

1. List of participants

Considering the characteristics of the current participants in the ECF, candidates for participation in the ECF must be European federations, adequately representing a significant field of activity in the construction sector and accepting the ECF Policy Paper. Any such federation wishing to become a new participant in the ECF, must be proposed by at least one of the current participants and be accepted by the others.

ACE	Architects' Council of Europe
CEMBUREAU	European Cement Association
CEPMC	Council of European Producers of Materials for Construction
EAPA	European Asphalt Pavement Association
ECCE	European Council of Civil Engineers
ECP	European Concrete Platform
EFBWW	European Federation of Building and Woodworkers
EFCA	European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations
EURIMA	European Insulation Manufacturers Association
FIEC	European Construction Industry Federation
UEPC	European Union of Developers and House Builders

2. Policy Paper

The Construction Sector

- construction = building, civil engineering and all related activities
- construction = largest industrial employer in Europe
- construction = high multiplier effect : 1 job in construction = 2 jobs in other sectors (source : SECTEUR study)
- construction = basis for the development of Europe and the well-being of its citizens
- construction = team-work of different key players in a chain of competence and cooperation

What is ECF?

ECF is a platform for cooperation on issues of common interest between independent organisations representing key players in the construction sector and participating on a voluntary basis (see enclosed list).

ECF is not an umbrella organisation and does not represent the participating organisations.

Consequently, any position paper will carry the names/ logos only of those ECF participating organisations that support it.

Participants in meetings are the Presidents and/or Directors General. Where appropriate, working and drafting meetings are open to any person delegated by an organisation participating in ECF.

What are the aims of ECF?

- The principal aim of ECF is the establishment and recognition of a single comprehensive policy approach for the European construction sector through raising the awareness of the decision makers at a European level to the specific issues affecting the sector as a whole. To this end, the participating organisations strive to arrive at consensual views on issues of common interest.
- This should lead over time to:
 - an increase of the construction sector's direct involvement in the preparation of all EU legislative acts, programmes and actions that have a bearing on the sector
 - a more coherent and coordinated approach by the European institutions towards the sector.

Relationship with other Sectoral Coordination Bodies

- ECF participants will remain in close contact and collaborate with sector specific coordination bodies, such as:
 - FOCOPE "The forum for construction in the European Parliament " as well as the Parliament's Intergroup "Urban Logement".
 - ECCREDI, the European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation

With which Issues will ECF deal?

- Cooperation in ECF shall concentrate on
- general exchange of information on issues of common interest
 - specific work on a limited number of key issues of strategic importance for the construction sector as a whole.
 - common actions to promote the sector’s interests.

Key Issues

The participating organisations, in addition to exchanging views on topical matters going through the legislative process in the EU institutions have identified the following key issues:

- the competitiveness of the construction sector
- public procurement
- benchmarking (countries’ infrastructure/ administration and the sector)
- TENs (Pan-European transport networks)
- image of the sector
- spatial and urban development (regional development, social, environmental and transport policies)
- Energy efficiency in buildings and carbon emission reduction in the built environment.

All issues are addressed from various perspectives such as employment, training and education, sustainable development, quality etc.

website:
www.ecf.be

