



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

ACE INFO

[MARCH 2012]
58

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of the *ACE Info* for 2012, which I hope you will find informative and engaging!



The season finds us approaching spring and looking forward to its brightness, lightness and fragrances!

Your new Executive Board is meeting for the second time this week with a rich agenda, reflecting a lot of work in progress since the beginning of the year. I wish to thank all our member organizations, ACE delegates and activists for the overwhelming support during the elections last November and subsequently, where a lot of you have contacted me or the Secretariat directly, sending your good wishes. We treasure and depend on the feedback from you and it is rewarding when it is so positive. The work of the new ACE Secretary General is already making an impact, both in the office and outside. He has in particular reached out to the voluntary structure and participants of the ACE work groups, in order to learn, motivate and energize the work, in alignment with the known objectives and priorities.

As profession, we can welcome the outcome of a lengthy process - some 18 years(!), of consultation and modernization of the professional qualifications regulatory framework. While the new PQD brings desired improvements and incorporates the requirement for post-graduate practical professional experience leading to registration of an architect, it leaves enough scope for the specifics at national levels.

It is also encouraging to see that various new EU documents and initiatives are beginning to recognize the potential of existing buildings - their renovations and retrofit, as significant area of work which can have a combined effect of engaging the construction sector, creating employment and contributing to the desired reduction targets of energy consumption. There is an increased realisation, and pressure, on public sector to lead the way and invest in the renovations of existing building stock. There is also a growing body of information and knowledge on the nature and scope of that stock across the EU, published by the independent research organisations. Of course, the current economic context does not allow for the extreme optimism. According to the figures published by Fraunhofer Society, if the targets of 20% of the reduction of the energy consumption are to be met by 2020, there has to be a minimal annual GDP growth in Europe of 4%. Such ambition is currently adversely affected by the concrete 'Austerity measures' in a number of our countries.

The general fragmentation of policies, the frequent lack of understanding of spatial planning process, construction process and adequately engaging and positioning of our profession within these, remain the challenge for architects and their representatives-the ACE member organizations. On our part, the challenge is to understand and focus the activity of the ACE in most effective way if we are to be listened to, heard and involved as strategists, coordinators, facilitators and above all-Problem Solvers within the policies affecting built environment,

economy and society. In pursuit of the ambition to be a representative of a relevant, resourceful and effective profession, the ACE continues its work program, with focus on the internal communication and cooperation, rationalised and effective work with partner-networks and on the current projects with external lead partners, developing a body of knowledge and expertise in the domain of sustainable practices.

The coming ECO Forum in Amsterdam, co-organized by the DG Environment and the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment is followed by the ACE General Assembly. This is an opportunity to advance the discussions and put forward the position of European architects to the high-level policy makers. I look forward to seeing you in Amsterdam, on April 25th, 26th and 27th.

Selma Harrington
ACE President

This edition is also available in French.

ACE CORE ISSUES

ACE Reactions on PQD Legislative Proposal



On the 19 December 2011, the European Commission published a legislative proposal to modernise the Professional Qualifications Directive. With this new proposal, the EU Commission is looking to simplify rules for the mobility of professionals within the EU by offering a European Professional Card to all interested professions, which would allow easier and faster recognition of qualifications. The new text is also meant to clarify the framework for consumers, by inviting Member States to review the scope of their regulated professions and by addressing public concerns about language skills and the lack of effective alerts about professional malpractice. To read the EU Commission proposal, go to:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/docs/policy_developments/modernising/COM2011_83_en.pdf

Having analysed the EU legislative proposal, the ACE has highlighted several positive developments such as the extension of minimum training requirements from 4 to 6 years (which include academic education and professional practice experience), the principle of compulsory traineeship, the retention of the five levels of qualifications of article 11, the adoption of e-certificates as professional cards and the inclusion of graduate mobility. However the architectural profession also raised some concerns regarding certain components of the proposal. The ACE proposes, in the interest of simplification, that partial access does not apply to the sectoral professions, including the architectural profession. Moreover, ACE emphasises that notwithstanding the used of “delegated powers and implementing acts” by the Commission, the need to consult and involve stakeholders such as the competent authorities and professional bodies is imperative if proposals are to succeed in both the legislative process and later implementation. In particular, stakeholders should be consulted before implementing new measures on diploma notifications, common training tests, etc. Finally the ACE also believes that provision should be made for more realistic/achievable deadlines for recognition of professional cards under the automatic recognition system.

ACE and its Member Organisations are currently finalising their final response to the PQD Legislative Proposal and circulate this to the European Commission and Parliament.

Source: ACE & European Commission

EU Proposal to Recast the Public Procurement Directive



As announced in previous ACE *Info*, the European Commission published its legislative proposal to modernise the EU Public Procurement Directive on the 20 December 2011. This reform is one of the twelve priority actions set out in the Single Market Act adopted in April 2011. The goal pursued by the Commission is to introduce simple and flexible instruments to allow public authorities and their suppliers to conclude transparent and competitive contracts as easily as possible

and at the best value for money. To read the complete proposal of the EU Commission, go to:
http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/modernising_rules/reform_proposals_en.htm

Throughout the legislative process, the architectural profession has stressed the importance of avoiding measures that could exclude 90% of the architects from access to public contracts. In fact, the ACE Sector Study prepared in 2010 confirmed that architectural offices are mainly small offices, which cannot meet the high financial requirements associated with submitting a tender. The ACE has therefore been working to raise the awareness of public authorities regarding this major concern. Up to this point, the ACE lobbying work seems to have received a positive answer as the Commission plans to amend the Directive on the proportionality principle. The Commission's proposal is now being sent to the European Parliament and Council of Ministers for adoption under the co-decision procedure.

Meanwhile, the ACE Public Procurement work group has met to examine the legislative programme and distil a common position from the views of its Member Organisations. While encouraged by evidence that the Commission has been listening to our views (e.g. on use of turnover, proof of technical capacity, as well as references to life-cycle costing and the prospective introduction of self-declarations), and while underlining our earlier position, advocating greater access for SMEs, sharper use of proportionality to address mis-use of selection criteria, the introduction of life-cycle costing (instead of lowest price) and greater use of design competitions, there are still a number of concerns relating to: the definition of intellectual services, the level of thresholds, aggregation of contracts, the administrative requirements of public authorities, the use of electronic auctions, the status of the negotiated procedure, the weighting of award criteria (Most Advantageous Tender rather than Most Economically Advantageous Tender) and the definition of a single procurement.

At the time of writing, the ACE's initial draft position was expected imminently, and will be circulated to Member Organisations for views at the earliest possibility.

Source: ACE & European Commission

EU NEWS

Priorities of the Danish Presidency of the EU



On the 1 January 2012 Denmark took over the six-month presidency of the Council of the European Union. Denmark is part of the "trio-presidency" where three EU member states work together to ensure a higher degree of coordination and consistency. Denmark joins the trio with Poland (who had the EU Presidency from July to December 2011) and Cyprus (who will have the Presidency after Denmark). The three member states will agree on a common trio programme but each country will also have its own national programme. The Danish Presidency's work programme is called *Europe at work* and is focused on four areas: a more responsible Europe, a more dynamic Europe, a greener Europe and a safer Europe. The Danish Presidency will mainly concentrate its effort on bringing Europe out of the crisis, strengthening growth and job creation. To do so, it will further develop the unexploited potential of the Single Market through efforts regarding the 12 key priorities of the Single Market Act. To read more on the program of the Danish Presidency, visit: <http://eu2012.dk/en/>

Source: Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2012

Towards a Voluntary Common EU Certification Scheme for non-residential Buildings



The recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) requires the European Commission to develop a voluntary common EU Certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings. To this end, the EU Commission organised on 9 January 2012 a stakeholder workshop aimed at assisting the preparation of an implementing act. The ACE Secretary General participated in this exchange of views.

The EPBD requires member states to establish an energy performance certificate (EPCs) for buildings; however the legislation does not specify a common approach. Consequently, the scheme has not been harmonized across the EU and the subsidiarity principle has led to a variety of approaches. In an earlier exchange of views with Member States, there was a broad consensus that any scheme should add value to existing national schemes and a majority of MS agreed with the idea

of developing an EU Brand Label for best-performing non-residential buildings, which would use MS' calculation methods. During the workshop, consultants of the Commission proposed a definition for a performance scale, a methodology for calculating the energy performance of new and existing non-residential buildings and the content of the certificate. They also addressed a series of questions to all participating stakeholders. The Commission is now expecting to receive further comments from stakeholders. ACE will follow the issue closely and its WG Architecture and Sustainable Development will provide input to the discussions by answering the questions asked by the EU Commission.

Source: ACE & European Commission

ACE MATTERS

Crisis deferred? Architects find that 2011 growth is not being sustained

Whereas architects were expecting a revival in their fortunes by the end of 2011, the results of the survey undertaken by the ACE illustrate that a cloud of pessimism is hanging over the architectural profession, in spite of the cautious improvement noted over the last few months. More than half of European architects consider that the economic climate in which they are currently working is not favourable to their activities. However, this reaction should be slightly tempered by the responses received in 2011. Indeed, a comparison today shows a 13% reduction in the number of architects who think that the market is either bad or very bad, and the number of satisfied architects has increased slightly. So the position of the architectural profession improved very slightly, even if it is far removed from the wave of optimism announced in 2011.

The ACE study also looks at architects' workloads over the coming three months. Results indicate that 42% of European architects expect their workload to be stable and 22% even expect a slight increase. Obviously, these predictions are noticeably less positive than those announced in June 2011 given that, since then, a further 20% of architects have revised their workload expectations downwards. The January 2012 survey illustrates that a cloud of pessimism is hanging over the profession and no sector of activity will be spared. Indeed, 35% of European architects expect a reduction in activity in the private housing sector, 43% think that this downfall will also affect the public sector and 50% announced a reduction in the commercial sector. So, it would seem that the architectural profession is not through the worst of the crisis and even expects the situation to get harder in the coming months, with numerous job losses to follow. It would seem, therefore, that although architects have experienced a slight improvement, the great recovery announced in 2011 is nonetheless a few months late. For the full survey results, visit the ACE website at the following address: http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/index/category_id/220

Follow ACE on Facebook

ACE recently opened a Facebook Page to connect via a social network to its delegates, architects and more generally people interested in the field of architecture. The ACE Facebook Page is dedicated to sharing new information regarding ACE work and the architectural world, collecting reactions from the people who follow its posts and offering them a chance to spread their own information concerning events, conferences, publications, etc. The ACE now has more than 250 persons who like its page and expect to have many more in the coming months. If you wish to join ACE on Facebook, create your Facebook account, type "Architects' Council of Europe" in the search bar, then click "I like".

ACE Exhibition on Sustainable Architecture still travelling in 2012

The exhibition "Sustainable Architecture across Europe" organised for the ACE 20th Anniversary in 2010 is still travelling this year. The exhibition showcases 32 of the best examples of sustainable architecture in 25 European countries, displaying the potential of the architects' approach to sustainability. The physical exhibition was displayed at the Wallonia-Brussels Federation in Belgium from 13 – 24 February 2012. Then, in April, the exhibition will be presented at the Arkos Forum in Prague. This Forum is dedicated to Sustainable Architecture and Construction and its first objective is to allow professionals across the construction chain from Prague and Czech Republic to evaluate the extent and the realities of changes that are underway, and to attain a better understanding of the challenges and prospects. For more information on the Arkos Forum, visit:

<http://www.arkosforum.com/indexen.html>

ACE Sector Study 2012

ACE plans to carry out a new Sector Study in 2012. This will be the third reliable and truly comprehensive survey of the architectural profession in Europe – the first study was completed in 2008 and the second in 2010. The questionnaire will be available in 11 languages to encourage ACE Member Organisations and correspondents to participate to the survey. More information will be provided in the next edition of the ACE *Info*.

Announcements from Member Organisations

5th IABR: Making City explores the making of tomorrow's city and the designer's role in that process

How do we make city? That is the central question of the 5th IABR: *Making City*. The inevitable process of urbanization presents a huge political, social, economic and ecological challenge. At the same time, cities offer solutions for the tasks that face us in the 21st century. The city is our future. But only if it is designed, planned and managed better than it is at present. *Making City* explores future urban scenarios and, in the process, puts design first. The 5th IABR: *Making City* opens in April 2012 and features exhibitions at different venues, a conference, debates and lectures, publications, and television and radio programmes made with the VPRO broadcasting corporation. The main exhibition *Making City* will be on show at the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) from 20 April 2012 on. For more information and complete programme, visit the following website:

http://www.iabr.nl/EN/making_city/

News about the ACE Involvement in EU-Funded Projects

The ACE is now involved in 4 EU funded research projects. These projects cover a wide range of issues related to building sustainability, innovation in renovation and innovation in construction. Architects around Europe can benefit from this involvement, making the best of the project outcomes; Very useful reports are regularly uploaded in the relevant project websites whereas training events and workshops are organized for the coming months. On the other hand, the effort to mobilise the ACE network continues and the contribution of architects with relevant knowledge and experience to share, is highly appreciated. For more information please contact: eleni.goni@ace-cae.eu

Open House – FP7 Project



Two years since the project's kick-off, a significant amount of work has been performed. Existing building assessment methodologies were evaluated and their weak points were identified. With the work of more than 50 experts from 20 organisations from 10 European Countries, plus Switzerland, the pilot version of the OPEN HOUSE building sustainability

assessment methodology is now ready. The OPEN HOUSE project is now entering its testing phase: 68 buildings (mainly offices) from 35 countries around Europe will be used for the evaluation and the refinement of the developed methodology. This process will be completed by the end of June 2012. Please visit the projects' website for more information: www.openhouse-fp7.eu. You can also download the 1st newsletter of OPEN HOUSE from the following link: www.openhouse-fp7.eu/news/newsletter

Shelter – An Intelligent Energy Europe Project



Currently, the main task of the ACE in [SHELTER](#) Project is to provide support and advice in Social Housing Organisations that are implementing alternative models of cooperation among professionals, as well as advocated integrated energy design methods in the energy retrofitting of their building stock. Moreover, an inventory of architects involved in energy retrofitting of social housing will be created. The ACE would like to invite all architects with a relevant experience in energy retrofitting of social housing to participate in this task, sharing their knowledge and expertise, so as to pave the way for the

improvement of the influence of architects in all renovation processes. For more information please contact the Project Officer of the ACE, Eleni Goni: eleni.goni@ace-cae.eu

TrainRebuild – An Intelligent Energy Europe Project



In the coming months training workshops addressed to public and private property owners will take place in 10 countries around Europe: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom. The aim of these trainings will be to encourage owners to improve the energy efficiency of their properties, making them aware of the existing link between energy efficiency and increased property value. For more information, please visit the projects' website: www.trainrebuild.eu or join the relevant Build-Up Community that has been set up: "[Training the Building Chain for Refurbishing](#)"

Leema – FP7 Project



The kick-off meeting of LEEMA project took place in Athens in the beginning of February. The project's full title is "Low Embodied Energy Advanced Insulation Materials and Insulating Masonry Components for Energy Efficient Buildings. LEEMA project will have a 4-year duration. Important actors of the building material industry are involved in this project, as well as building research centers and universities. The ACE's responsibility in this project is the technical coordination of a Business plan for the management, dissemination, exploitation and protection of the knowledge, processes and products developed. Moreover, the ACE, with the support of all project partners, has to successfully address the challenge of introducing new products in the rather conservative building sector. The projects' website will be ready by April 2012.

ACE at External Events

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/public/contents/index/category_id/211/language/en

ACE Events and Meetings from March to May 2012 (all in Brussels unless stated otherwise):

ACE Finance Committee Meeting – Friday 9 March 2012

Second Executive Board Meeting – Friday 9 and Saturday 10 March 2012

Meeting of WG Continuing Professional Development – Monday 19 March 2012 (Paris)

Meeting of the WG Scope of Services – Friday 30 March 2012 (Paris)

ACE General Assembly – Friday 27 April 2012 (Amsterdam)

OTHER MATTERS

Jeff Potter elected 2012 AIA President

Delegates of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), gathered at the Library of Congress in Washington DC, elected Jeff Potter as President in January 2012. He previously served as President of the Texas Society of architects and he held many leadership positions with the AIA Board of Directors. He also runs a four-person architectural office. His ambition as AIA President is to shape a sustainable future for the next generation of architects. He said that: "In the coming months, the AIA will take action to not only become more meaningful to its emerging professionals, but to envision a practice future of increasing promise". To read more on this election, visit:

<http://www.aia.org/practicing/AIAB092081?dvid=&recspec=AIAB092081>

Source: AIA

New Energy Coalition Website

The Coalition for Energy Savings announced that its new website with the playable Gapometer is now available. The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together business, professional and civil society associations. The Coalition's purpose is to make the case for a European energy policy that places a

much greater, more meaningful emphasis on energy efficiency and savings. In particular it is arguing for the current 20% energy efficiency target to be binding. Visit the Coalition's new website at following address: www.energycoalition.eu.

Source: The Coalition for Energy Savings

Winning Project for the Schuman Square in Brussels

Back in 2009 Brussels-Capital Region and the Federal State of Belgium launched an international competition for the urban design of the Schuman Square, which is in the centre of the European district in Brussels. The winning project was presented by the Groupe Xaveer De Geyter Architects in collaboration with Michel Desvigne-Ney and Partners-Tritel. The jury particularly appreciated the strength, elegance, readability and simplicity of the project, which proposes a real identity to the square and creates a new urban focus point. For more information, visit: <http://www.oneschuman.eu/>

Source: One Schuman

Results of the Young Architectural International Award – Antalya, Turkey

The Turkish Chamber of Architects and its Antalya regional branch announced the results of their Biennial International Awards Programme, which was designed to create ideas on "stops" in the city. Participants were invited to imagine these "stops", which create spaces of socialisation, in the dynamic of one city of their choice. The 1st prize was awarded to the Turkish architect Gencay Çubuk for a 3D fiction of the future of New York where a system of 'elastic' intersections and 'capsules' allows different levels and different types of spaces for 'stops'. The theme of the competition also served for the debates held during the international young architects meeting in Antalya. More information can be found at: <http://www.youngarchitectsmeeting.com/>

Source: International Young Architects' Meeting & UIA

Portuguese Architect Paulo David honoured with Alvar Aalto Medal

The Alvar Aalto Medal is awarded to an architect or an architectural office in recognition of a significant contribution to creative architecture. The 2012 Alvar Aalto Medal was awarded to Paulo David who realizes a convincing synthesis of contemporary and traditional architecture on his home island of Madeira. The 2012 jury – composed of the Alvar Aalto Foundation, the Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA), the Foundation for the Museum of Finnish Architecture, the Finnish Architectural Society and the City of Helsinki – recognized that Paulo David's work is locally rooted and at the same time universal; searching for an appropriate, relevant and authentic architecture that fuses with the landscape. To read more on this subject, go to:

<http://aaltopress.wordpress.com/2012/02/02/portuguese-architect-paulo-david-honoured-with-alvar-aalto-medal/>

Source: Alvar Aalto Museum

The 2012 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate

Wang Shu of *The People's Republic of China* will be the recipient of the 2012 Pritzker Architecture Prize. The formal ceremony for what has come to be known throughout the world as architecture's highest honour will be in Beijing on 25 May 2012. The purpose of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, which was founded in 1979 by the late Jay A. Pritzker and his wife, Cindy, is to honour annually a living architect whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture. The laureate will receive a \$100,000 grant and a bronze medallion. To learn more on 2012 laureate, go to: <http://pritzker.wrightcolor.com/2012/>

Source: Locus Newsletter March 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Building with an Architect

The publication "Building with an Architect" realized by the CNOA France is now available in English. Realized for the first time in 2009 (in French only), this publication is meant for customers, including individuals wishing to build their own home. It was distributed widely to present the role of the architect, answer owners' practical questions and simplify the use of architects' services. The English

version is a lighter version of 12 pages, which highlights the main information as well as useful addresses. To download the publication, please go to: <http://www.architectes.org/actualites/building-with-an-architect?newsletter=1>

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

EU Commission Executive Training Programme (ETP)

The Executive Training Programme is a EU Commission grant programme funding a year of high quality business, language and cultural training for upcoming EU executives from European companies at top universities in Korea (Yonsei) or Japan (Waseda), as well as providing a scholarship for participants (€2,000/month for Korea and €2,200/month for Japan). Over the last 30 years the ETP has gained considerable prestige and a reputation for vastly improving the ability of European companies to develop a successful strategy for their Japanese or Korean operations given the existing barriers beyond trade barriers. It boosts the careers of participants and gives them a better chance of success. Moreover, given that Japan has the second largest architectural design market in the world, its relevance for EU businesses and particularly for architectural organisations can only increase. The programme is open to EU participants from EU companies with turnover above € 1 million and more than 5 people considering entering or expanding their business activities in the Japanese or Korean markets. Applications for the upcoming cycle from November 2012 to November 2013 are accepted until 31 May 2012 via www.euetp.eu.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Under Constructions: Call for papers

The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) calls for papers in the framework of its project *Under Constructions* for a book to be published soon and launched at the Venice Biennale of Architecture 2012. *Under Constructions* is an observatory of innovative architectural and urban processes in Europe, which allows promoting engaged, imaginative, unexpected architectural and spatial design. If you are an architect, group of architects, artist, inhabitant, cooperative, politician or client and you wish to contribute to this project, you can send a paper (3000 characters) that will help to gather, analyse and support innovative initiatives in Europe! To submit your paper please fill-in the available form before 26 March 2012:

http://www.efap-fepa.eu/documents/pieces_jointes/Call_for_Papers_Appel_a_contribution.pdf

Call for Papers: 7th Energy Forum on Solar Building Skins

The aim of the Energy Forum on Solar Building Skins is to contribute to a multidisciplinary, integrated planning approach among architects, engineers, scientists, energy managers and manufacturers, to reduce energy consumption while improving the comfort and health of the building's occupants. Emphasis will be placed on the latest developments and innovations in integrated components for the building industry, in particular with regard to multifunctional building envelopes. If you wish to include your presentation in our conference program or poster presentation, you are welcome to send 400 words proposals to the international scientific conference committee. Proposals should be sent in PDF format to proposals@energy-forum.com by 15 April 2012. Following are the topics, which will be covered by this year's conference: multifunctional building skins, holistic concepts of plus energy buildings and performance criteria for building envelopes. For more information, go to: <http://www.energy-forum.com/>

COMPETITIONS

Design a Signature Tower Kuala Lumpur – UIA

1 Malaysia Development Berhad Real Estate Sdn Bhd launches a call for candidatures open to architects worldwide with a view to participation in an international competition for the design of a signature tower in Kuala Lumpur International Financial District. The competition is organised by the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) with the support of the International Union of Architects.

Candidatures may be submitted by architects or teams led by an architect, worldwide, until 22 March 2012. For more information on selection criteria and registration fee, go to: http://www.uia-architectes.org/texte/england/2012_Kuala/2-annonce.html

Young Architectural International Award – UIA

The Chamber of Architects of Turkey and its Antalya branch announce the fourth edition of its international award for young architects. This award honours the winning projects of an international ideas competition on the subject of office buildings of tomorrow. Participants will interpret the speed, dynamism and changes brought about in these spaces by the omnipresent and unavoidable information and communication technologies. The deadline for registration and transmission of entries is the 26 of March 2012. For more information on this competition, go to: <http://www.youngarchitectsmeeting.com/ana.cfm?PgID=146>

EVENTS

Meeting of Directors General Responsible for Urban Development, Copenhagen – DENMARK

The meeting of Directors General responsible for Urban Development will take place in Copenhagen, on 13 – 14 March 2012 during the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It can host delegations consisting of up to two delegates from each Member State and also welcome 1 or 2 delegates from other countries, European institutions as well as organisations dealing with urban matters. Individual requests for the extension of delegations will be handled by the Danish Presidency on an individual basis. For further information, please contact the secretary of the meeting: Trine Bang Nielsen, trnl@mbbl.dk

EU Conference: Planet under pressure, London – UNITED KINGDOM

The "Planet Under Pressure" Conference will take place in London, UK, from 26-29 March 2012. Based on the latest scientific evidence, this conference will provide a comprehensive update of our knowledge of the Earth system and the pressure our planet is now under. It will focus the scientific community's and the wider world's attention on climate, ecological degradation, human well-being, planetary thresholds, food security, energy, governance across scales and poverty alleviation. The conference will also discuss solutions, at all scales, to move societies on to a sustainable pathway. It will provide scientific leadership towards the 2012 UN Rio +20 conference, also in 2012. During the session that will take place in Room 6 at 12:30 on Tuesday 27 March entitled "The European Union Horizon 2020: research on climate, resource efficiency and raw materials", the European Commission will present Horizon 2020, the new European Research and Innovation funding programme for the period 2014-2020. For more information and registration, visit: <http://www.planetunderpressure2012.net/index.asp>

12th Eco Innovation Forum, Amsterdam – NETHERLANDS

The 12th European Forum on Eco-innovation, with the theme of "*Scaling-up sustainable construction through value chain innovation*", will be held in Amsterdam on 25 – 26 April 2012. For more information on Eco Innovation Forum, go to the European Commission Website at the following address: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/events/forum_en.html (draft program available from the ACE Secretariat).

13th World Triennial of architecture, InterArch 2012, Sofia – BULGARIA

The International Academy of Architecture, in cooperation with the Union of Architects in Bulgaria and the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, is organizing the 13th World Triennial of Architecture "InterArch 2012" on 13 – 16 May in Sofia (Bulgaria). For more information, please download the following document: <http://www.cka.cc/ostatni/akce/interarch-2012/INTERARH2012.pdf>

European Heritage Congress 2012 in Lisbon – PORTUGAL

The 2012 European Heritage Congress will take place in Lisbon from 30 May to 2 June 2012. This event, jointly organised by Europa Nostra and its Portuguese member organisation Centro Nacional de Cultura, will bring together many Europa Nostra members, European heritage professionals and volunteers, as well as proud laureates of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards. The public highlight of the Congress – the European Heritage Awards Ceremony – will be held on 1 June at the UNESCO World Heritage site, the Jerónimos Monastery. To read the complete programme of the Congress, go to: www.europanostra.org/lisbon

EU Sustainable Energy Week, Brussels – BELGIUM

Between 18 – 22 June 2012, the European Union is organising the annual Sustainable Energy Week. On this occasion, the European Institutions, associates of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign, and other important players in the field will organise a series of events in Brussels. These will include a three-day policy conference organised by the EU Commission from 19 to 21 June. More information will be provided in coming editions of the ACE Info.

Green Architecture: Innovative Approaches, Scientific Conference, Vilnius - LITHUANIA

The Faculty of Architecture of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University in cooperation with Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania invites researchers, experts and practitioners from different countries to express their interest and present abstracts for the Scientific Conference on *Green Architecture: Innovative Approaches* that will take place in Vilnius from 25 – 26 October 2012. For more information, visit the following website: <http://old.vgtu.lt/konfer/index.php?link=EN.2.564.3384>

15th Asian Congress of Architects, Bali – INDONESIA

Once every two years, the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA) organises a Congress to show latest development in architectural trends. During the event, several sessions will feature the pictures and reports of successful achievements of architects from eighteen member countries of ARCASIA in addition to the speech, discussion and presentation on the global as well as regional issues. To read the complete programme, go to: <http://arcasiabali2012.com/index.php?menu=1>

EcoBalance Conference, Yokohama – JAPAN

Every two years, the Institute of Life Cycle Assessment in Japan (ILCAJ) organises an International Conference on EcoBalance, which is an important forum where academics, industries and professionals can discuss the evaluation of environmental performance as well as the development and implementation of new methods. The Conference will be held at Keio University in Yokohama from 20 to 23 November 2012. For more information, go to: <http://ilcaj.snnt.or.jp/EcoBalance2012/index.html>

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Selection of Useful and interesting links:

European Commission homepage

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

Search page for Commission documents

http://europa.eu/documents/comm/index_en.htm

The Barroso Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/index_en.htm

Commission page containing reference documents for the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/future_en.htm#docs

The European Parliament Homepage:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

Website of the Danish Presidency (Jan to Jun 2012):

www.eu2012.dk

Website of the Cyprus Presidency (Jul to Dec 2012):

<http://www.cy2012eu.gov.cy>

European Forum for Architectural Policies:

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

EU Video Website:

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

URBACT Hous-Es Network website:
<http://urbact.eu/projects/hous-es.html>

Sustainable building website
www.sustainablebuilding.info

Collegi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya (COAC) international relations database:
<http://www.coac.net/international/>

Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori (CNAPPC) database - ArchiEuro:
<http://www.awn.it/AWN/Engine/RAServePG.php/P/26111AWN0905/L/1>

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

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

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

ArchiEuropa website – comparative information on practice of architecture:
<http://www.arvha.net/selectionlang.php?s=AXMIG1FZFB>

Archi-Student website – a wealth of information on schools and students of architecture in Europe:
www.archi-students.org

Link to the Newsletter of the International Union of Architects (UIA):
<http://www.uia-architectes.org/texte/england/Menu-2/4-lettre.html>

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

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

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

ACE Website:
www.ace-cae.eu

Useful tip:

In the website addresses given in *ACE Info* for the documents of the EU, you will frequently see the following near the end of the address: “_en”. These two letters define the language of the document (English in the case of “en”) and you can usually change these two letters in order to bring you to a different language version as follows:

French_fr	German_de	Danish_da	Swedish_sv
Italian_it	Spanish_es	Greek_el	Dutch_nl
Portuguese_pt	Finnish_fi	Czech_cs	Maltese_mt
Estonian_et	Latvian_lv	Lithuanian_lt	Polish_pl
Hungarian_hu	Slovene_sl	Slovak_sk	Bulgarian_bg
Romanian_ro			

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

End