



EurEta I

European Higher Engineering and Technical Professionals Association
Europäischer Verband höherer Berufe des Ingenieurwesens und der Technik
Association Européenne des Professions Supérieures d'Ingénieurs et de la Technique

2005 Annual Report of the Board to the General Assembly

EurEta intends to play an important and influential role as the pan-European professional body for higher engineering and technical professionals. 2004 saw a number of key developments which affected the Association, particularly relating to the European Union's aim further to facilitate the free movement of professionals. These developments are set out in this annual report and have been considered by the Board throughout the year in the light of EurEta's vision of being an **organisation representing the higher educated engineers corresponding to the 4th level of the EU Directive on Professional Qualifications** (see below).

As in previous years, the Board has worked to raise the profile of EurEta among organisations and individual engineers in order to increase the number of registrants. Individuals who, for whatever reason, are unable to register through a National Member are being encouraged to apply for registration through the International Section. The procedure for registration has been well documented on the homepage of EurEta www.eureta.org.

NUMBER OF REGISTRANT in 2005:

Finland: 168 registrants
Switzerland: 663 registrants
Italy: 684 registrants

From the LEGISLATIVE POINT OF VIEW IN THE BROADER EUROPEAN SCENARIO.

EurEta has actively participated to the entire decision-making process leading the final adoption of the EU Directive on Professional Qualifications (**Directive 2005/36/EC**), including the voting session of the EU Parliament on May 2005.

In this respect, Raffaele Gulizia has made EurEta's voice heard within several contexts. His and therefore EurEta's proximity to the Directive Rapporteur MEP S. Zappalà has provided several interesting information and orientation for the future. The Board worked hard in the last on these Directives which will be the basic of the strategy of EurEta for the near future.

Contents of the Directive: it introduces various levels of competence and the idea of common platforms between equivalent representative associations. The Directive allows also an upgrading for the engineers that acquired a strong experience and therefore competence.

Directive 2005/36/EC, adopted on 7 September 2005, consolidates and modernises the rules currently regulating the recognition of professional qualifications.

On 20 October 2007, at the end of the transposition period, this Directive will replace fifteen existing Directives in the field of the recognition of professional qualifications. It constitutes the first comprehensive modernisation of the Community system since it was conceived forty years ago.

A number of changes have been introduced compared with the existing rules, including greater liberalisation of the provision of services, more automatic recognition of qualifications and increased flexibility in the procedures for updating the Directive. The Commission also proposes to develop its co-operation with the Member States in order to keep citizens better informed about their rights and give them more help in getting their qualifications recognised.

Contents of the Directive:

Level 1: attestation of competence issued by a competent authority of home MS on the basis of

(a) either a course, specific examination or full time practice for three consecutive years or equivalent during last 10 years

(b) or general primary or secondary education attesting general knowledge

Level 2: certificate attesting to a successful completion of a secondary course

(a) either general in character, supplemented by a course of study or professional training and/or by probationary or professional practice required to that course

(b) or technical or professional in character, supplemented ... by ... see (a)

Level 3: diploma certifying successful completion of

(a) either training at post-secondary level of duration of at least one year (entry examination to university is compulsory) as well as possibly required professional training within this course

(b) or training with a special structure which provides a comparable professional standard

Level 4: corresponds to a diploma certifying successful completion of training at post secondary level of at least three years' duration, at a university or equivalent Institution of higher education and the respective professional training within the course (or equivalents on a part time basis). EURETA's LEVEL

Level 5: corresponds to a diploma certifying successful completion of training at post secondary level of a minimum duration of four years, at a university (see level 4).

EurEta clearly identifies itself with the 4th level of this Directive.

With a possibility- to open up to the 3rd level if some developments and requests from some interested and suitable countries and professions would lead to.

At the same time, the **registration dimension** of EurEta would remain and act with highest priorities for European wide registration: individual and independent single Registration Committees (per each level of representation) shall then provide the appropriate representation of each level. The Registration Committee(s) would then also be responsible for the analysis of national formations, ECTS, etc.).

One major perspective opened up by the above-mentioned EU Directive is the setting up of a **Common European Platform**.

In this respect, Urs Keller built up a good basic understanding with FEANI. An open and promising discussion has been held in December 2005 with FEANI's General Secretary, which would be available to consider the idea of creating a Paneuropean Platform of the Professional Engineering.

EurEta has then understood the necessity to focus onto new issues and with a renewed strategy and method. EurEta's way of working shall not concentrate itself only on registration but also and first of all on its capacity of influencing the EU's decision-making politprocess.

STATUTES

With the awareness of a changing political and education scenario in Europe and in the world, EurEta has opted to evolve internally and to adjust to all these changes and challenges. Therefore, a progressive and deep process has been put in place to go towards the reform of EurEta's statutes. This work has been led by a specific working group and has regularly taken into account all contributions and input coming from National Members and all the stakeholders involved.

INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

Have been held with FEANI (see above) and particularly with the MEP working in our field. New contacts have started with some European associations and working groups, meetings in this field have been attended in Brussels to get in touch with new people and professionals and to enhance contacts and relationships.

PRESENCE IN BRUSSELS

These contacts, relationships, proximity possibilities and chances to have a voice in the European scenario are now easier thanks to the permanent **representation of the Association in Brussels since October 2004**. This has started to allow and allows EurEta to express its voice more often at all European levels. The Association could then be closer to the pertinent actors and decision-makers in Brussels.

FEANI has invited EurEta to a couple of events for the illustration of some European initiatives and considers EurEta as one of the European "partners" in the European engineering context (see FEANI's leaflet on Hannover Fair on Professional Mobility).

During the year the following business meetings were held: In February the Board met in Baden (Switzerland; in June meetings of the General Assembly in Vienna, Board and Registration Committee were kindly hosted in Vienna; in December the Board's meeting was held in Brussels (Belgium). By this occasion, FEANI's local staff was visited and interesting discussions have started up. In the future, Brussels will become one of the easiest (also from the facilities and structures locally available) and most strategically important premise for both Board and General Assembly meetings, since by the same occasion MEPs and European Commission's representatives will be met.

Links continue to be maintained with other European and **international organisations**. Apart from FEANI these include the European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI), the International Association for Continuing Engineering Education (IACEE), the European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS), and the Institute of Continuing Professional Development (ICPD).

From the **FINANCIAL POINT OF VIEW**, following the lesser income for the Association in the next future, a more restrictive use of the Association's resources shall get along with the decisions to be taken.

To conclude, EurEta's very much sensitive to the importance of communication. Therefore, a stronger and better effort will be done by all its bodies and people involved to improve communication and related times.

A sincere thanks goes to all the ones that contributed with their great engagements to EurEta's successful development.