



News – 06/05/2011

Twelve projects for the 2012 Single Market

The Single Market has already brought tremendous benefits and created new opportunities. However, it seems that it has not yet been fully exploited, despite all the progress made since its creation in 1992. According to Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, "*The Single Market has always been the driving force behind our economic development and prosperity and, no more than ever, it remains our best asset in facing the crisis*".

The 13th April 2011, the European Commission adopted the Single Market Act containing a series of measures (twelve "instruments of growth") to boost the European economy and create jobs. The aim of these 12 instruments is to make life easier for everyone on the Single Market: businesses, citizens, consumers and workers.

1. Access to finance for "SMEs"

Several Small and Medium-sized enterprises are currently experiencing difficulties when recruiting staff, launching new

products or building up their infrastructure. The implementation of common rules for venture-capital funds could help providing innovative SMEs with funding combined with the necessary expertise and at an attractive price.

2. Worker mobility in the Single Market

It is crucial to modernize the rules for the recognition of professional qualifications and to simplify its procedures, notably by the implementation of a European Professional Card.

3. Intellectual property rights

Between 44% and 75% of the resources of European businesses are linked to Intellectual property, making it a strong comparative advantage of the EU that needs to be preserved and protected.

4. Consumers: Single Market players.

If consumer's rights are guaranteed, their confidence in the Single Market will automatically increase. Cross-border electronic commerce is a particularly relevant example in this matter.

5. Services: Strengthening standardization

Legislation on the European standardization system will be revised by the European Commission in order to extend it to services and make standardization procedures more effective, efficient and inclusive.

6. Stronger European Networks

High-performance infrastructures are the means to fast and low-cost free-movement of persons, goods, energy sources and data. In the field of energy and transport infrastructures, legislation will be

adopted by the Commission to eventually identify strategic projects of European interest.

7. Digital Single Market

The European Union needs a revision of the “e-signature directive” and a new legislation to guarantee mutual recognition of electronic identification and authentication across its territory.

8. Social entrepreneurship

The “European asset management industry” is a financial tool that needs to be used more often in order to encourage businesses which also pursue the general-interest objectives of social, ethical or environmental development.

9. Taxation

The current EU tax legislation does not give sufficient encouragement to the most energy-saving practices. A revision of the Energy Tax Directive (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32003L0096:en:HTML>) could be an important step towards a better consideration of the energy content of products and their Carbon dioxide emissions.

10. More social cohesion in the Single Market

To achieve this particular objective, the European Commission intends to make a legislative proposal for strengthening the application of the Posting of Workers Directive (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31996L0071:EN:HTML>).

11. Regulatory environment for Business

In order to reduce administrative constraints, the Commission is proposing a simplification of the accounting Directives as regards financial reporting obligations and a reduction of the administrative burden, especially for SMEs.

12. Public procurement

The legislative framework is to be modernized by the European Commission, so as to arrive at a balanced policy sustaining the demand for environmentally friendly, socially responsible and innovative goods and services.

The original communication made by the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions is accessible online by clicking on the following e-link: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011DC0206:EN:NOT>

European week of sustainable construction

The 2011 edition of the "EU Sustainable Energy Week" (EUSEW) was held in Brussels last month. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Architect's Council of Europe (ACE) and the European Concrete Platform (ECP) took this opportunity to launch a multilingual glossary of sustainable construction. According to Mr. Staffan Nilsson, President of the EESC, "*Sustainable methods of building design and construction have the potential to provide solutions to many of the economic, social and environmental challenges that Europe is facing today. By filling the gap left by the lack of a European approach, the new glossary will be a practical instrument to boost energy savings in Europe, in line with the recently adopted EU Action Plan on Energy Efficiency*".

The original English wiki version was launched during the 2010 EUSEW and is already being used by the construction sector, policy-makers at national and European levels and for communications, education and training.

This glossary is currently available in two formats, book and electronic document. Translations into the other official EU languages will be available in Autumn 2011.

More information on the launch conference and the publication is available on the website of the European Economic and Social Committee:

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-sustainable-construction-glossary>

Opinion of other stakeholders about the Professional Card

After the public consultation on the recognition of the professional qualifications Directive, we feel it is interesting to give you a short overview of the opinion of the different stakeholders about the European Professional Card presented in our previous newsletter of April 2011.

- **The FEANI** (European Federation of National Engineering Associations) supports the Professional Card as it would increase mobility and the ability of professional engineering associations and employers across the EU to quickly ascertain the qualifications of the engineering professional. The FEANI opinion is available on its website :

http://www.feani.org/site/fileadmin/user_upload/Feani_and_the_EU_docs/Questions_out_of_the_CONSULTATION_PAPER_BY_DG_INTERNAL_MARKET_AND_SERVICES_ON_THE.docx

- **The CLGE** (Council of European Geodetic Surveyors) supports the development of European professional cards but thinks that this initiative should only be applied to the professions with a high level of mobility.
(http://www.clge.eu/documents/events/97/11_03_15_Public_consultation_MRPQ.pdf)
- **The ACE** (Architects' Council of Europe) estimates that the Card is not appropriate for the architect profession, as it will not speed up the recognition process. Processes online have already been put online by architects' competent authorities, and they see no value-added to the current automatic recognition system.
(http://www.ace-cae.org//public/contents/getdocument/content_id/1094)
- **The ECEC** (European Council of Engineers Chambers) considers that the concept of a "professional card" needs new thinking. Many National Chambers of Engineers are already issuing professional cards, and the European professional card as discussed would not have any value-added to the existing model.
(<http://www.ecec.net/assets/ecec/download/Information/ececstatements/EC-EC-opinion-consultation-paper-on-PQD-final-1.doc>)

Consultation on the modernisation of the EU public procurement policy

As you know, the European Commission has launched a public consultation to modernize the EU public procurement policy from the 27th of January to the 18th of April 2011. The public procurement accounts represent a great part of EU's GDP (17%). In times of high public deficit, it is therefore essential that the EU policies ensure the most effective use of the funds, with a view to re-launching economy and supporting the growth and jobs creation.

Considering these objectives, the questions contained in the green paper covered the following issues:

- Do the current procedures need to be simplified? (How to reduce the red tape for economic operators, how to facilitate bidding across intra-European borders, ...)
- Is there a need to ensure a better access for SMEs and Start-ups?
- Under which conditions should contracts between public authorities be exempted from the application from the application of EU public procurement rules?
- Should other objectives such as promotion of innovation or environmental or social considerations be better taken into account?
- Is there a need of stricter rules or better safeguards to prevent favouritism, corruption or conflicts of interest?
- How to guarantee a more efficient competition?
- How to allow the access of third country suppliers to the EU market, and the access of EU undertakings to third countries public procurement market?

Next steps:

The 30th of June 2011, a high level conference on public procurement reform will take place in Brussels. The result of the evaluation and the green paper will be discussed. Discussions will then feed into the future legislative proposals.

Further information available at:

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

Next events

1) *EurEta Board and Registration Committee meeting:*

- **When?** Friday the 17th of June 2011, 13:00 – 18:00.
- **Where?** Quality Hotel Ambassador, Hamburg, Germany.
- **More information:** info@eureta.org

2) *General Assembly meeting of EurEta:*

- **When?** Saturday the 18th of June 2011, at 9:00 am.
- **Where?** Quality Hotel Ambassador, Hamburg, Germany.
- **Other:** A Forum dedicated to the free movement of professionals and Professional Cards will be organized the same day, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- **More information:** info@eureta.org

3) *World Engineers Convention 2011 :*

- **When?** From the 4th to the 9th of September 2011.
- **Where?** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Topic:** Engineers Power the World - Facing the Global Energy Challenge.
- **More information:** www.wec2011.org