



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

ACE INFO

[January 2009]
43

Editorial:

Welcome to the first edition of *ACE Info* in 2009, a year that presents the profession and society at large with significant challenges. The fact that many countries in Europe are officially in recession means, for the architectural profession, that there will be difficulties in finding new projects and in advancing projects that are at the feasibility stage as many clients and institutions are “waiting” to see what happens before giving the “go-ahead” for planned building works. It also means for the ACE itself that is funded by its Members’ subscriptions only a stricter prioritisation of its activities.

However, these difficulties also bring with them a true opportunity for the profession as it will provide a breathing space for creative thinking and planning for the future. The pages of this publication have often spoken about the huge contribution that architecture can bring to society at large and the current crisis offers to the profession the opportunity to collect itself, looking at what has led to the current situation. It also allows for stocktaking of the best policy work and ideas from the past, which can, through a consolidation and prioritisation process, lead to a capitalisation of the potential of architecture and the architectural profession in the service of the citizens of Europe.

Underpinning these potentials is the fact that the Commission has highlighted, in its Economic Recovery Plan (see edition #42 of *ACE Info* from December 2008), the role that the construction sector can play, particularly in relation to improving the energy efficiency of buildings, mainly existing buildings. It is here that the architectural profession must act in order to assist, with its ability to conceive in holistic and integrated ways, in the broader economic recovery that must be wrought out of the current difficulties. The profession has the ability to lead in this struggle and to share its knowledge for the benefit of all.

For its part, the Architects’ Council of Europe (ACE-CAE) in close interaction with its Members is currently busy with the preparation of a number of key policy documents that it believes will show the way for the profession over the coming years. These documents will be more than fine words and will contain recommendations and proposals that can be readily implemented at all relevant levels within Europe and they will be pro-actively promoted, in particular, to the new European Parliament and to the new European Commission, both of which will come into power during the course of 2009. Readers of *ACE Info* will be among the first to have access to these new ACE-CAE documents after their expected adoption at the First General Assembly in April.

This edition is also available in French.

CORE ISSUES

The Architectural Profession in Europe – A sector Study by the ACE-CAE

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE-CAE) has recently published on its website, the final report of a major Study of the profession that it commissioned in 2008. The Study is the latest development of a strand of work that developed over a period of three years in several phases, and which culminated with the appointment of independent consultants, Mirza & Nacey (UK) who, in close cooperation with a delegation of the Executive Board and the Secretariat, prepared and ran an online survey of the profession in the second half of 2008. It was a resounding success due to significant cooperation between the consultants and the Member Organisations of the ACE-CAE. The survey was aimed at all 32 countries from which Members of the ACE-CAE come, but, for various reasons, just 17 countries were able to take part this time around.

Nearly 44,000 architects from these 17 countries were directly invited to take part in the online survey, which was available in five languages, and over 8,000 responded, giving a fully reliable set of data on which a full picture of the profession across all countries from which Members come can be built. This has been possible thanks to the data collected during the earlier phases of the Sector Study, which were carried out directly by the Secretariat of the ACE-CAE. Key facts and figures that have emerged from the online survey include the following: it is estimated that there are about 483,000 practising architects in Europe-32 (ACE current country-membership); the value of the construction market in Europe-32 (including engineering and infrastructure works) is €1,650 billion; the value of the architectural services market in Europe-32 is estimated at €22 billion; there are approximately 69,800 architectural practices in Europe-32; women make up 37% of the profession; 93% of the profession work in the country where they are registered; approximately 28,000 architects work in a country other than the one in which they are registered.

The Final Report contains much of interest in relation to the economic situation of the profession and it is expected that it will serve as a powerful tool for the ACE-CAE in its ambition to devise evidence-based policies. The full report can be accessed (in English only at the present time) at:

<http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/pub/int/sectors.html>

Energy and Climate Change Package Adopted

Following an extraordinary procedure that saw Heads of State getting directly involved in tri-lateral negotiations between the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission at the stage of the First Reading on a range of legislative measures, a package of directives and other legislative measures were adopted in the European Parliament on the 17th December 2008. This extraordinary procedure underlines the very high political importance that is now attached to these issues and to the high commitment that the French Presidency gave to the package of measures. In fact several Ministries of the French Government worked extensively on the dossier in order its adoption. Obviously the European Union was keen to show a united position at the time when the UN COP 14 Conference was taking place in Poznan as a rehearsal for the Climate Summit that is scheduled in Copenhagen in December 2009.

The package of six legislative instruments measures include a Directive on the use of renewable energy sources, a revised version of the Emissions Trading Scheme Directive, a Directive on the quality of fuel in transport and a Regulation on reducing CO₂ emissions from cars. Several of these were highly controversial measures and the negotiations that took place were, by any standards, tough. In the end the adoption of the package has been hailed as a victory by nearly all and it is agreed that it places the EU at the forefront of innovative and coordinated efforts to tackle climate change and underpins its commitment to reduce CO₂ emissions by 20%, increase energy efficiency by 20% and increase the share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix by 20% by the year 2020. For the construction sector, it is the directive on the use of renewable energy sources that is expected to have the biggest impact as significant new infrastructure will be required to distribute the energy produced by renewable sources and there will be an opportunity to devise better ways of integrating energy production into building design.

To read more go to:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-change/mixed-reactions-parliament-approves-eu-climate-deal/article-178163>

Source: Euractiv.com and Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 9806

ACE-CAE MATTERS

New Year, New Opportunities

The new Executive Board of the ACE-CAE (partly renewed) came into office on the 1st January 2009 and is currently preparing for a busy year ahead. It is conscious of the opportunities and challenges that the year ahead brings and, in particular, is preparing to launch a series of new policy approaches that will be promoted to the new European Parliament and the new European Commission, both of which will come into power during the second half of the year. The President, Juhani Katainen, now in the second and final year of his mandate, has expressed the view that the current economic and financial crisis presents a unique opportunity for action and he intends to steer the work of the ACE-CAE in such a manner that 2009 will become a foundation stone for the future policies of the ACE-CAE.

Among the work items that lie ahead for this year is the putting into force, for the architectural profession, of the Internal Market Information (IMI) system in relation to the cross-border recognition of qualifications and the participation of the profession in the pilot phase of the IMI System for the Services Directive. This Directive is due to be fully transposed by the Member States by the end of 2009 and is expected to have a profound impact on the Services Sectors (including architecture) within the EU. Also facing the new Board is the need to capitalise on the significant advances made in relation to urban and architectural policy as reported in *ACE Info #42* and to ensure that the profession makes its mark in, for instance, the implementation of the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities. Readers should note that these few examples are only a small sample of the work that 2009 brings to the ACE-CAE. It is intended to use the pages of *ACE Info* to keep you informed of the main developments in relation to these and other work items as they progress during the year ahead.

The ACE-CAE at External Events

The ACE-CAE 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-CAE. Readers who wish to read the activity reports that arise from these representations can access them in the calendar of external representations maintained on the website of the ACE-CAE at the following address:

<http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/mee/rep/rep008.asp>

ACE Events and Meetings in January and February 2009:

Executive Board Meeting – Brussels – 23rd and 24th January

Joint Working Party between ACE and KIRA (Republic of Korea) for the negotiation of a Mutual recognition agreement, Brussels – 23rd January

Work Group Services in the Internal Market (SIM), Ad-Hoc Meeting on Competitiveness Issues – Madrid – 28th January

Workshop on Architecture and Quality of Life – St. Julians, Malta – 30th and 31st January

General Coordination Meeting – Brussels – 20th February

Meeting of the CEOs and Correspondents of the Member Organisations of the ACE-CAE – Brussels – 5th March

Meeting of the Finance Committee – Brussels – 6th March

Executive Board Meeting – Brussels – 6th and 7th March

OTHER MATTERS

Reduced VAT Directive

Many readers will be aware that there exists a Directive that allows Member States to opt to apply reduced rates of VAT to certain labour intensive services, including construction services. This Directive has been in force for some years now but it has a limited life. In fact the Directive will cease to have effect at the end of 2009 unless there is a decision to extend it or to transform the option into a permanent provision. In those countries where the option to apply reduced VAT rates was taken up, it is reported that the services sectors affected have seen a significant increase in activity and employment. For example, in France where the VAT rate for renovation works to existing buildings (subject to some rules) has been set at 5.5%, it is reported that an additional 43,000 new jobs were created as a direct result of this measure.

Given the economic crisis we face and given the need to significantly upgrade the energy performance of existing buildings, it seems to the ACE-CAE that it would be right to advocate that this option be

transformed into a permanent provision right across the EU. In this light, the ACE-CAE has been in contact with a number of other European bodies, notably within the European Construction Forum (ECF), in order to consider how to collaborate to achieve this objective. Furthermore, number of Member Organisations of the ACE-CAE have expressed their hope that the ACE-CAE will be active on this matter in 2009. For further reading on the example of the UK action in this matter, go to: www.fmb.org.uk/news/campaigns/cut-the-vat/

Source: Euractiv.com

Target of 50% Green Public Procurement Agreed

At a meeting of the Competitiveness Council of the EU that was held in September 2008, Ministers from all EU Member States agreed to set an indicative target of achieving a situation whereby 50% of all public procurement contracts will be awarded in accordance with “green” principles. This “greening” of public procurement can be defined as a process by which public purchasers seek to procure goods, services and works (including buildings) which have a smaller impact on the environment throughout their entire life cycle as compared to “traditional” procurements. It is expected that this approach will significantly encourage the emergence of a more competitive and innovative Europe in line with the Lisbon Objectives. The ACE welcomes this new development that echoes its long-standing struggling to promote quality-based selection for architectural services.

The Council has agreed that this target will be one area of cooperation with the newly created Covenant of Mayors (www.sustenergy.org/tpl/page.cfm?pageName=covenant_of_mayors2) as it recognises the important role that cities can play in actually implementing this objective of achieving Green Public Procurement (GPP). It is also worth recalling that the European Commission is already engaged in a significant initiative on the promotion of GPP in which it is developing a range of tools to assist contracting authorities in adopting GPP procedures. For more on this initiative, go to:

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

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 9748

New Year – New Appointments

The ACE-CAE has been informed of a number of new appointments in organisations with which it has significant contact and/or cooperation:

European Forum of Architectural Policies

A new Board of Administrators was elected to the EFAP aisbl, the supporting body of the European Forum for Architectural Policies (that has three pillars: government bodies, profession and cultural institutions), towards the end of 2008. Its bureau now consists of the following members:

President:	Rob Docter, Berlage Institute, NL
Vice-President:	Alain Sagne, ACE-CAE
Secretary General:	Chantal Dassonville, Communauté française, BE
Treasurer:	Konstantin Kleffel, Bundesarchitektenkammer, DE

EUROCITIES

Paul Bevan has been appointed as the new Secretary General of EUROCITIES, the European Network of large cities that brings together over 130 cities to cooperate on issues of common concern. A chartered town planner by training he has long experience of city-related matters and local administration and an exploratory meeting on themes for possible collaboration with the ACE-CAE was held on the 7th January 2009.

European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE)

Vassilis Economopoulos (EL) was elected as the new President of the ECCE during its General Assembly that was held in Bratislava in October 2008. He has been actively involved in the work of ECCE for about 15 years and will bring his considerable experience to bear on the future work of the ECCE.

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

In accordance with the rotating Presidency between the three groups at the EESC, Mario Sepi (IT), Workers' Group was elected as President in the 22nd October last. His term of office will last two years and he has stated that his priority will be centred around gaining an increased profile for the EESC in the consultative role that it plays in the adoption of EU Legislation. On the same day, two Vice-Presidents were elected. These are Irini Ivoni Pari (EL), Employers Group and Seppo Kallio (FI), Various Interest Group.

Community Action Plan for the Cross-Border Use of Electronic Signatures

The European Commission has adopted a Community Action Plan aimed at stimulating the cross-border use of electronic signatures and identification solutions to overcome the current main obstacles that relate to a lack of interoperability between existing national systems. This is of interest to the ACE-CAE in the context of the Services Directive and in the context of its declared intention to develop a professional card that will contain an electronic signature. It is believed that more extensive use of electronic signatures will, among other things, significantly reduce the administrative burden on persons wishing to provide their services across borders within the EU. To read more go to:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0798:FIN:EN:PDF>

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 9797

Commission Launches a Series of Infringement Procedures

The European Commission has launched a series of infringement procedures against many Member States for the non-implementation of a number of key Directives. The Commission decided, on the 19th September and on the 16th October last, to refer Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom to the Court of Justice for non-implementation of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 9744 and 9763

Construction Sector Output Slightly Up in October 2008

According to estimates released by Eurostat on the 18th December 2008, seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector, increased by 0.1% in the euro area and by 0.7% in the EU-27 in October 2008 compared with the previous month, when it fell by 0.9% and 1.6% respectively. However, compared to October 2007, October 2008 dropped by 4.0% in the euro area and by 3.5% in the EU-27.

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 9807

PUBLICATIONS

None to signal in this edition.

CALL FOR PAPERS

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

45th ISOCARP Congress – Low Carbon Cities

A call for abstracts on the theme of this event, which will be held in Porto in October 2009, is currently open with a deadline for submissions of the 30th April 2009. To find out more about the event and the topics on which abstracts can be submitted, go to:

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

EVENTS

World Sustainable Energy Days

A major event that brings together exhibitions, conferences and workshops in the Austrian city of Wels and that runs from the 25th to the 27th February 2009. This annual event is gaining in reputation as the issues it deals with go further up the political agenda of all countries. For full details, go to:

www.wsed.at

UIA-ARES Work Party Scientific Forum

On the occasion of the 10th session of the Mediterranean Building Exhibition, MEDIBAT 2009, from the 4th to the 7th March 2009, the Sfax Chamber of Commerce together with the Board of Architects of Tunisia is organising a Scientific Forum on the subject of Architecture and Renewable Sources towards Climate Change. This event is being organised in collaboration with the International Union of Architects (UIA), the African Union of Architects (AUA) and the Coalition of North African Architects Organisations (CoArc). Full details can be found at:

http://www.salon-medibat.com/fr/forum_scientifique.php

European Business Summit 2009

To be held in Brussels, BE on the 26th and 27th March 2009, this conference will explore the daring measures that are needed in order to ensure that Europe can maintain, in tough economic times, its ambitions to be a strong world player. It is being organised by BusinessEurope in cooperation with the European Commission and the Czech Presidency of the EU. Full details can be found at:

www.ebsummit.eu

Vulnerability of 20th Century Cultural Heritage to Hazards and Prevention Measures

To be held on the island of Leros (EL), from the 22nd to the 24th April 2009, this conference will provide a forum for scientists and experts in the field of the theme of the conference to improve and update information and scientific achievements and policy in the risk management of cultural heritage. For full details, go to:

<http://associazioni.comune.firenze.it/cicop/english/congresses.htm>

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>

COMPETITIONS

None to report in this edition.

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 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/>

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>

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

www.aia.org/about_uia

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:

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The Secretary General of the ACE:	Alain Sagne
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ACE Info is issued on a regular basis, with about 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