



EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY FEDERATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



€ 1,324

BILLION

Total construction in 2019 (EU27)

9.5%

OF EU27 GDP

12.7

MILLION WORKERS

Multiplier effect:
1 person working in the
construction industry

≈
2 further persons working
in other sectors*

43.2%

OF GROSS FIXED CAPITAL
FORMATION

3.2

MILLION ENTERPRISES

95% are SMEs with fewer than
20 and 93% with fewer than 10
operatives

6.1%

OF EU27 TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

27.4%

OF INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT

* source: Study for the European
Commission (DG EMPL)
'Monitoring of sectoral
employment' (VC/2010/0064 -
2012)

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28

COUNTRIES

32

MEMBER FEDERATIONS

FIEC INITIATIVES

Campaigns

- Campaign "More EU budget for transport – the best Investment Plan for Europe" – www.moreeubudget4transport.org
- Partner in the OSHA (European Agency for Health and Safety at Work) Campaign on "Healthy Workplaces - Manage Dangerous Substances" - www.healthy-workplaces.eu
- Partner of "BUILD UP" ("The European Portal for Energy Efficiency in Buildings") - www.buildup.eu
- "Construction 2050" - Building tomorrow's Europe today
- CEN Campaign "Standards Build Trust"

Projects

- FIEC-EFBWW website on "Construction for youth" - www.construction-for-youth.eu
- Partner in "SKILLCO - Skills sector alliance for transfer of knowledge and skills of VET workforce in construction" - www.skillco.eu
- Skills Blueprint for the Construction Industry - www.constructionblueprint.eu
- TANSIRC - Towards A New Start of Industrial Relations in Construction in Central and Eastern European Countries
- TUWIC - Tackling Undeclared Work in the Construction Industry
- BIM-Speed - www.bim-speed.eu
- DigiPLACE - www.digiplaceproject.eu
- DESOCO - "Decentralised Social Dialogue in Construction"
- "Respirable Crystalline Silica"

FIEC PARTNERSHIPS



- Social Partner in the European Sectoral Social Dialogue of the Construction Industry together with EFBWW (European Federation of Building and Woodworkers) - ec.europa.eu/social/



- Cooperation with EIC (European International Contractors) for activities beyond Europe's borders - www.eic-federation.eu



- The European founding member of CICA (Confederation of International Contractors' Associations) - www.cica.net



- "Construction 2050 Alliance" with the main EU stakeholders of the construction sector



- Member of EHF (European Housing Forum) - www.europeanhousingforum.eu



- Partner Organisation of CEN (European Committee for Standardisation) - www.cen.eu



- Member of ECCREDI (European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation) - www.eccredi.org



- Member of the European Construction, built environment and energy efficient building Technology Platform - www.ECTP.org

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FULL REPORT ONLINE
WWW.FIEC-AR.EU

FOREWORD - FIEC STEERING COMMITTEE 2018 - 2020



KJETIL TONNING, NO
FIEC President
2018-2020

At the end of my mandate as FIEC President, I'm looking back over a really challenging period, with a lot of changes. 2019 sees the establishment of a new elected European Parliament and new ambitious goals set by the EU Green Deal of the new European Commission. While 2020 is marked with the Coronavirus crisis not only changing, but also completely disrupting our lives and our economies. The construction sector has a key role to play in the major recovery process which will also pave the way towards a sustainable environment for all European citizens. FIEC and its Member Federations together with the main stakeholders of the sector are ready to tackle the challenges ahead: #StrongerTogether!

Full text here:



THOMAS BAUER, DE
President Elect
Vice-President
Economic &
Legal Affairs



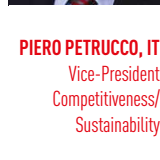
PAUL DEPRETER, BE
Vice-President
Social Affairs



JOSÉ-MICHAËL CHENU, FR
Vice-President
Technical &
Environmental Affairs



ALEXANDER PONGRATZ, AT
Vice-President
Treasurer



PIERO PETRUCCO, IT
Vice-President
Competitiveness/
Sustainability



**MARÍA ÁNGELES
ASENJO, ES**
Vice-President
MEDA



PHILIP CRAMPTON, IE
Vice-President
Communication



MICHAÏL DAKTYLIDIS, GR
Vice-President
ECF - European
Construction Forum



EMRE AYKAR, TR
Vice-President
CICA President



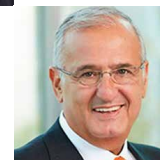
LUBOMIR KATCHAMAKOV, BG
Vice-President
SMEs



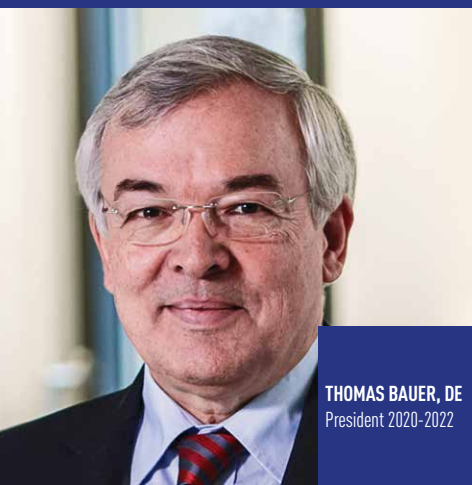
LARS M. CARLSEN, DK
Vice-President



PHILIPPE DESSOY, BE
Vice-President
EIC President



FIEC STEERING COMMITTEE 2020 - 2022



THOMAS BAUER, DE
President 2020-2022



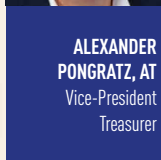
RÜDIGER OTTO, DE
Vice-President
Economic &
Legal Affairs



JOËL SCHONS, LU
Vice-President
Social Affairs



**JOSÉ-MICHAËL
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CRAMPTON, IE**
Vice-President
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JUHA METSÄLÄ, FI
Vice-President



**PHILIPPE
DESSOY, BE**
Vice-President
EIC President



FIEC TEAM



**DOMENICO
CAMPOGRANDE**
Director General



KARL THIES
Policy Officer
Economic & Legal
Affairs (ECO)



**CHRISTINE LE
FORESTIER**
Director Social
Affairs (SOC)



YASMINA KOEUNE
Communication Officer



SUE ARUNDALE
Director
Technical and
Environmental
Affairs (TEC)



**JOËLLE
CAUCHETEUR**
Assistant to
Director General



MURIEL LAMBELÉ
Accountant

MILESTONES 2019 - 2020



For full timeline check
FIEC-AR.eu

- FIEC Conference on 7 June 2019 on EU elections and FIEC priorities for new term 2019-2024.
- Publication of FIEC Statistical Report (R62) "Construction remains right on track".
- FIEC participates in the meeting of the **EU Platform against Undeclared Work** aimed at preparing the EU prevention campaign.
- "Policy meets property: a combined perspective on **energy efficiency in buildings**". FIEC President a speaker. The conference took place on 19 June, during European Union Sustainable Energy Week 2019.
- ENCORD Foresight conference, Amsterdam. FIEC participated in workshop on Drivers that Shape the **Construction Business Environment of the Future**.
- Joint publication "**Construction 2050: Building Tomorrow's Europe Today**". Construction stakeholders call for a new policy framework.

JUNE 2019

**SEPTEMBER
2019**

- FIEC calls for more EU budget for transport.
- FIEC meets DG Move to promote the issue of **maintenance of infrastructure**.
- FIEC co-signs the employers' statement on "**Reducing labour shortages by improving skills matching**" (12/09/2019).
- FIEC co-organises the **TANSIRC seminar on paritarian social funds in construction** (20/09/2019, Bucharest).
- DigiPlace project kick-off meeting.
- EuDA/FIEC/EIC joint Policy Paper on **Fostering a Level Playing Field in Construction Services**
- FIEC participates at the European Commission's Stakeholder meeting on **Late Payment**.
- FIEC participates in meeting of the "**Construction Blueprint**" project (24-25/10/2019, Rome)
- FIEC participates in meeting of the European Commission's **Posting Committee of Experts** (03/10/2019, Brussels)

**OCTOBER
2019**

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**CONSTRUCTION
MANIFESTO FOR ACTION
EU TERM 2019-2024**

CONSTRUCTION IS THE SOLUTION INDUSTRY



FIEC Conference 29/11/2019 - Paris #EUGreenDeal Challenge

Keynote speaker: Brice Lalonde, president of EdEn (Association Equilibre des Energies)



Discussion panel moderated by Alex Puissant

- FIEC participates in the European Commission's Stakeholder Dialogue on the implementation of Basel III.
- FIEC participates (speaker: Pierre Benning-FNTP) in the meeting of the European Commission's Multi Stakeholders Expert Group on eProcurement (EXEP).
- Domenico Campogrande speaks at SOKA-BAU Europe Day (05/11/2019, Brussels)
- Paul Depreter speaks at European Parliament lunch organised by the Swedish Confederation (05/11/2019, Brussels)
- Domenico Campogrande presents the "Construction Blueprint" project at the Ceramic Days (21/11/2019, Brussels)
- Domenico Campogrande speaks at EFBWW Congress (7-8/11/2019, Vienna)
- FIEC participates in the 1st meeting of the European Labour Authority (ELA) Stakeholders' Group (22/11/2019, Brussels)
- DigiPlace first Advisory Board meeting and external launch event (Bologna).
- FIEC Conference on the #EUGreenDeal challenge (Brice Lalonde a Keynote speaker) and FIEC General Assembly in Paris on 29/11/2019.

- FIEC meets with Skanska (Member of Byggböretagen) to exchange on sustainable finance and the EU Taxonomy.
- Domenico Campogrande speaks at the final conference of the SKILLCO project (10-11/12/2019, Ljubljana).
- FIEC participates in the Machinery Experts Group of the European Commission (FIEC expert, C. Jarosz/ FNTP) (2-3/12/2019, Brussels).
- Meeting with MEP Maria Spyraiki to discuss Circular Economy. EU-TW Circular Economy Seminar with European Commission. Sue Arundale a speaker.
- Stakeholder Day Horizon Europe Built Environment. Draft partnership proposal Built4People discussed.
- Meeting with European Commission, DG GROW, on Construction Products Regulation.
- FIEC meets Commissioner Mariya Gabriel on the occasion of an event with our Bulgarian member BCC.

**NOVEMBER
2019**

**DECEMBER
2019**



Shooting
TUVIC
prevention
video



#EUConstruction2050

- **Ukraine Construction Confederation (CBU) joins FIEC as Member.**
- **FIEC-EBC press release “Driving times and Tachographs: Political agreement recognises construction specificities”.**
- **FIEC contributes to the European Commission’s consultation on Basel III.**
- **FIEC meets MEP Immaculada Rodriguez-Pinero, Shadow-Rapporteur on the IPI in the Trade Committee.**
- **FIEC and EFBWW provide a joint contribution to the European Commission consultation on the update of the EU Skills Agenda.**
- **FIEC co-organises TANSIRC seminar on Health & Safety campaigns (21/01/2020, Warsaw).**
- **Kick-off meeting of the new FIEC Working Group “Machinery” aimed at preparing the future revision of the Machinery Directive (29/01/2020).**
- **Lobbying action during the European Parliament Legislative Scrutiny Session on Construction Products Regulation.**
- **DigiPlace Project aiming at developing a reference architecture framework for a digital industrial platform for the construction industry: launch of the project’s Website.**
- **Kick-off meeting of the FIEC Working Group Sustainability (21/01/2020, Brussels).**

- **FIEC meets with DG ECFIN to exchange on the potential revision of the Stability and Growth Pact.**
- **FIEC meets with DG FISMA to exchange on sustainable finance and the EU Taxonomy.**
- **FIEC participates in the first meeting of European Commission’s Expert Group on eCertis (EU online platform - overview of the selection and exclusion criteria applied in the Member States’ tendering procedures)**
- **Shooting of the TUVIC prevention video on fighting against undeclared work in construction. Christine Le Forestier intervenes at Belgian event organised in the framework of the TUVIC project (29/02/2020, Brussels).**
- **CEN promotional video “Standards Build Trust”, FIEC featured in the video (watch the video in our annual report online)**
- **FIEC position paper on the relationship between users and software companies/ editors/service providers.**
- **First meeting of the “Construction 2050 Alliance”.**

JANUARY 2020

**FEBRUARY
2020**



Confédération Construction Forum



- FIEC provides input to the European Commission's Evaluation Study concerning the 2011 **Transport White Paper**.
- FIEC provides input to the European Commission's Report on **Late Payment in the Construction sector**.
- FIEC co-organises **TANSIRC seminar** on internal and external communication (05/03/2020, Riga).
- Domenico Campogrande presents "**Construction Blueprint**" project at the Construction Forum organised by our Belgian Member Confédération Construction.
- Official launch of the **EU-wide campaign on fighting against undeclared work**, by the European Commission and the EU Platform against undeclared work (02/03/2020).
- Official start of the Construction Social Dialogue project (with EFBWW) on "**Respirable Crystalline Silica**".
- Official start of the Construction Social Dialogue project (with EFBWW) on "**Decentralised Social Dialogue meetings**" (DESOCO).
- Launch of the European Industrial Strategy, FIEC letter to Commissioner Breton underlining the **role of the construction industry**.
- **COVID-19 outbreak**. Weekly overview and update of the measures taken throughout Europe impacting the construction industry

**MARCH
2020**

23.03.2020

Covid-19 pandemic

**FIEC requests to the European Commission
in support of the construction industry**

European Recovery Fund:

The construction ecosystem as priority with at least €320B dedicated budget

JOINT DECLARATION CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS EUROPE – EBC – FIEC (30 APRIL 2020)

- In the context of Covid-19, FIEC calls for **preserving free movement of services and workers** in construction.
- Regular **video conferences with Commissioner Breton** on the impact of the Covid crisis on the sector, in order to identify the measures and possible area of intervention, discussing priorities as well as initiatives for ensuring a quick recovery.
- **Construction Social Partners** publish a joint statement on Covid-19 crisis.
- Video conference with Commissioner Simson – Recovery - Renovation Wave. Discussion focusing on the contribution of **building renovation** to the post Covid-19 recovery.
- FIEC also asks for **renovation of infrastructure** be included in the initiative.
- **European Recovery Fund: Request** for the Construction sector - Joint Declaration of FIEC-EBC-CPE.

**APRIL
2020**

ECO Economic and Legal Commission



Thomas Bauer, DE
President



Karl Thies, FIEC
Policy Officer ECO

WORKING GROUP "INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING & MAINTENANCE":



Dominique Bouillot, FR
Chairman



Vincent Piron, FR
Vice-Chairman



Christian Tridon, FR
Vice-Chairman

WORKING GROUP "PUBLIC PROCUREMENT":



Jan Wierenga, NL
Chairman

WORKING GROUP "EU CONTRACT LAW":



Helmut Miernik, DE
Chairman

"Driving times" and "Tachograph" Regulations

In May 2017, as part of the 1st mobility package, the European Commission proposed to revise the rules on certain social aspects in road transport (i.e. driving times and rests), linked to the use of (digital) tachographs on board of vehicles.

In principle, such burdensome and costly rules do not apply to construction companies' drivers and light commercial vehicles.

However, in some countries, the legislation is applied more extensively and includes "construction drivers", as though they belong to the transport industry.

FIEC, in cooperation with EBC (European Builders Confederation), advocated for the extension of the existing exemptions to the mandatory use of tachograph on board of vehicles, because construction companies are small mobile factories covering a limited perimeter, rather than road transport companies. In specific cases, they also transport perishable goods (i.e. ready-mixed concrete), which are clearly not to be treated as "normal" merchandise.

In December 2019, the Council and the European Parliament finally reached a political agreement, which recognises the fact that construction undertakings are indeed not road transport companies. Hence, an additional exemption has been introduced for heavier construction vehicles carrying machinery, as well as for vehicles transporting ready-mixed concrete.

Actions and key dates:

- May 2017 – European Commission's proposal
- Autumn 2017 to Spring 2019 – Numerous FIEC lobbying actions towards the European Parliament (meetings, position papers, voting recommendations, press releases), in cooperation with EBC (European Builders Confederation)
- 03/12/2018 – Council adopted its position ("general approach")
- 04/04/2019 – European Parliament adopted its position ("resolution")
- Autumn 2019 – Trilogue negotiations / FIEC lobbying towards new MEPs in charge (following EP elections)
- December 2019 – Political agreement reached in trilogue
- 22/01/2020 – FIEC-EBC joint press release welcoming the outcomes

International Procurement Instrument (IPI)

In 2012, the European Commission issued a proposal for a Regulation on the access of third-country goods and services to the Union's internal market in public procurement and procedures supporting negotiations on access of Union goods and services to the public procurement markets of third countries - also known as International Procurement Instrument (IPI). The main aim consisted in increasing the EU's leverage in negotiations in order to achieve reciprocity as regards the access of European companies to foreign procurement markets. Basically, where a third country not being member to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) restricts the market access for European companies, economies operators from the concerned country could be subject to restrictive measures taken by the European Commission. As there was not a majority in support of the proposal in the Council of the EU, the European Commission presented an amended proposal in 2016. The new proposal clearly weakens the instrument. It limits potential restrictive measures to price penalties and would prohibit national contracting authorities from excluding tenders from non-GPA members from their bidding procedures. The legislative file has been at a standstill in the last years since the Council could not agree on a common approach. However, the Council recently resumed its work on the file.

FIEC treats this issue in cooperation with the European International Contractors (EIC) and the European Dredging Association (EuDA). Dealing with internal market issues, FIEC considers the IPI as a vehicle to prevent unfair competition on the internal market while our partners are addressing the external challenges. In the last years, we observe a growing number of huge infrastructure projects being awarded to Chinese State-owned enterprises (SOEs) submitting extremely low prices against which private European companies cannot compete. FIEC is mostly concerned by the fact that the IPI proposal as it stands now, would completely open the EU procurement market to third country bidders while undermining provisions of existing public procurement legislation. Therefore, FIEC advocates for several modifications of the proposal. Most importantly, it must be assured that the IPI comes as a complement to existing legislation and does not overrule it.

Ensuring a level playing field on the internal market also requires actions going beyond the IPI. For instance, EU Anti-Dumping Regulations should apply to services as well, not only to goods. Furthermore, FIEC pledges for a State Aid Test to be conducted when third country companies want to participate in tendering procedures. Also, since there is no legal definition of abnormally low tenders (ALT), FIEC demands that a check-triggering mechanism should be established in order to limit the room for manoeuvre of contracting authorities when dealing with such tenders. In a similar vein, the price must not be the only criterion when determining the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT).

Actions and key dates:

- 21/03/2012 – European Commission issues IPI proposal
- 29/01/2016 – European Commission issues amended IPI Proposal
- 12/06/2019 – FIEC/EIC/EuDA Action Plan
- 17/09/2019 – FIEC/EIC/EuDA position paper on Fostering a Level Playing Field in Construction Services
- 11/2019 – FIEC meets parliamentary assistant of MEP Daniel Caspary (EPP), Rapporteur on the IPI in the Trade Committee
- 01/2020 – FIEC meets MEP Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D), Shadow-Rapporteur -on the IPI in the Trade Committee
- 02/2020 – FIEC meets parliamentary assistant of MEP Liesje Schreinemacher (RENEW), Shadow-Rapporteur on the IPI in the Trade Committee
- 03/2020 – FIEC contributes to BusinessEurope's Position Paper

Sustainable Finance/ EU Taxonomy

In order to honour the EU's commitments within the Paris Agreement from 2015, the European Commission set up an Action Plan on Sustainable Financing in March 2018. The latter comprises amongst others a Regulation on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment also known as taxonomy. The latter is destined to address the investment gap as regards the achievement of the EU's sustainability goals. Different national approaches as to what can be labelled as environmentally sustainable as well as greenwashing impede cross-border investment flows. Hence, a common language/ methodology about what can be considered as environmentally sustainable should be developed. The objective consists in creating uniform criteria to assess the degree of sustainability of economic activities in order to determine the degree of environmental sustainability of a financial product.

The taxonomy shall be used whenever a financial product is being labelled as environmentally sustainable. The Regulation foresees criteria based on which the degree of sustainability of an economic activity is assessed. In order to elaborate these specific criteria a Technical Expert Group (TEG) has been set up. The Commission's proposal also entails the establishment of a Platform on Sustainable Finance. It will take the form of a typical Commission expert Group and replace the TEG while having similar tasks, i.e. advising the European Commission on the specific criteria.

The construction sector plays a prominent role in the most recent TEG report and will probably be targeted by future reports. Several construction activities having the potential to mitigate climate change are covered in this report: construction of transport infrastructure; construction of water projects; construction of new buildings; renovation of existing buildings; individual renovation measures, installation of renewables on-site and professional, scientific and technical activities, acquisition of buildings.

Apart from its initial use for financial products, the taxonomy might be applied in future EU legislation such as for the allocation of EU funds or in the public sector (cf. Sustainable Europe Investment Plan). It was already called a "procurement plan for the future." Hence, the taxonomy might have a considerable impact on the financing/funding of companies themselves and of individual construction projects. The construction industry being a central element of the Technical Report and the future Taxonomy, efforts should be made to ensure an adequate representation of the construction industry in the Platform on Sustainable Finance. The current TEG is mostly composed of representatives from the financial sector while there is a low number of representatives from the real economy.

Actions and key dates:

- 24/05/2018 – European Commission issues its proposal
- 28/03/2019 – Decision by Parliament on its position
- 18/06/2019 – TEG's Technical Report on the taxonomy
- 18/12/2019 – Interinstitutional Agreement
- 14/01/2020 – Sustainable Europe Investment Plan
- 02/2020 – FIEC meets DG FISMA (Directorate General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union)
- 09/03/2020 – TEG's Final Technical Report on the taxonomy
- 12/03/2020 – Stakeholder Dialogue Meeting on Final TEG Reports
- 05-06/2020 – European Commission's Call for Experts for the Platform on Sustainable Finance

For further details on ECO
actions and key dates,
refer to www.FIEC-AR.eu



SOC Social Commission



Paul Depreter, BE
President



Christine Le Forestier, FIEC
Director SOC



Jakob Krohn-Rasmussen, DK
Chairman Vocational Training (SOC-1)



Cristina García Herguedas, ES
Chairwoman Health and Safety (SOC-2)



Michel Gili, FR
Chairman Employment (SOC-3)

Blueprint project

In 2018 a project entitled “Skills Blueprint for the Construction Industry” was officially launched. It gathers a consortium of 24 partners, including FIEC, from 12 different countries and is coordinated by the “Fundación Laboral de la Construcción” from Spain.

The project is co-financed by the Erasmus+ programme and its main aim is to develop a long term alliance between the concerned stakeholders (employers, workers, training centres, public authorities) for a better anticipation of the skills needed in the construction industry and to ensure a corresponding adaptation of the training schemes.

It focuses on 3 key areas: digitalisation, energy efficiency and circular economy.

In most of the Member States construction companies are facing difficulties in finding the right workers with the right skills.

This can be explained by the rapid technological changes, including the digitalisation of construction processes through BIM (Building Information Modelling) and other digital tools or methods (automation, drones, Internet of Things, etc.), by policy choices, such as “greener” economies and initiatives on energy efficiency in buildings, as well as by demographic changes, notably the ageing of the workforce.

The aim of this initiative is to develop and implement a new strategic and coordinated approach (“Blueprint”) to sectoral cooperation on skills by enhancing the responsiveness of vocational education and training (VET) systems, at all levels, to the construction labour market needs. In other words, it aims at identifying existing and emerging skills needed in order to translate them into vocational curricula responding to those needs.

For further information: www.constructionblueprint.eu

Actions and key dates:

- 31/1/2019 – Kick-off meeting, Madrid
- 24-25/10/2019 – 2nd Partners meeting, Roma
- 13/03/2020 – 3rd (virtual) Partners meeting
- December 2022 – End of project





Revision of the Machinery Directive (2006/42/EC)

The European Commission is planning to revise the Machinery Directive (2006/42/EC).

This Directive concerns machinery and certain parts of machinery. Its main intent is to ensure a common safety level in machinery placed on the market or put in service in all EU Member States and to ensure freedom of movement within the EU.

The planned revision of the Directive intends to: align the Directive with EU harmonised legislation on product health and safety; and tackle the challenges that may arise from technical progress in digitalisation.

The well-functioning of the Internal Market for the free movement of products, as well as health and safety aspects on construction work sites are two major issues dealt with by FIEC.

The forthcoming modifications of the legislation might have important impact in terms of responsibility of contractors (versus manufacturers) in case of necessary adaptation of the machines or accidents, for instance.

In general, better cooperation from the manufacturers would be needed regarding the user's manuals, advanced information on the machines, ownership on/ treatment of the generated data, etc.

In parallel, FIEC is already participating in the Machinery Expert Group of the European Commission and provides input and feedback.

Actions and key dates:

- 30/08/2019 – FIEC contribution to the European Commission public consultation on the revision of the Directive 2006/42/EC on machinery
- 02-03/12/2019 – FIEC participation in European Commission Machinery Expert Group
- 29/01/2020 – 1st meeting of the FIEC Working Group “Machinery” (jointly with TEC-1 “Directive, standards and quality assurance” and SOC-2 “Health & Safety”)
- 19-20/02/2020 – FIEC participation in European Commission Machinery Expert Group
- March 2020 – FIEC contribution in drafting of Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- 02/04/2020 – 2nd meeting of the FIEC Working Group “Machinery”

Tackling Undeclared Work in the Construction Industry (TUWIC project)

In 2019 the EU sectoral social partners for the construction industry FIEC, representing the employers, and EFBWW (European Federation of Building and Wood Workers), representing the workers, started a project, co-financed by the European Commission, titled “TUWIC”, which stands for: Tackling Undeclared Work in the Construction Industry.

It covers 7 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Romania and Spain) and one of the interesting aspects is that for each of these countries there is a commitment between the concerned national authority(ies), the employers' and the workers' organisations to cooperate and undertake concrete actions.

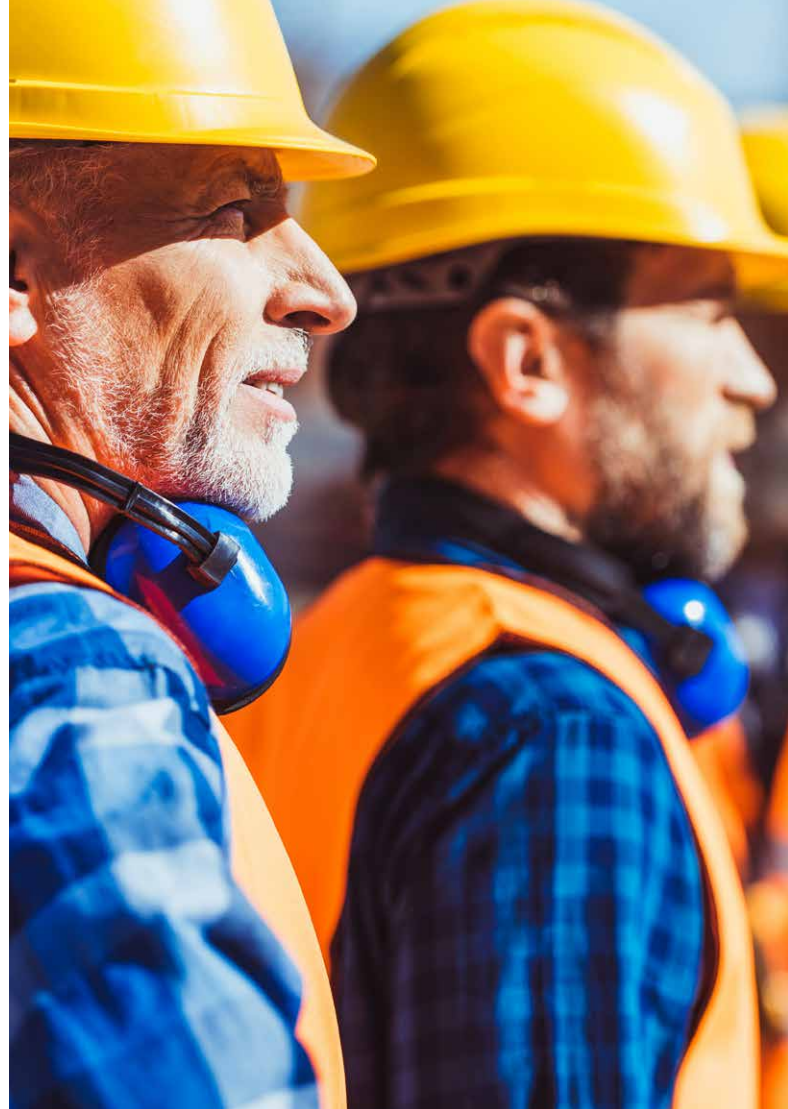
At EU level, undeclared work is defined as “any paid activities that are lawful as regards their nature but not declared to public authorities, taking account differences in the regulatory systems of the Member States”.

In coordination with the activities of the EU Platform for tackling undeclared work, the project aims to, in the first step, develop a European campaign on prevention/awareness of undeclared work in the construction industry, including providing the appropriate promotional material to all EU national members in their own language.

In parallel, the stakeholders in the participating countries will develop specific joint initiatives to tackle the problem in the construction industry at a national level.

Actions and key dates:

- 8/3/2019 – Kick-off meeting
- Autumn 2019 / Winter 2019-2020 – national initiatives
- 02/03/2020 – Start of EU cross-sectoral campaign (see also EU Platform against Undeclared Work)
- 19-20/03/2020 – FIEC-EFBWW conference and launch of sectoral campaign (Zagreb) => POSTPONED
- June 2020 – End of the project



For further details on SOC actions and key dates, refer to www.FIEC-AR.eu



TEC

Technical and Environmental Commission



José Michaël Chenu, FR
President



Sue Arundale, FIEC
Director TEC



Robin Collard, BE
Chairman Directives, Standards and Quality Assurance (TEC-1)



Thiebault Clément, FR
Chairman Research, Development and Innovation (TEC-2)



Lennart Henriz, SE
Chairman Environment (TEC-3)

“New” Circular Economy Action Plan

The new Circular Economy Action Plan was published on 11 March 2020. It builds on the previous Action Plan published in 2016. The measures for construction are outlined:

- Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment by 2021
- Recycled content requirements in revised Construction Products Regulation
- Promoting Circular Economy Principles for Buildings Design and Digital Logbook
- Level(s) voluntary assessment framework for environmental performance of buildings to “integrate life cycle assessment in public procurement”
- Revision of material recovery targets
- Rehabilitation of brownfield sites and dealing with excavated soils
- No specific information on the Renovation Wave

FIEC is committed to the Circular Economy, the achievement of which can be accelerated by the efforts of our industry. Although the above measures are outlined in the new plan, we need to follow the progress of this document through the EU institutions and in particular to comment on any specific targets that are proposed for construction. In spite of support, including a number of voluntary initiatives developed by the European Commission with industry stakeholders, many obstacles remain, such as the lack of adequate recycling facilities located near construction sites.

Actions and key dates:

- 11/12/2019 – European Green Deal published
- 11/03/2020 – Circular Economy Action Plan published
- 12/03/2020 – FIEC summary of main issues made available for members



Horizon Europe

Research funding from the European Union is allocated via a rolling seven year programme, which used to be known as the “Framework” programme. The last programme with this title was “Framework 7” and the one after, renamed Horizon 2020, will come to an end in 2020, with very few calls for projects still to be published. Horizon Europe will be the new programme, for which calls for projects are expected to start being published in 2021. This research funding has the overarching aim of securing Europe’s global competitiveness, by helping to drive economic growth and create jobs. Research is seen to be an investment in our future and it is at the heart of the EU’s blueprint for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs. Horizon emphasises excellent science, industrial leadership and the need to tackle societal challenges. The goal is to ensure that Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation. Horizon Europe has a proposed budget of €100BN. However, this is unlikely to be finalised until after the UK leaves the European Union, as this event may well impact the amount that can be allocated.

Horizon Europe funding will be allocated according to a number of partnerships, between the Commission and relevant stakeholders, which will be agreed in 2020. 48 partnerships have been proposed, but not all will be accepted. The relevant partnership proposed for construction, important for FIEC, its members and their companies is the one with the working title “People centric sustainable built environment” or BUILT4PEOPLE. In addition to work done during the summer and early autumn of 2019, to contribute to the European Commission’s Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), FIEC is a key player in the development of a proposal which will explain how the partnership will be structured and will outline the context, objectives and expected impacts of the BUILT4PEOPLE partnership as well as the expected deliverables. This document is crucial in terms of the decision making by Member States, who will select the successful partnerships based on their completed proposals. Therefore, the document has to be relevant to the needs of contractors in terms of the kinds of research programmes that will ultimately be agreed and the subsequent calls for projects, which will be aimed at universities and industry partners. If the proposal is not accepted, there will be no funding for construction research under Horizon Europe that is directly linked to the needs of contractors and the other relevant stakeholders in the value chain.

Actions and key dates:

- 14/10/2019 – Stakeholder meeting with European Commission, to discuss template for partnership proposal and agree process and deadlines
- 4/11/2019 – First draft document for comments from stakeholders
- 15/11/2018 – Second draft document for comments from stakeholders
- End November 2019 – Deadline for completed document
- 12/12/2019 – Stakeholder meeting with European Commission to agree partnership proposal
- Q1 2020 – Further consultation, e.g. with members of participating stakeholder organisations



Standardisation and FIEC's role in CEN

The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) is an association that brings together the National Standardisation Bodies of 34 European countries. CEN is one of three European Standardisation Organisations (together with CENELEC and ETSI) that have been officially recognised by the European Union and by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as being responsible for developing and defining voluntary standards at European level. CEN provides a platform for the development of European Standards and other technical documents in relation to various kinds of products, materials, services and processes. For construction, although standards remain voluntary, they effectively become mandatory in reality under the Construction Products Regulation (CPR 305/2011).

Contractors are significantly affected by standardisation. They need to be represented in the process of developing standards and often cannot give time to the activity, which is both time consuming and costly, because meetings are held all over Europe. As well as representing contractors when they cannot do it themselves, FIEC and its member federations influence standardisation at EU and national level in a number of ways. These include FIEC's role as a CEN Partner Organisation with observer status on the CEN Technical Board and on CEN Technical Committees and Working Groups. FIEC also participates in the CEN Construction Sector Network Core Group. Its member federations participate in the national mirror committees and also by lobbying the National Standards Organisations in their own countries.

Actions and key dates:

- February 2020 – CEN communication campaign "Standards Build Trust". FIEC involved.



For further details on TEC actions and key dates, refer to www.FIEC-AR.eu



COMPETITIVENESS – “CONSTRUCTION 2020”

“The construction industry is very important to the EU economy. The sector provides 15 million direct jobs and contributes to about 9% of the EU’s GDP. It also creates new jobs, drives economic growth, and provides solutions for social, climate and energy challenges. The European Commission (DG GROW) therefore decided to launch in 2012 an overall strategy, known as “Construction 2020”, aiming at helping the sector become more competitive, resource efficient and sustainable.

The main orientations are discussed in a High-Level Forum and specific initiatives are developed within 5 Thematic Groups dealing with : Stimulating investment; Skills & Qualifications; Sustainable use of natural resources; Internal Market; International competitiveness. Various studies on specific topics have also been launched by DG GROW within this framework.

This is the only EU action exclusively focusing on the the construction sector and its stakeholders in a holistic manner. It also aims at better coordinating the various responsibilities spread across the different Commission services concerned. Consequently, FIEC and its national Member Federations contributed actively in the High Level Forum and in the various Thematic Groups, as well as in the studies.

Despite all positive results, further improvement is necessary, both concerning the coordination of various Commission services and the choice of priorities. For this reason, FIEC in its Manifesto for the EU legislature 2019-2024 asked for a Commission Vice-President mandated to ensure such coordination.

In parallel, FIEC and their colleagues from other European federations participating in the European Construction Forum developed a set of requests and recommendations for the attention of the new Commission and other EU institutions (“Construction 2050 – Building tomorrow’s Europe today”), with the aim of ensuring a continuation and a better functioning of the initiative.

Actions and key dates:

- June 2019 – Paper “Construction 2050 – Building tomorrow’s Europe today”
- 17/06/2020 – High Level Forum Virtual meeting with focus on the Covid-19 crisis

CONSTRUCTION 2050

Building tomorrow’s
Europe today



JUNE 2019

“CHINA CHALLENGE”

JOINT FIEC-EIC WORKING GROUP

The activities of Chinese state-owned construction enterprises in and around the EU have reached new dimensions with the “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI) and the budgets involved.

Recent examples of EU-financed construction contracts awarded to abnormally low tenders submitted by consortia led by Chinese SOEs (e.g. in Croatia, Bulgaria, Sweden) show the need for a comprehensive EU strategy in favour of fair competition in practice. It seems the approach of the EU and the Member States has changed into this direction.

Chinese finance practices in other continents, particularly Africa, show that this systematic deviation from internationally agreed principles has negative consequences.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, FIEC and EIC would like to reiterate that they are firmly opposed to any form of protectionism and are in favour of fair competition in mutually open markets. Fair and healthy competition, based on contract conditions which allocate risks in a balanced way, contributes to progress and innovation. On the other hand, unfair and unhealthy competition, based on unbalanced conditions and the lowest price only, endangers the EU economy and society.

FIEC and EIC are in favour of genuinely reciprocal market access opportunities and corresponding incentive measures (i.e. trade defence instruments) at EU level, if international negotiations do not achieve tangible progress.

Actions and key dates:

- 15/03/2018 – EIC Memo on Correcting the unlevel playing field, EIC Memo
- 20/06/2018 – FIEC-EIC Press Release “EU needs a strategy for the China Challenge”
- 12/11/2018 – “Official Finance Practices of the PR China”, SFI study for EIC
- 12/03/2019 – European Commission, “Strategic Outlook”
- 22/03/2019 – Council, Conclusions
- 12/06/2019 – FIEC/EIC/EuDA Action Plan
- 17/09/2019 – FIEC/EIC/EuDA position paper on Fostering a Level Playing Field in Construction
- 11/2019 – Meeting with parliamentary assistant of MEP Daniel Caspary (EPP), Rapporteur on the IPI in the Trade Committee
- 01/2020 – Meeting with MEP Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D), Shadow-Rapporteur on the IPI in the Trade Committee
- 02/2020 – Meeting with parliamentary assistant of MEP Liesje Schreinemacher (RENEW), Shadow-Rapporteur on the IPI in the Trade Committee
- 03/2020 – Contribution to BusinessEurope’s Position Paper



For further details on
FIEC-EIC actions, refer
to www.FIEC-AR.eu



CONSTRUCTION MANIFESTO

EU TERM 2019-2024

1

INVESTING IN A
COMPETITIVE
EUROPE

2

ENSURE
A **LEVEL**
PLAYING FIELD

3

CONSTRUCTION 4.0:
ACCELERATE THE **DIGITAL**
TRANSFORMATION OF THE
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

4

CONSTRUCTION **PRODUCTS**
REGULATION (CPR):
ENSURE THAT IT WORKS IN
PRACTICE

5

COMMITTING TO THE
SOCIAL DIMENSION OF
THE CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY

6

BUILD A
SUSTAINABLE
EUROPE

7

SINGLE POINT OF
COORDINATION
IN THE EU
COMMISSION



EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY FEDERATION



EUROPEAN
INTERNATIONAL
CONTRACTORS

FIEC MEMBER FEDERATIONS

		www.bau.or.at
		www.bau.or.at
		www.confederationconstruction.be
		www.ksb.bg
		www.oseok.org.cy
		www.sps.cz
		www.bauindustrie.de
		www.zdb.de
		www.danskbyggeri.dk
		www.eeel.ee
		www.cnc.es
		www.rakennusteollisuus.fi
		www.ffbatiment.fr
		www.fntp.fr
		www.pedmede.gr
		www.hup.hr

		www.evosz.hu
		www.cif.ie
		www.ance.it
		www.statybininkai.lt
		www.latvijaszbuvmnieki.lv
		www.groupeement.lu
		www.bouwendnederland.nl
		www.eba.no
		www.bnl.no
		www.fepicop.pt
		www.araco.org
		www.byggforetagen.se
		www.gzs.si
		www.zsps.sk
		www.tmb.org.tr
		www.kbu.org.ua

Associate members



www.effc.org



www.eqar.info

Cooperation agreement with



ACB – Israel Builders Association

Member of



www.cica.net

CICA report available online
www.FIEC-AR.eu



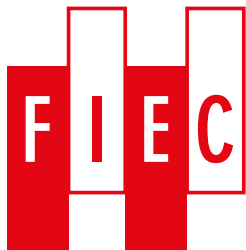
In close Cooperation with



www.eic-federation.eu

EIC report available online
www.FIEC-AR.eu



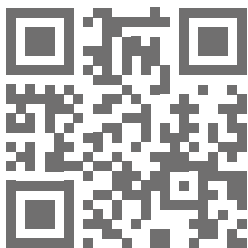


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CONSTRUCTION 4.0
COVID RECOVERY
EMPLOYMENT
CONSTRUCTION IS THE SOLUTION INDUSTRY
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
DIGITALISATION
GROWTH
JOBS
CLIMATE CHANGE
GREEN DEAL
RENOVATION
COMPETITIVENESS
ENVIRONMENT
INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE
STANDARDISATION
INNOVATION
INFRASTRUCTURE
WATER NETWORKS
SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE
IT-NETWORKS
ENERGY EFFICIENCY
RECYCLING
ENERGY PRODUCTION
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY
SKILLS TRAINING/EDUCATION

