



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

ACE INFO

[December 2009]

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Welcome to the eighth and final edition of *ACE Info* in 2009 in which you will be able to read about current issues and developments that affect the built environment and the architectural profession across the EU. It comes at the end of an eventful year in which issues, such as the energy efficiency of buildings that are of importance to the architectural profession have again risen significantly on the political agenda of the EU and in which a new European Parliament was elected.

The coming year also promises to be eventful. A new European Commission is expected to take office in February and it is already known that it will be structured differently to the existing Commission and that there is an intention to adopt a more strategic and integrated approach to tackling the issues of the day. For example, there will be a new Directorate General (DG) on Climate Action that will be placed under the responsibility of Connie Hedegaard from Denmark as Commissioner. She was the Chairperson of the COP15 Copenhagen Conference in December 2009 and brings enormous experience to the new DG.

2010 is also the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the ACE and there are plans underway to mark the anniversary with several coordinated events in Brussels during the Belgian Presidency in the second half of the year. *ACE Info* will report more fully on these planned developments in the coming months.

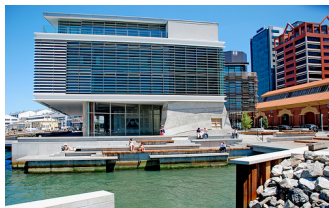
The ACE invites comments on the contents of and/or contributions to this publication as it strives to produce information that is accurate and useful to the readership.

ACE Info wishes all of its readers a peaceful end of year celebration and a prosperous New Year.

This edition is also available in French.

CORE ISSUES

All New Buildings Must be “Nearly Zero” Energy by 2021



On the 17th November last, a political agreement on the text for the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings was agreed between in a trilogue between the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission. The final text has been generally welcomed as it represents an ambitious text for the EU as a whole. One key aspect is the requirement that all new buildings in the EU must be “nearly zero” energy buildings from 1st January 2021. Although this date is further off than the ACE would have wished, the agreed text does not prevent Member States from setting more ambitious targets and implementing the provisions of the Directive at an early date. In fact, there are many countries where the national targets are already more ambitious than the recast Directive.

In 2010 the ACE will turn its attention to a detailed analysis of the provisions of the Directive with the objective of gathering reliable knowledge of the state of play in each Member State and of preparing guidance and advice to its Member Organisations on how to lobby their national governments for the

early and complete transposition of this important text. One specific area of concern to the ACE is the fact that the agreed text seems to be under-ambitious in relation to the energy renovation of existing buildings. It is well known that the upgrading of existing is the most effective and economical approach to bringing about an overall improvement in the energy usage of buildings and so it will be a subject to which the ACE will pay particular attention in the coming years. The ACE for its part is preparing to issue guidance for its Member Organisations for the transposition phase.

The agreed text can be downloaded from:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st17/st17472.en09.pdf>

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 10022

Image: Kumutoto Plaza and Meridian Energy Building, Wellington, New Zealand

Transposition of the Services Directive Must be Complete by 28th December 2009



The transposition period for the Member States of the EU to complete the inclusion of the provisions of the Services Directive (2006/123/EC) into national law ends on the 28th December 2009. This will be an important milestone in the history of the European Union, as it will mark the completion of the major components of community law aimed at ensuring the proper functioning of the Internal Market. However, it seems that many Member States will not be ready by the deadline and this is a matter that Members of the European Parliament raised at a recent debate in the Committee for the Internal Market and Consumer Affairs (IMCO). The debate in the IMCO indicated that up to half of Member

States might be ready in time and the Commission refused to enter into a game of “naming and shaming” those that will not be ready in time.

Of particular interest and importance to the ACE is the fact that a mutual evaluation process of the Services Directive will already take place in 2010. This innovative process will see Member States peer-reviewing each others’ decisions about which restrictive laws and regulation they intend to keep in place (at national level) after the transposition period and will cross-examine the situation in regard of some of the basic principles of the EU treaty namely, non-discrimination and proportionality. A report must be delivered by December 2010. At this stage it is not known what the outcome or impact of the review will be, but it will be fascinating to learn how each Member State defends their decisions to keep laws and regulations that restrict access of services to their markets in place notably on the basis of consumer protection and the public interest.

Source: EurActiv.com (13th November 2009)

ACE MATTERS

Changes in the Executive Board of the ACE for 2010



The ACE held its Presidential and Executive Board elections at its recent General Assembly in Brussels and it will, as a result, have a new President from the 1st January 2010 for a two-year period. That President is Selma Harrington from Ireland; she has served as Head of the Irish Delegation to the ACE for some years and has been actively engaged in the work of the ACE, particularly in the work of the Thematic Area Architecture and Quality of Life. She will be joined on the Executive Board by the newly elected members, Lionel Dunet (France), Wolfgang Haack (Germany), Georg Pendl (Austria), David Falla (UK) and Vladimir Petrovic (Croatia) and by the current members, Jos Leyssens (Belgium), Serban Tiganas

(Romania), Eva Tetenyi (Hungary), Dalibor Borak (Czech Republic) and Christian Lerche (Denmark).

During the General Assembly meeting already mentioned several important topics were debated such as, for example, accreditation and validation, cost information systems, quality and regulatory issues, to name but a few. The ACE Assembly gave a farewell in particular to the outgoing President, Juhani Katainen (Finland) who served in 2008-2009 and it also awarded a Special Certificate of Appreciation to the outgoing Vice President, John Wright (UK), who has been involved in the activities of the ACE for nearly 20 years and has held many responsibilities during that time.

At its first Board Meeting in 2010, the roles and functions of the Board Members will be decided and priorities for the year will be set. *ACE Info* will report on the outcome in its first issue in 2010.

ACE and CARIFORUM on the Way to a Mutual Recognition Agreement

A Delegation of the ACE and a Delegation from the CARIFORUM countries met on the 19th November 2009 in Brussels. That meeting led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the

ACE and the Delegation of CARIFORUM Architects that is aimed at setting the right conditions to enable negotiation of a Mutual Recognition Agreement between the architectural profession at EU level and the architectural profession in the CARIFORUM countries. This is taking place in the context of the Economic and Partnership Agreement that was signed between the EU and CARIFORUM last year. The CARIFORUM delegation also met with the members of the Executive Board of the ACE and they were also welcomed at the meeting of the ACE General Assembly on the 20th November.

Changes in the Member Organisations

The ACE has been informed of several changes within its Member Organisations as follows:

The Chamber of Hungarian Architects (MEK)

At its recent regular elections, the MEK elected a new President, Tamás Noll and three Vice-Presidents: Attila Ertsey, Péter Hajnóczy and Ferenc Makovényi. It should be noted that Ferenc Makovényi is the current Chair of the ACE Work Group Education.

The Federation of Societies of Architects of Belgium (FAB)

The FAB has recently elected a new President, Luc Deleuze for a two-year mandate. He replaces Jan Ketelaer (who has served several times on the Executive Board of the ACE) who finishes his mandate and retires from activities in the FAB at the same time.

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>

KOLI Forum – Finland

The President, Juhani Katainen, represented the ACE at this high-level Conference in October last ,which adopted and published a set of Theses on the challenges being faced at the present time. Its focus was on sustainable use of resources and development with a particular emphasis on forest-based products (a great natural resource in Finland). The President reported that the event was highly inspirational and that it contained many pointers that the ACE could benefit from. To read more about this event that will be repeated every two years, go to:

www.koliforum.fi

Joint Workshop Event with Schools of Architecture

The ACE is currently planning, together with the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE) that has about 150 Schools of Architecture as members, a Joint Workshop aimed at identifying the subjects on which a much closer collaboration between the profession and schools can be built. The Workshop will take place on the 29th January 2010 in Paris and it is hoped that about 15 participants from each organisation will attend. For more information on this event, write to:

adrian.joyce@ace-cae.eu

The event will benefit from the expertise of Alain Vincent who will act as an “agent provocateur” to ensure that the debate is sharp and focussed and that it does not fall into the trap of becoming an internal discussion among architects on favoured subjects. Registration is open only to delegates from the two organisations and will, due to the limited number of places available, be dealt with on a “first come, first served” basis.

ACE Events and Meetings in January and February 2010:

Work Group Professional Experience – Brussels – 11th January

First Meeting of the Executive Board in 2010 – Brussels – 22nd and 23rd January

ACE-EAAE Workshop – Paris – 29th January

Work Group on Architectural Design Contests – Berlin – 12th February

General Coordination Meeting – Brussels – 19th February

OTHER MATTERS

Public Consultation on Common Language for Sustainable Construction

The ACE is currently working on a joint project with the European Concrete Platform (ECP) to devise a widely accepted vocabulary in the field of sustainable construction. The project team have set down proposed definitions for about 370 terms and it has established a WIKI website on which it is possible for users to suggest changes to the proposals and to place comments and remarks. The ACE and the ECP are hoping that a broad range of experts will log on to the site and make suggestions so as to improve the accuracy and acceptability of the definitions given. The deadline for making suggestions is 10th January 2010 after which the project team will finalise the vocabulary before it is launched during the European Sustainable Energy Week event on the 24th March.

To take part, go to: www.sccommonlanguage.eu

The Irish Government Publishes its Policy on Architecture 2009-2015

The ACE strongly welcomes the recent publication, by the Irish Government, of its Policy on Architecture for the period 2009-2015. It was launched by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the 8th October after a lengthy period of work and consultation. The Irish Government expect it to provide a dynamic framework for the implementation of public policy on architecture over the next seven years. The ACE is particularly pleased that one of the countries most affected by the global economic crisis has chosen this time to launch its Policy on Architecture. It reads this as an indication of the fact that sound public policy on architecture, which is a public good, can be a stimulus for economic recovery.

To download a copy of the Policy, go to:

<http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/Heritage/ArchitecturalHeritage/FileDownload,21230,en.pdf>

Source: Bulletin Quotidien Europe No. 9986

Crossing Borders - Bridging Gaps Conference Welcomes Proposed Policy of Architecture for Sweden

As already announced in the previous issue of *ACE Info* a Conference on this topic was held in Stockholm from 2-5 December 2009 organised by the Swedish Presidency in the context of the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP). About 200 participants from Europe and beyond attended the successful conference, which was addressed by European and International speakers. A document entitled "Architectural Policy for Sweden 2010-2015: Architecture and Politics" was also presented on that occasion by the Association of Swedish Architects who also arranged an Architecture Day on the 4th of December.

The presentations and proceedings of the Conference will be available at a later stage.

Mobility Project for Architects

The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) that has held various meetings on the fringes of the Conference mentioned above has just been granted by the European Commission €210,000 for a project called "Convergent Territories". The goal of this project, that will be carried out by a group of partners led by EFAP over two years, is to contribute to implementing the EU's new strategy in favour of sustainable development, and to contribute to the attractiveness of European cities through more intensive exchanges between city planners and cultural players.

For more information contact David Vernet at:

secretariat@efap-fepa.eu

URBAN Intergroup re-established in the European Parliament

As already hinted in earlier editions of *ACE Info* the Secretaries General of the Political Groups of the European Parliament agreed on the 10th of December on the list of the 21 Intergroups that will be in place during the current legislature. As anticipated, the URBAN Intergroup that is of particular interest to the ACE, was one of those approved (the ACE is one of the external Partners). It will be presided over by Jan Olbrycht MEP (EPP Group, Poland) who was the First Vice President of the Intergroup Urban.Housing in the previous legislature.

More information will be given in the next edition of *ACE Info*.

New EU-US Energy Council Launched

On the 4th November last on the day after the EU-US Summit in Washington, a new EU-US Energy Council was launched by the EU Energy Commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, the External Relations Commissioner, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the Research Commissioner, Janez Potocnik, the Swedish Enterprise Minister Maud Olofsson, the US Deputy Secretary of State, James Steinberg and the US Energy Secretary, Steven Chu. As can be expected from the high level of persons who launched this new initiative, it can be seen that both sides have high hopes and ambitions for this new body. Its goal is to deepen the transatlantic dialogue on strategic issues such as security of supply, the move towards low carbon sources and scientific collaboration on energy technologies. The ACE hopes that

the issue of energy efficiency technologies for buildings will feature highly in the collaboration on energy technologies as this is a field in which the EU is a global leader and in which it needs to maintain that leadership. It is also a topic that could feed the ongoing cooperation between the ACE and the American Institute of Architects.

For more information, go to:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1674&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN>

OpenCarbon.com

A new website that seeks to spread sustainability ideas has been established following research that shows that less than 1% of the workforce can afford to attend conferences to hear presentations from knowledgeable orators. The website will be a clearing house for all the content that is being offered at conferences around the world and accessing that content will be free. The focus of the website is all issues, including construction, that concern sustainability and climate change.

To see for yourself, go to:

www.opencarbon.com

PUBLICATIONS

Restructuring in the Construction Sector

With access to credit severely restricted, the construction industry is in crisis. A new report from Eurofound, *Restructuring the construction sector*, looks at how the sector is coping with the downturn and at what measures are being taken to reduce jobs losses. To download the report, go to:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/erm/studies/tn0904036s/tn0904036s.htm>

CALL FOR PAPERS

PALENC 2010 Passive and Low Energy Cooling for the Built Environment

This event scheduled to take place from the 29th September 2010 to 1st October 2010 in Rhodes island (Greece) and it is jointly organised with the European Conference on Energy Performance & Indoor Climate in buildings (EPIC 2010). It will be focused on the application of passive cooling techniques in the urban environment and in buildings with emphasis on heat mitigation techniques. Interested contributors are kindly asked to submit the Abstract Submission Form as soon as possible and before the 31st of December 2009. Full details at:

<http://palenc2010.conferences.gr/index.php?id=5214>

Energy Management in Cultural Heritage

This Conference is scheduled to take place in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 6th to 8th April 2011. The main conference goals are to promote the best practice and standards in the fields of energy efficiency in cultural heritage buildings and to raise awareness about contemporary ways of protecting and restoring cultural heritage. The organisers have issued a call for papers with a deadline for the submission of abstracts in March 2010.

Full information is available at the following address:

www.ee.undp.hr/dubrovnik2011ee

EVENTS

Commercial Real Estate Development in Europe

This conference will be held on 4th and 5th March 2010 in Amsterdam (The Netherlands). It will focus on successful strategies, practices and methods to support growth and it will examine the innovative renewable technologies and construction systems in commercial real estate development for companies to stay competitive in challenging times. For the full programme, pricing and registration information, please contact Mr Ola Samuelsson at the following address:

marketing2@marcusevansuk.com

Architecture & Change

The Chamber of Architects Bursa Section (Turkey) is holding the 22nd International Building & Life Congress. The main theme of the Conference is "Architecture & Change" and it will be structured

around several broad themes including, among others, the reciprocal expectations of education and practice, the effects of technological developments on architecture and ecology and architecture. Full information on:

www.bursamimar.org.tr

6th European sustainable Cities and Town Conference

After Aalborg in 2004 and Sevilla in 2007, Dunkerque (France) will welcome this Conference from the 19th to the 21st May 2010. The theme of the Conference will be "Delivering Sustainable Cities: The Local Leadership Challenge". The Dunkerque 2010 Conference will explore how local sustainability can represent an answer to the current economic, social and climate challenges. Full information is available at the following address:

www.dunkerque2010.org

UIA Congress 2011

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

<http://www.uia2011tokyo.com/en/>

Listing of events relating to Urban Issues

The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) maintains a very good listing of events that relate to urban issues on its website, many of which are interest to architects. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.eukn.org/eukn/meetings/index.html>

▲ ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS

Blue award: building for an environment worth living in

The Vienna University of Technology Department for Spatial and Sustainable Design is organising the Blue Award, an International Award for students. The Blue Award will be given in three categories: Urban Transformation and Development, Building with Ecological Systems, and Building in existing Structures. Full details are available at the following address :

<http://www.raumgestaltung.tuwien.ac.at/en/blue-award>

Redevelopment of the European Quarter in Brussels

Beliris is organising an international architectural ideas contest to transform the Schumann Roundabout located at the heart of the European Institutions in Brussels by means of a negotiated procedure with publicity. The first open stage during which candidates can register is currently running and closes on the 15th January 2010. More information on:

www.oneschuman.eu

Sixth European Prize for Urban Public Space

This European prize has been created to recognise and promote the movement for the recovery and creation of public spaces in European Cities and to evaluate urban planning interventions that foster the public dimension of urban space and reinforce its capacity for social integration. Projects carried out between 2008 and 2009 are eligible to enter. The application period is open and will be closed on 29th January 2010. The competition rules and all the necessary information can be found at :

<http://www.publicspace.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/>

European Forum for Architectural Policies

<http://www.efap-fepa.eu/>

EU Video Website:

<http://www.youtube.com/eutube>

URBACT Hous-Es Network website:

<http://urbact.eu/projects/hous-es.html>

Sustainable building website

www.sustainablebuilding.info

Collegi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya (COAC) international relations database:

<http://www.coac.net/international/>

Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori (CNAPPC) database - ArchiEuro:

<http://www.awn.it/AWN/Engine/RAServePG.php/P/26111AWN0905/L/1>

Website of the 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 this *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 eight editions per year. You are free to circulate the document as widely as you wish, to translate its contents for use in your publications and to refer to the information it contains once you credit the ACE as the origin.

If you wish to receive *ACE Info* regularly and you are not on the mailing list, you can register online at: <http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/sub/sub/subscribe.asp>

If you have information that you wish to have included in the next edition then e-mail it (in English or French please) to adrian.joyce@ace-cae.eu. The deadline for submissions is the first Friday of each month.

End