

ACE INFO

[MAY 2010]

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Welcome to the second edition of *ACE Info* in 2010, in which you will discover a number of items of both general and specific interest as to the priorities and actions of the European Institutions in the field of architecture and construction.

Of particular relevance at the present time is the recent adoption, by the European Parliament, of the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (see *Core Issues* below). The text will shortly be published in the Official Journal of the European Union and will enter into force 20 days later. Given the overall importance of improving the energy performance of buildings as a key element for the achievement of the EU 2020 goals, there are vast opportunities for all those involved in the construction sector, especially architects, to get engaged in this growing field of activity.

The European Commission has also announced that it will be issuing a revised Energy Efficiency Action Plan at the end of 2010 and the ACE believes that it will be important to include measures on existing buildings in that Plan to complement the reinforced provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. For this reason the ACE is leading a cross-sector reflection on the issue under the title of the *E²APT Initiative* that will lead to the submission of a well reasoned paper proposing key elements of what should feature in the Energy Efficiency Action Plan for buildings. The initiative is open to participation from all actors in the construction sector and there are about 42 organisations currently being consulted.

The ACE has initiated, under the leadership of its new President, Selma Harrington, the process of undertaking an internal review of its working structure and of the priority issues on which it should work. This strategic review will seek to set a clear path for the organisation in the coming decade and to identify the key issues on which the architectural profession should concentrate. It is hoped that the results of the internal review will be formally approved before the end of 2010 so that 2011 will be the first year of its implementation. It is also expected that the review will pay particular attention to the contents and ambitions of the EU as set out in its EU2020 Strategy.

One thing is clear, the coming decade will require continued, concentrated and effective work on existing buildings, particularly on their energy efficiency. This matter is high on the political agenda and with its link to energy supply and security will remain so for at least the next decade.

This edition is also available in French.

 **Core Issues**

Recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive Adopted in Parliament



In November 2009, the European Council approved the substance of the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), but it was only on the 18th May that it was approved by the European Parliament. The delay was due to the effects of the introduction of the Lisbon Treaty that meant that modifications were necessary on the legal basis and on delegating acts (formerly known as comitology). Its adoption by the Parliament was further delayed by the Icelandic volcano that prevented any voting during the April Plenary in Strasbourg.

The provisions of the EPBD will be implemented in stages over the coming decade and will lead to a situation whereby all new buildings constructed in the EU after 2020 must be *nearly zero energy buildings*. Another key change in the Directive is the removal of the threshold for renovations, which will mean that every building, regardless of size, undergoing a *major renovation* must meet higher energy efficiency standards. Finally another key improvement will see a quality control mechanism being put in place to ensure that the quality and accuracy of energy performance certificates renders them truly valuable to professionals and owners alike.

The ACE intends to prepare guidelines on the transposition of this important Directive so that its member organisations can ensure its accurate transposition at national level. In so doing the ACE will highlight the fact that architects are among the best placed professionals to undertake energy certification of buildings as they are trained to take an holistic approach and can make coherent, integrated recommendations for the further improvement of the energy performance of the buildings being certified.

It is expected that the text of the Directive will be published in the month of June 2010.

Source: euractiv.com

A Directive on Water Savings in Buildings Expected



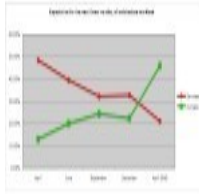
Following an in-depth assessment carried out by the European Commission in 2006 and 2007 on the subject of water scarcity and drought and a follow-up report published in 2008, the European Commission is said to be preparing a new piece of legislation on the conservation of water in buildings. It is estimated that the EU could potentially achieve savings of about 40% in water use and that binding rules are being envisaged to achieve savings in public and private buildings.

It is anticipated that the proposed Directive will draw on the approach and experience of the EPBD and that water efficiency will become an important element of the overall efficiency of buildings. Measures being considered include encouragement to include water efficiency in national buildings regulations, switching to highly efficient taps, shower heads and low-flush toilets as well as the increased use of rainwater harvesting and grey water re-use.

Should a text be adopted by the Commission, it will undoubtedly have a downstream effect on architects and on the design of buildings and therefore the ACE will mobilise its network to ensure that its voice is heard in relation to the content and detail of the proposal.

Source: euractiv.com

ACE Survey on the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis



The ACE completed its fifth quarterly survey on the impact of the global financial crisis on the architectural sector in Europe in April and the results clearly show that the situation was at that time worse than at any time since the crisis began in September 2008 but that architects are hopeful of an upturn in workload in the coming quarter. The ACE Survey received over 3,750 responses from all countries in Europe and the results have been analysed and weighted to give statistical reliability. They show that 65.5% of those who responded believe that the situation is bad or very bad at the present time. This figure is the worst recorded in the five editions of the survey that have been conducted by the ACE.

Paradoxically, the respondents were, with 43%, more optimistic that there will be an increase in workload and new orders in the coming three months. This is the first time that those who are optimistic (43%) outweigh those who are pessimistic (21%). In addition, there were 17% of respondents that expect to see an increase in staff numbers in the next three months compared to 15.5% who expect a decrease in the same period. These are positive signs and provide a glimmer of hope that the worst is now and that an improvement may come in the next quarter.

To download the full result of the survey, please go to:

http://www.ace-cae.org/docs/aceinfo/overview/Fifth_Econ_Survey_Mar_10.pdf

ACE Matters

Alain Sagne Retires From the ACE after 19 Years



After 19 years serving as Secretary General of the ACE, Alain Sagne will retire fully from the ACE on the 30th June 2010. He already ceased his functions at the office of the ACE in Brussels on the 31st March last and is now embarking on what he refers to as an active retirement. His legacy at the ACE is immense, given that he has been with the organisation for practically all of its 20 years of existence. His hard work and dedication to the organisation and to the architectural profession has contributed in large part to the good reputation and standing that the ACE enjoys in Brussels. The ACE wishes him well in the years to come.

For the interim period during which the review of the ACE structures and priorities is ongoing, Adrian Joyce, Director, has taken on the day-to-day management of the ACE.

Announcements from Member Organisations

Many Member Organisations have informed the ACE about changes over the past two months as follows:

BNA - Netherlands

Bjarne Mastenbroek has been elected President of the Bond van Nederlandse Architecten (BNA) in The Netherlands.

UEA - Estonia

Peeter Pere has been Chairman of the Union of Estonian Architects (UEA) for a term of two years. In his acceptance of the post he highlighted the challenges facing the profession and expressed the view that the profession must be able to adapt quickly to face the challenges. The new UEA management board includes Peeter Pere,

Kalle Vellevoog, Tonu Laigu (who served on the Executive Board of the ACE in 2006-2007), Jaak Huimerind and Villem Tomiste.

RIAI - Ireland

Paul Keogh has been elected President of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) for 2010 and 2011. He is a highly renowned architect in his native Ireland and he has also worked in the UK, Europe and the USA. The Vice-President for 2010 is Michelle Fagan.

AAM - Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Danica Pavlovska, has been elected President of the Architects Association of Macedonia (AAM) for a period of three years. She is joined on the Governing Board by Kristinka Radevski, Deputy-President, Vladimir Deskov, Martin Panovski, Elizabeta Polijoska and Lazar Dimovski who is the Secretary General of the AAM.

UAB - Bulgaria

Georgi Bakalov, was elected President of the Union of Architects of Bulgaria (UAB) in March 2010 during the General Assembly of the UAB.

CAT - Turkey

In April 2010, the General Assembly of the Chamber of Architects of Turkey (CAT) elected its new Central Executive Board for a period of two years as follows:

Eyup Muhcu, President

Erkan Karakaya, Vice-President

Necip Mutlu, Secretary General

Nurdan Topograf, Treasurer

Ali Ekinci, Can Diril and Zafer Okuducu, Members.

In Memoriam

The ACE learnt with sadness of the death of the French architect, Bernard Ogé, in April 2010. Bernard had a long term engagement with the activities of the ACE as a delegate from the UNSFA, one of the three French member organisations of the ACE. He was a highly informed, intelligent and eloquent advocate for the architectural profession and he will be missed by many.

The ACE extends its condolences to Bernard's family, colleagues and friends.

The ACE at External Events

The ACE is frequently represented by its President, Members of its Executive Board, Chairmen of Work Groups and/or the Secretariat at external events and conferences. These activities often go unnoticed, but are very important to the pursuit of the policies of the ACE. Readers who wish to know more about these activities can access the reports, prepared after the events, in the calendar of external representations maintained on the website of the ACE at the following address:

<http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/mee/rep/rep009.asp>

Do You Speak Sustainable Construction?

A one-day conference under this title was held in Brussels on the 20th May last and it was organised by the ACE in association with its partner from a project of the same title, the European Concrete Platform (ECP). The event was attended by about 90 persons from many sectors of the construction industry and was addressed by officials from the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee and local government. The event also saw a unique round table

discussion between representatives of the main construction materials: concrete, timber, glass, steel and ceramics. In this session, each representative presented the sustainability characteristics of each material as they are seen by the companies producing these materials. This allowed the audience to judge for itself the credentials of each material and to see how difficult it is to get reliable, comparable information on different materials.

Another key element of the event was the presentation of the common language for sustainable construction that has been produced by the ACE and the ECP. It takes the form of a wiki and is now open to the world for suggestions and additions at: www.sccommonlanguage.eu

ACE Events and Meetings in May, June and July 2010:

Joint Working Party Meeting with Schools of Architecture - Friday 28th May, Brussels

Executive Board Meeting - Thursday 3rd June, Brussels

General Assembly of the ACE (re-scheduled) - Friday 4th and Saturday 5th June, Brussels

Executive Board Meeting (Strategic Workshop) - Friday 11th and Saturday 12th June, Dublin

Work Group Education - Friday 18th and Saturday 19th June, Dubrovnik

Work Group Architectural Design Contests - 4th July, Vienna



Other Matters

17 Cities Apply to be European Green Capital for 2012 and 2013

The European Commission announced on the 4th February last that there are 17 Cities in the running to become Green Capital for 2012 and 2013. They are: Antwerp, Barcelona, Bologna, Budapest, Espoo, Glasgow, Lodz, Ljubljana, Malmö, Murcia, Nantes, Nuremberg, Reykjavik, Rome, Seville, Torun and Vitoria-Gasteiz. An evaluation panel will examine each application and make a recommendation in September to a jury who will make the final choice. The result will be announced at an award ceremony in October in Stockholm, the current Green Capital.

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Number 10071

21 Member States Expect to Reach or Exceed National Renewable Energy Targets by 2020

In an analysis published in late February, the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) announced that it seems likely that 21 of the 27 Member States will reach or exceed their national renewable energy targets by 2020. The six Member States that do not expect to reach their targets are: Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg and Malta. However, 2 of these Member States (Bulgaria and Denmark) believe that new national initiatives should help them to reach the targets in time. The EWEA believes that the forecasts provided by the Member States should allow the Commission to easily identify how to assist the Member States that are experiencing difficulty and thus ensure that the national targets are reached as soon as possible after 2020.

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Number 10079

CEN-CENELEC SME Helpdesk Launched

On the 5th March last, CEN-CENELEC announced the launch of the CEN-CENELEC SME Helpdesk, which will provide online demand advice and information to support European Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) on standardisation related issues. The task of the Helpdesk is to introduce European SMEs to the knowledge and business tools required to access the European Standardisation System of CEN and CENELEC through free information, first-line advice through consultation with

experts via e-mail and the investigation of other support measures including training and mentoring.

A dedicated e-mail address has been set up: sme@cencenelec.eu and a dedicated web page has been launched at:

www.cen.eu/go/sme

Committee of the Regions Calls for Database of Local Climate Action

A new initiative from the Committee of the Regions (CoR) will help signatories of the Covenant of Mayors to turn their commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions into a tangible reality as local leaders push ahead with plan to tackle climate change despite the apparent failure of the COP 15 in Copenhagen at the end of 2009.

Building on the expertise of its Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, the CoR will compile a unique database of action being carried out at the local level to combat global warming. The data will then be shared with all the members of the platform and Covenant of Mayors signatories to allow them to learn from their peers about how best to meet their obligations to cut emissions. The data will be collected via an online survey available at:

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020>

MESSIB - An FP7 Funded Project

This project addresses the question of Multi-source Energy Storage Systems Integrated into Buildings and one topic is the architectural and constructive integration of phase change materials with a focus on active storage, passive storage, avoiding peak-loads, day-night storage of thermal energy etc. The partners in the project would be pleased to receive feedback from experts on the outcomes of the project, which can be accessed at:

www.messib.eu

Jacques Delors Advocates a new EU Treaty

The ink is hardly dry on the Lisbon Treaty, but Jacques Delors is calling for a new EU Treaty to embark on a common energy policy. He states that Europe's existing energy policy is sub-optimal and he argues that the EU must present a single interface on energy issues in relations with its external partners. He is aware of "treaty fatigue" and suggests that the EU should embark on a differentiated approach similar to earlier initiatives such as the creation of the "Schengen Area" and the eurozone. He suggests that there are three key areas on which negotiations should be based: developing ambitious economic instruments to finance common research and development projects on alternative energies; deepening and structuring cooperation in Europe-wide energy networks; setting up oil and gas purchasing groups to facilitate procurement from foreign suppliers, thereby strengthening and focusing EU foreign policy in this field.

The call comes as high level policy analysts see more and more the importance of securing energy supplies for the future as all EU prosperity relies on the availability of energy. Time will tell if the Commission and the Member States heed Delors call.

European Heritage Label to be established as an EU Initiative

The European Commission is proposing that a European Heritage Label be established as an EU-wide initiative, Androulla Vassiliou, the new European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, announced in her press conference in Strasbourg on the 9th March 2010. This important proposal is now submitted to the EU's Council of Ministers and the European Parliament for their approval, and could come into effect in 2011 or 2012. The purpose of the European Heritage Label is to highlight sites that symbolise European integration, ideals, and history. For more information go to:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/250&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
Source: ENewsletter, March 2010

European Heritage Awards 2010

The European Commission and Europa Nostra have announced 29 winners from 15 countries for the 2010 Edition of the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards. This unique Awards programme highlights some of Europe's best achievements, and showcases remarkable efforts made in safeguarding Europe's rich architectural, landscape, archaeological and artistic heritage. The awards will be presented during the 8th Annual European Heritage Awards Ceremony, taking place in *Aya Irini* in Istanbul, Turkey on the 10th June 2010, as part of the Europa Nostra Annual Congress. These events contribute to the celebration of Istanbul as a European Capital of Culture 2010 and are included in the official programme of Istanbul 2010. The awards will be presented by **Mrs Androulla Vassiliou**, European Commissioner responsible for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, and **Denis de Kergorlay**, Executive President of Europa Nostra.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.europanostra.org/news/96/>

Source: ENewsletter March 2010

Publications

ACE Publishes its Activity Report for the Years 2008-2009

The Architects' Council of Europe has prepared and published a report on its activities for the period 2008-2009, the period during which Juhani Katainen of Finland was President. It gives an overview of the main activities and achievements of the ACE for the period and can be downloaded at:

http://www.ace-cae.org/docs/aceinfo/overview/ACE%20activity%20report_2010.pdf

Urban Atlas Published by the EEA

The European Environment Agency has published online a series of detailed maps and land cover information for 117 European cities that are included in the new "Urban Atlas". It brings together thousands of images from European satellites and provides detailed and cost-effective mapping of larger urban zones. For more, go to: http://www.gmes-gseland.info/com/promo/GSE-Land_Info_UrbanAtlas.pdf

COMPETITIONS

4th Istanbul International Architecture And Urban Films Festival4 - 10 October 2010

Since its foundation in 1954, the Chamber of Architects of Turkey has been conducting an intense struggle aimed at developing architectural culture, protecting historical heritage and improving quality of life. In order to add a new dimension to these efforts, it has been decided to initiate an organization from 2007 onwards under the title of "**Istanbul International Architecture and Urban Films Festival**".

The objective is to ensure an active participation of everyone, most of all the architects, who are interested in this field. The film festival will be organised in the context of the "**Architecture and Urban Festival**" realised by the Chamber of Architects of Turkey, Istanbul Metropolitan Branch for the "**World Architecture Day**",

which is celebrated jointly by 1,200,000 global members of the International Union of Architects-UIA on the first Monday of the month of October.

A **competition** is also being held in two categories: **National** and **International**. As Istanbul is the "2010 European Capital of Culture" the film or films with the theme of "Istanbul" will be awarded with special prizes this year. This festival aims at sponsoring films produced on architectural and urban issues, encouraging new productions, and exposing admirable examples of films to the audiences. Additionally it foresees to introduce Turkey and its architectural culture to a wide range of public, by providing the interested architects, film directors and related experts to meet in Istanbul.

The Festival shall consist of four sections.

- 1- National Documentary and Animation Films Competition
- 2- The International Documentary and Animation Films Competition
- 3- The Program of Film Showings
- 4- Discussion Sessions and Panels.

The deadline for submissions is **15th August 2010**. For more information go to:

http://www.archfilmfest.org/en/index_en.html

or contact:

info@archfilmfest.org



Events

InterSolar 2010

The world's largest trade fair for solar technologies, this year will see several side conferences that could be of interest to architects, especially those interested in building integrated photo voltaics. It will be held in Munich from the 9th to the 11th June 2010. Full information at:

www.intersolar.de

The 2nd International Exhibition and Conference on Bioclimatic Architecture, Sustainable Construction and Energy Efficiency in Buildings

This Conference will be held in Zaragosa, Spain from the 21st to the 23rd September and will coincide with the Solar Power Expo at the same venue. Full details can be found at:

www.eco-buildings.es

International Sustainable Building Conference - 11th to 13th October 2010, Maastricht

A conference that will focus on 0-options: 0-energy buildings, 0-water districts, 0-material construction with a theme of *Towards 0-Impact Buildings and Built Environments*. For more information, go to:

www.SB10.nl

12th International Conference on Cities and Ports

This Conference will take place in the port cities of Buenos Aires and Rosario, Argentina from the 15th to the 19th November 2010 and will deal with the theme of *New World, New Challenges*. Full information can be found at:

www.aivp.org

5th Energy Forum - 2nd and 3rd December 2010, Bressanone, Italy

This Conference aims to contribute to a multi-disciplinary, integrated planning approach among architects, engineers, scientists, energy managers and manufacturers to reduce energy consumption while improving the comfort and health of occupants. For more information, go to:
www.energy-forum.com

UIA Congress 2011

An important date for your diary is the next UIA Congress that will take place in Tokyo, Japan from the 25th to the 29th September 2011. The main theme of the event will be *Design 2050* and it will be approached from three key themes: Environment; Life; Survival. More information can be accessed at:
<http://www.uia2011tokyo.com/en/>

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>



Practical Information

Selection of Useful and interesting 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

The European Parliament Homepage:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

Website of the Spanish Presidency (Jan10 to Jun10)
<http://www.eu2010.es>

Website of the Swedish Presidency (Jul09 to Dec09)
<http://www.se2009.eu/en>

European Forum for Architectural Policies
<http://www.efap-fepa.eu/>

EU Video Website:
<http://www.youtube.com/eutube>

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.awn.it/AWN/Engine/RAServePG.php/P/26111AWN0905/L/1>

Website of the network of French Architecture Centres:
www.ma-lereseau.org

Website of the European Construction Technology Platform:
<http://www.ectp.org>

Website of the *Build Up* website on energy efficient buildings:
<http://www.buildup.eu>

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>

Passive and Draught Cooling in Buildings - The website of an EU-funded project that shows the way towards a pragmatic alternative to conventional air conditioning in buildings:
www.phdc.eu

Database of Digital Architecture - A subscription based website that contains several sections including one that provides images of the works of the great masters of architect and videos of talks by famous architects has been set up. For full information go to:
www.pidgeondigital.com

Interactive Database for Architects - Launched in March 2008, this site provides an opportunity for all architectural practices to become globally recognised. Check it out at:
www.worldarchitecture.org

ACE Website:
www.ace-cae.eu

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			

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

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Board Member Responsible for Communication:	Serban Tiganas
Director at the ACE:	Adrian Joyce

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.eu. The deadline for submissions is the first Friday of each month.

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