



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

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ACE Alert

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Policy

Review of the Professional Qualifications Directive: the European Parliament endorses in first reading the Commission's proposal

On 9 October 2013, the European Parliament voted in favour of the Commission legislative proposal for modernising Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications. The modernisation of the Directive does not constitute a radical change, but reaffirms the underlying philosophy of mutual recognition and mutual trust between Member States and does not touch on the fundamental principle of automatic recognition of qualifications for certain professions, including that of architect.

The **European Professional Card**, one of the major changes to this Directive, will be an electronic certificate to be exchanged between competent authorities via the Internal Market Information System (IMI). The card will be made available for those professions that request it. Its introduction for a particular profession will require implementing acts to be adopted by the Commission. The revised Directive updates, on the other hand, the **minimum training requirements** to gain automatic recognition: for the architectural profession, either five years of university training or not less than four years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent) at a university, supplemented by a supervised professional traineeship of a minimum of two years. According to the new Directive, Member States will have to ensure that sectoral professions, including architects, can update their knowledge, skills and competences via **continuous professional development**.

Formal adoption by the Council is foreseen in the coming weeks. Following publication of the Directive in the Official Journal of the EU, the Directive will enter into force and Member States shall have two years to transpose the Directive into national law.

- A provisional version of the consolidated text is available in all EU languages on the EP website¹.
- Read the "Memo - Frequently asked questions" published by the European Commission².

Delegated Acts of the Construction Products Regulation

On 30 October, the European Commission adopted the Delegated Acts that supplement the recently implemented Construction Products Regulation. According to the Commission's proposal, manufacturers of construction products (e.g. bricks, insulation, doors etc.) will be able to upload digital "declarations of

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2013-0408+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

² http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-867_en.htm?locale=en

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performance” on their websites. These documents must accompany every construction product sold, in order to give information on their essential characteristics (e.g. fire resistance, mechanical strength or energy efficiency). Once the legal act is agreed, companies selling construction products in the EU should be able to upload these certificates online for public viewing. Today, all such declarations must be individually communicated to each customer by post or email. Online availability of these declarations should enable faster communication through the supply chain, reduce producer costs and facilitate sales of construction products. The proposal will also make it easier for consumers to find out what performance they should expect from the product they are about to buy, thus increasing consumer confidence. The Construction Products Regulation (EU) 305/2011 was adopted by the Commission in 2011 and has been fully in force since 1 July 2013. The objective of the Regulation is to ensure the availability of reliable and accurate information on the performance of construction products, based on technical specifications that are harmonised across all EU countries. More information on the Construction Products Regulation can be found on the Commission website³.

On-going consultations

Evaluation of the Energy Labelling Directive and certain aspects of the Ecodesign Directive

This public consultation enables stakeholders to express their opinions on various aspects of both Directives. The results will be used to contribute to an analysis of the performance of the Directives to date and how they can be improved in future. More information and the on-line questionnaire can be found on the Commission website⁴. Consultation open until **30 November 2013**.

Timber Industry Professional's Survey

This on-line survey is seeking the views of a variety of professional groups (architects, specifiers, property owners, building contractors, etc) on the expectations for service lives of wood products in the construction sector and on the usefulness of current standards in this field. It is part of the EU-funded research project PerformWOOD (“Performance standards for wood in construction – delivering customer service life needs”), which aims at developing standards to be more predictive and better serving the needs of users. The survey is available in the following languages:

- English: <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=138365504737>
- German: <http://surveys.bmtrada.com/performwoodde/>
- Spanish: <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=138329627174>
- French: <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=138332379969>

The survey closes on the **17 November**.

Competitions

RIAI – Competition for Glasnevin Centenary Chapel

Glasnevin Trust is the largest provider of funeral services in Ireland. Glasnevin Trust wishes to develop the 1916 Centenary Chapel to commemorate, in particular the 232 people who died during the 1916 Rising and who are buried in a mass grave on the site in St. Paul’s Cemetery, as well as all others who lost their lives in those events. The Chapel is to be for all denominations and will primarily accommodate ceremonies held before a cremation. The Centenary Chapel should be a peaceful, contemplative space which will commemorate those who lost their lives in the 1916 Rising on one hand, while creating a space in modern times where one can grieve for and remember the recently deceased. It should be a place of

³ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/legislation/index_en.htm

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/consultations/201310_evaluation_of_energy_labelling_directive_en.htm

commemoration and contemplation and to a degree, a place of happy memories and celebration of what has been achieved in a life. Registration deadline: **29 November 2013** - Submission deadline: **18 December 2013**. More information on the RIAI website⁵.

Call for projects in Liège (Belgium)

In consultation with the City of Liège and the Walloon Minister of Environment, Territorial Planning and Mobility, Fedimmo launches a call for projects within the framework of a real-estate project (approximately 35,000 m² of office and residential space) on the remaining parcel under its ownership. To Fedimmo, this project creates new perspectives for the development of its land within the next years. All the documents linked to this call for projects are available at: www.liege-appel-a-projets.be (documents in French). Consultation open until **9 December 2013**.

Events

Upcoming BUILD UP Web-seminars

- **Indoor air quality and thermal comfort: Conserving energy, maintaining health – 19 November 2013**

In this web-seminar, you will learn about 1) the significance of indoor air quality in terms of its impact on health and productivity, and associated costs; 2) the inseparable connection between indoor air quality and building energy demands, including examples of efficient technologies for maintaining good indoor air quality; 3) the need for an approach to building research, design, and operation that recognises this connection. More information and registration⁶.

- **Statistics on Europe's building stock: A guide to collecting, harmonising and sharing data – 28 November 2013**

Better data is required to develop more energy efficient buildings. As strategies for improving the energy performance of buildings become more complex, policy-makers need more and better data to design and evaluate policies and programmes and to put in place monitoring systems to measure the progress of the various policy instruments. This web-seminar is an opportunity to learn more about building data and existing gaps in information and to hear about the European Commission's vision for gathering and harmonising building data across Europe. More information and registration⁶.

Playback presentations and video recordings of previous BUILD UP web-seminars are available:

- Building and Ductwork Airtightness: Legislative Drivers, New Concerns and New Approaches⁶
- Energy-efficient retrofitting of residential buildings: A holistic approach is required⁶

ACE Affairs

Vacancy – ACE Project Officer

The ACE is recruiting a Project Officer at its Secretariat in Brussels. Access the detailed job offer on the ACE website⁷.

Summary:

- Project Officer sought to work on EU-Funded Projects
- Location for the post will be at the ACE Secretariat in Brussels, Belgium
- Contract will be for an unlimited duration starting as soon as possible

⁵ http://www.riai.ie/index.php/competitions/detail/1916_centenary_chapel_at_glasnevin_cemetery

⁶ <http://www.buildup.eu/events>

⁷ http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/js/tiny_mce/jscripts/tiny_mce/plugins/imagemanager/files/Advert_Project_Officer.pdf

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- Conditions Gross monthly salary: around 3500 € (13th month, paid holidays, luncheon vouchers + health insurance)
 - Minimum qualifications required are successful completion of Masters level (Bologna) degree course and experience (3-5 years) of environmental design of buildings (a qualification in architecture or a related profession would be an asset)
 - Languages; the successful applicant will be fluent in both English and French and highly competent in written English.