaetano Stella**, President of Confprofessioni and Vice-President of CEPLIS, our Italian interprofessional Member, stressed the importance of such an event, since *"it contributes to the affirmation of the principles that form the basis of Liberal Professions"*. Mr. Stella emphasized that *"Professionals have always been committed to the promotion of ethics, responsibility and duty towards citizenship thanks to an ever evolving regulatory environment"*

When we talk about preserving the environment, *"we talk about fundamental rights"* underlined **Jose Manuel Rodriguez Uribes**, Deputy Director of the Department of Ethics for the Private sector and the Professions within Carlos III University. The fact

that environmental rights are linked to human needs entails that *“they should be defended on a basis of humanist ethics.”* It is thus necessary to promote good practices. The professions and their organizations are also called to contribute to the *“construction of ecological rights”*. Hence, environmental provisions should appear in their codes of conduct, keeping in mind that *“if development is not sustainable, it cannot be development.”*

After this last speech, all the regulatory bodies present were invited to share their point of views on the issue. On behalf of the College of Physicians, the President of the Ethics Committee, **Marcos Antonio Galiana** stressed that progress on environmental matters could only become a reality if a compromise is reached between customer, regulatory bodies and public authorities, in order to allow the compliance with ethical, environmental and profitability needs. **Javier Lorén**, President of General Council of Agricultural Engineers, he agreed on the *“need for a just global and sustainable society”*. *“The relationship between agriculture and the environment is indisputable, environmental standards are common in our field”*. The objective is *“to minimize the environmental impact; producing more without harming the environment; improving the distribution of food and profitability. In other words, it means producing more with less.”*

During the event, several speakers praised the work done by Union Professional since 2009 on the development of a *“Code of Ethics”* Model to help regulated professions in the adoption of their own Code. In this Model adopted in 2009, Environmental Sustainability was already promoted. Nevertheless, the new version of this Code under preparation will acknowledge the content of the discussions held on the 25th of November.

For more information, please contact our Secretariat.