



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

ACE INFO

[June 2009]

47

Editorial:

Welcome to the fifth edition of *ACE Info* in 2009 in which you will be able to read about the developments that affect the built environment and the architectural profession as they are occurring across the EU. Since the last edition of *ACE Info*, the European Elections have taken place and a shift in the balance of power has occurred in the European Parliament. Although the provisional list of the successful candidates is not yet complete, it is known that the Right and the Greens have gained ground as compared with the last Parliament.

There will be much negotiating taking place in the coming weeks and months as the new Parliament settles down to work, forming its Committees, electing Chairpersons and debating what Inter-Groups to set up. The ACE will be tracking these developments closely and will seek to identify all newly elected MEPs that are susceptible to be interested in the construction sector and in architecture in particular.

During the last Parliament the Inter-Group Urban.Logement was an important point of contact for the ACE and the ACE organised several events at the European Parliament in conjunction with it. The French MEP, Jean-Marie Beaupuy, who has not, unfortunately, been re-elected, skilfully led its work and kept the ACE closely involved in issues of relevance to its concerns. The ACE is keen to see that the Inter-Group is re-established and early indications are that there remains a strong interest in the subject matter across all parties.

With the increasing attention that urban issues and housing are rightfully getting at the highest political levels in the EU, it seems to the ACE that it is logical to re-establish the Inter-Group for the coming 5-year period. To this end the ACE is monitoring closely the list of elected MEPs in order to identify MEPs in all of the political groups that are likely to support its re-establishment. Having always been an active external partner so far the ACE is eager to be involved as early as possible. Without a cross-party structure in the European Parliament that addresses these issues, the ACE is fearful that they will once again slip down the political agenda.

Given the huge role and impact that coherent, well-considered and holistic urban and housing policies can have on the quality and sustainability of the built environment and on the necessary move towards a low-energy, low-carbon economy, it is crucial that all possible avenues for the promotion of the best approaches to such a move are maintained. The Inter-Group of the European Parliament that has been promoting the integrated development approach is one such avenue and the ACE awaits news that it will be re-established.

This edition is also available in French.

CORE ISSUES

Commission Announces Ambitious Review of its Energy Efficiency Action Plan



The European Commission has advanced its plans to revise its Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP) by six months so that the revised plan will be in place before the next Commission takes office. This decision was taken because of the central position that energy efficiency has taken on the political stage and due to the fact that energy efficiency is the one area in which the EU is certain that the 2020 target of an increase in energy efficiency of 20% is to be delivered. Consequently, the Commission has opened a public consultation that will run until the 3rd August 2009 and the ACE has alerted its network to the importance of making input to the consultation.

The Commission also called a meeting of experts from the construction sector for an initial brainstorming consultation as it has placed buildings as the number one area where it wishes to see action. In fact it seems that the Commission intends to be very ambitious in the new EEAP and that it will set a target for the renovation of a fixed number of buildings by a fixed date, following the recommendations of the Parliament in first reading (See also *ACE Info #46*). Also on its mind is the question of urban issues and “smart cities”. This is an area that was almost entirely missing from the first EEAP and the ACE is pleased to see that it is being included from the outset in the current revision. If the ambitions of the Commission are to be reached, then it will need significant support and help from the sector and so it is important to suggest ambitious, innovative and achievable measures to ensure that the EU remains the world leader in this field. To access the public consultation, go to:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/consultations/2009_08_03_eeap_en.htm

Swedish Presidency Unveils its Priorities



On the 1st July 2009, Sweden will take on the role of the Presidency of the European Council and it has recently unveiled the topics that will become its priority issues. Sweden takes on the Presidency at a challenging time as it will have to carry through on the measures announced to combat the current economic crisis, hopefully see the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty and guide the EU position in the climate negotiations at the Copenhagen Conference in December. The Swedish Prime Minister, Fredrik Reinfeldt has confirmed that responding to the economic and financial crisis and preparing for the EU input to the Copenhagen Conference will indeed be the two top priorities for the six months ahead. For the ACE it is noteworthy that it also intends to ensure that three Directives on energy related issues are adopted during its Presidency. These are the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), the Directive on Labelling of Tyres and the Directive on Labelling of Energy-Related Goods. In relation to this last Directive it is worth mentioning that in a note from the Secretariat of the Council of the European Union dated 29th May, it has been reported that many delegations to the Council have raised doubts about the inclusion of construction products in this Directive. The ACE agrees that these doubts are justified as the place where these matters can best be dealt with is the Construction Products Regulation – also undergoing adoption at the present time. Finally, in relation to the recast of the EPBD, the Council has expressed the view that several amendments proposed by the Parliament in its First Reading are too ambitious. It eagerly awaits the Commission’s Opinion on the relevant proposals.

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 9917

ACE MATTERS

Constitutive General Assembly of the Croatian Chamber of Architects

The Croatian Member Organisation of the ACE, the recently constituted Croatian Chamber of Architects (CCA), held its constitutive General Assembly in Zagreb on the 19th June last. To mark the occasion, the Secretary General of the ACE, Alain Sagne, travelled to Zagreb and spoke at the General Assembly of the satisfaction of the ACE that the new Chamber had been formed and expressing the hope that its delegates will take an active part in the activities of the ACE. The CCA is a Member with Special Status within the ACE, which means that it enjoys all the same rights as a full Member with the single exception that it cannot nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the ACE.

The formation of the CCA is also being seen as a signal of the recognition by politicians and policy makers in Croatia of the specific nature of architectural services and hence of the need for the profession to have its own distinct Chamber.

ACE Member Organisations Promote the Policy Statements of the ACE

The Executive Board of the ACE, at its meeting held on the 12th and 13th June last, noted with satisfaction that a good number of the Member Organisations had lobbied the candidates for the European Elections in their countries during the campaign in the run-up to the elections. This satisfaction arose because at least eight countries used the Policy Statements of the ACE (as adopted at the General Assembly in April) as the basis or inspiration for their own actions and manifestoes. The countries in question were the UK, Malta, Portugal, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Belgium, Austria and Denmark in so far as the ACE is informed. This fact provides to the ACE a solid basis for the promotion of its Policy Recommendations towards the new European Parliament. For this action, the ACE is planning a special event in the premises of the Parliament later in the year.

Second Running of Survey on the Impact of the Crisis Underway

The ACE is running a second survey on the impact of the current economic and financial crisis on the architectural profession at European level. Readers of *ACE Info* will recall that the first such survey was run in March of this year and that it showed that the profession was badly affected by the crisis and pessimistic about the future. It will therefore be interesting to see how the impact is evolving and the ACE intends to run a third survey in September in order to establish a reliable vision of the trends as they emerge. Results of the current survey will be published during July.

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>

ACE Events and Meetings in June and July 2009:

Workshop for Thematic Area 1, Access to the Profession – Paris, 19th June

Meeting of the ACE Work Group on Accreditation and Validation – Brussels – 3rd July

Meeting of the ACE Ad-hoc Work Group on Competition Issues – Brussels – 6th July

OTHER MATTERS

Irish Government Announces its Approval for a Policy on Architecture

On the 2nd June last, John Gormley, the Irish Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government announced that the Irish Government has approved the Policy on Architecture 2009-2015. In making the announcement he said:

"I believe that the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 (Towards a Sustainable Future: Delivering Quality within the Built Environment) provides the appropriate framework for architectural policy over the next seven years. The Policy sets out a wider emphasis on sustainable development of the environment and urban design, continues to encourage and support high quality modern architecture and incorporates architectural heritage in a holistic, integrated manner. The Policy complements and supports the Government's wider economic strategy in areas such as research, green enterprise and the development of efficient and sustainable technologies for the built environment. Within the Policy there are various actions that support initiatives on job creation, enterprise and the export of Irish skills and products abroad"

The ACE is pleased with this announcement as its Senior Adviser, Adrian Joyce, had contributed to the development of the Policy, bringing a European perspective to the work. The words of the Irish Minister fully capture the positive potential that the adoption of Policies on Architecture can bring to our countries in these difficult times and shows that the effort required to produce a Policy is well spent. To see the full Press Release, go to:

<http://www.environ.ie/en/Heritage/ArchitecturalProtectionandHeritagePolicy/News/MainBody.20404.en.htm>

Source: The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Ireland

German HOAI Fee Scale Amended

On the 12th June 2009 the amended German Fee Scale on Architectural and Engineering Services (HOAI) successfully passed the Second Chamber of the German Federal Parliament. Transposing the requirements of the Services Directive (2006/123/EC) into national law and restricting the scale's application to German nationals or legally established architects in Germany, the HOAI improves cost effectiveness and the contractual flexibility for construction projects, aiming to facilitate the handling of the increasingly complex planning process carried out by architects and civil engineers. The amended fee scale regulates the mandatory frame for fees (minimum and maximum prices) for architectural planning services only and will be subject to further evaluation by the Federal Government within the next year.

European Reference Framework for the Implementation of the Leipzig Charter – National Support Groups

As already reported (See *ACE Info #45*) at the time of the adoption of a Statement on Urban Development in November 2008 in Marseilles the EU Ministers in charge of these matters decided to launch work towards devising a European Reference Framework for the Implementation of the Leipzig Charter. Two Working Groups have now been established for this purpose, one Member States/Institutions (MS/I) Group, managed by the French MEDDAAT (Ministry in charge of Sustainable Development) and one Cities Group, operated under the URBACT Programme, with the City of Leipzig as the Lead Partner. The first one is expected to deliver a proposal for adoption during the Spanish Presidency, i.e. before June 2010. The second group, which has the task to test the Reference Framework, will have a life span of 24 months and is expected to deliver in 2011. In the context of the MS/I Group National Support Groups are currently being established in several Member States; 7 already exist at this time. This offers a unique opportunity for all the stakeholders interested, in particular professional associations, to become involved and make input. For further information go to:

www.rfsustainablecities.eu

Energie-Cités Welcomes 22 New Members

The Energie-Cités Network has grown in recent months to take its total membership to the impressive figure of over 1,000 committed local authorities and cities in Europe. Readers are reminded that Energie-Cités is a network that is dedicated to the building of a more energy-efficient Europe through the exchange of know-how between members. It also engages in EU-Funded projects that promote responsible energy management and energy policies in cities across Europe. As such it has become a positive force for change and will be a lead actor in the implementation of any policies on cities that emerge from the new European Energy Efficiency Action Plan (see above). It is recalled that Energie-Cités is the Lead Partner of a consortium of local and regional authorities' networks who manage the Covenant of Mayors Office (COMO), which is also composed of [Eurocities](#), [Climate Alliance](#), [CEMR](#), [Fedarene](#), and [Pracsis](#).

To learn more about Energie-Cités, visit its website at:

<http://www.energie-cites.eu/>

And for the Covenant of Mayors:

<http://www.eumayors.eu/>

Source: Energie-Cités Information Bulletin

Latest “Bologna Summit” Aims to Improve Student Mobility and Lifelong Learning

The Ministers with responsibility for education from the 46 European members of the Bologna Process met in Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium on the 28th and 29th April last and they restated their support for a European higher education area and repeated their will to work towards this end. The “Bologna Summit” took stock of the first 10 years and it set priorities for the next ten years to ensure that the process fits the reality on the ground. For the first time, the event was open to foreign countries such as Canada, Australia, China and Brazil. The communiqué at the end of the summit put the social dimension of higher education at the top of the priorities together with wider access, equal opportunities and ensuring the quality and consistency of qualifications. The next ministerial meeting will take place in Bucharest on the 27th and 28th April 2012. To read the full text of the communiqué, go to:

http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/conference/documents/Leuven_Louvain-la-Neuve_Communiq _April_2009.pdf

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 9892

CETA Negotiations Planned to Begin in October

At the Montreal Conference on the 10th June last, the European Commissioner for Trade, Catherine Ashton and the Canadian Trade Minister, Stockwell Day arranged for the first session in negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada to take place in October 2009. The future economic pact will include the liberalisation of trade in goods and services, better market access, investment provisions and improved rules on trade. This is good news for the ACE as it has already had preliminary contacts with the architectural profession in Canada with a view to negotiating a profession-to-profession mutual recognition agreement on architectural services and the CETA negotiations will clearly give added impetus to these efforts. Added to this is the fact that the ACE has been encouraged by some Member State representatives on the 133 Committee (the Committee responsible for trade in services) to accelerate its negotiations with Canada with a view to the rapid resolution of the terms and conditions that will underpin any legally-binding MRA in the future.

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 9918

New Directive on Renewable Energy Adopted

In May, the EU adopted a new Directive on the subject of Renewable Energy that seeks to address and repair structural weaknesses that are preventing Member States from meeting the targets they have set for themselves. The Commission is of the view that the new Directive gives it the power to ensure compliance from the Member States. The directive introduces two significant dates to encourage action in this field. First the Commission will prepare an outline of renewable energy action plans for the Member States by June 2009 and the second is that the Member States will have one year to describe their plans to the Commission in response. Designed to address the likelihood that the Member States will not meet their current objectives, the Directive insists on greater publication of information about renewable energy and the goals of the EU, more accountability by documenting progress and analysis of the consequences of policy. To read the text of the Directive, go to:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:140:0016:0062:EN:PDF>

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 9873

New Website for European Information in Several Languages Launched

For readers who find that they would like to have even more information about what is going on at European level in many fields, a new website has been launched that is worth checking out. It has been created by the European Commission and contains sections on the economy, society, the environment, society, culture etc.) and is available in 10 languages (German, English, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and Czech). The address of the site is:

www.presseu.eu

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 9908

PUBLICATIONS

European Housing Review

This report provides information on housing in individual countries and comparative housing market analysis across the European Union. Emphasis is put on residential markets at the national level. It can be downloaded at:

http://www.rics.org/Newsroom/Researchandreports/Researcharchive/ehr_index.htm

Ensuring Quality of Life in Europe's Cities and Towns

This report aims to raise awareness of the various perspectives on, and perceptions of, quality of life with a specific focus on cities and towns. It stresses the challenges ahead to ensure quality of life in the long run for all social groups, and the crucial importance of sustainability and the environment as our life supporting system. It is published by the European Environmental Agency. The ACE was one of the partners and it has made a number of contributions to its content during the writing phase. The website for the report is:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/quality-of-life-in-Europes-cities-and-towns>

CALL FOR PAPERS

3rd Istanbul International Architecture and Urban Films Festival

The Chamber of Architects of Turkey (CAT), which is a Member of the ACE has been engaged in developing architectural culture in Turkey since 1954 and it added this annual festival to its actions in

2007. The CAT has issued a call for films to be submitted to it to compete for recognition at the festival. If you have a film in mind you can submit it for consideration. The deadline for submissions is 15th August 2009 and the best documentary and best animation films will each be awarded €5,000. For more information write to:

mimarist@mimarist.org

EVENTS

Trends in High Performance Buildings and the Role of Ventilation

This event marks the 30th Conference of the Air Infiltration and Ventilation Centre (AIVC) and will take place in Berlin, Germany on the 1st and 2nd October 2009. The conference will concentrate on two main themes: Building and ductwork air tightness and Energy efficient ventilation and other innovations for high performance buildings. Full details at:

http://www.buildair.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=42

Low Carbon Cities

To be held in Porto, Portugal from the 18th to the 22nd October, this is the 45th ISOCARP International Planning Congress and it will focus on the environmental effects of man's activities in the context of the world's expanding cities and city regions. Full details can be found at:

<http://www.isocarp.org/index.php?id=409>

b_free Trade Fair and Congress

This event on the subject of barrier-free building, living and design for all will take place in Augsburg, Germany from the 19th to 21st November 2009. Full details can be found at:

www.bfree-messe.de

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) among what is otherwise an extremely useful database and source of information on urban issues 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>

COMPETITIONS

Berlin Architecture Award 2009

The Berlin Architecture Award is given jointly to architects and their clients for exemplary architectural works whose high quality, creative strength and technical innovation are obliged to the sustained creation of the urban living space in Berlin. There is an entry fee for this award of €250 that must be paid before the 3rd September and full details of the project must be submitted by 18h00 on the same day. Full details at:

<http://www.architekturpreis-berlin.de/>

2010 European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage – Europa Nostra Awards

Each year, Europa Nostra and the European Union reward the best of cultural heritage achievements. The awards celebrate exemplary restorations and initiatives of the many facets of Europe's cultural heritage in categories ranging from the restoration of monuments and buildings, their adaptation to new uses, to urban and rural landscape rehabilitation, archaeological site interpretations, and care for art collections. The call for nominations for the 2010 prize has just been announced and the deadline for submissions is set at the 1st October 2009. Full details can be found at:

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

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 Swedish Presidency (Jul09 to Dec09)

<http://www.se2009.eu/en>

Website of the Czech Presidency (Jan09 to Jun09)

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/>

Website of the French Presidency (Jul08 to Dec08)

<http://ue2008.fr>

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.archieuro.archiworld.it>

Website of the European Construction Technology Platform:

<http://www.ectp.org>

Website of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPED) Platform:

<http://www.buildingsplatform.org>

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 new, 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 *ACE Info* is:

The ACE President:	Juhani Katainen
Board Member Responsible for Communication:	Serban Tiganas
The Secretary General of the ACE:	Alain Sagne
Senior Adviser to the ACE:	Adrian Joyce

ACE Info is issued on a regular basis, with about ten 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.

End