



18 January 2021

## Editorial note

During the coming half year, this COVID-19 information sheet will gradually change into a monthly EFCA newsletter, bring you a regular update on the federation's actions and critical EU regulatory initiatives.

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On 2 December 2020, EFCA participated in the first public high-level discussion of the **Construction 2050 Alliance**. The 47 European member organisations of the Alliance highlighted the role that the built environment should play in the post-COVID-19 recovery, more specifically, its weight in future decisions on European funding in response to the pandemic.

The [Alliance](#)'s key message is that the built environment must be a key priority in all national Recovery Plans and in the new EU funding initiatives

[Interview](#) in **Construction Europe** (December 2020) with EFCA Board members Jacolien Eijer and Roberto Carpaneto: *'How the coronavirus crisis could speed up the transition to a more sustainable, innovative and greener deal'*

DG DEVCO (International Cooperation and Development) reacts to the specific issue in the COVID-19 situation that EFCA raised, i.e. the reduction of the experts' fees in service tenders if the work is not performed at the place of execution provided for in the contract. DG DEVCO has taken note of the issue, although admitting that Delegations have a broad margin to interpret the instructions received from Brussels. The **European External Aid Committee** will further discuss EFCA proposals at its 21 January meeting.

The kick-off meeting of the new **European Green Deal** Committee will take place by necessity online.

Karoline Geneser (FRI, MOE A/S) is appointed as Committee Chair, Wouter Schik (Kon. NL ingenieurs, ARCADIS) as Vice-Chair.

William Neale, Adviser for Circular Economy (DG ENV/B – Circular Economy & Green Growth) joined the last 2020 Board of Directors meeting. His presentation on the EU Circular Economy Action Plan will serve as a stepping-stone to the EC's dialogue with EFCA's European Green Deal Committee on potential market impact, business opportunities and assistance to further development of EU policies.

At its November 2020 meeting, the EFCA Board of Directors nominated Joseph Ickmans (ORI, Tractebel Engineering) as new Chair of the **Digitalisation and BIM** Committee. Veljko Janjić (ACES, BEXEL Consulting) is appointed as Vice-Chair. The Board of Directors thanked outgoing Chair Christophe Castaing for the excellent work done in the 2015-2020 term, in particular the publication of the EFCA [guidance](#) on ISO 19650.

The EFCA Board of Directors confirmed the nomination of Helena Dahlberg (FSIC) as Vice-Chair of the **Internal Market** Committee.

During two virtual meetings at the end of 2020, the revamped **Future Trends** Committee (Chair: Jeffrey Seeck – VBI, Dorsch Engineering Europe and Vice-Chair Nikola Matić - ACES, EFCA Board member) elaborated a proposal for Terms of Reference and action plan. Further information coming soon.

EFCA is looking to attract **Future Leaders** to take actively part in the activities of its Committees. A call for nominations of young talented professionals to join the Internal Market, European External Aid, Digitalisation & BIM and European Green Deal Committees is circulated.

The twelfth edition of the EFCA **Future Leaders** [competition](#) is launched. The deadline for delivery of entries by the Member Associations is 31 March 2021.



With the adoption of the **multiannual financial** [framework](#) for 2021-2027 on 17 December 2020, the European Commission is able to start committing the funds as of 1 January 2021. As a result, €1.074 trillion [in 2018 prices] will become available for beneficiaries of EU funding during the next seven years.

On 18 December 2020, the European Parliament and Council negotiators agreed on the details of the **Recovery and Resilience Facility**, which totals €672.5 billion, i. e. the bulk of the NextGenerationEU plan.

The NextGenerationEU plan is a €750 billion temporary recovery instrument to help repair the immediate economic and social damage brought about by the coronavirus pandemic.

Each of the 27 national recovery and resilience plans to access the funds under the Recovery and Resilience Facility will have to contribute 30% to climate objectives, 20% to digital transition and 7% to biodiversity preservation.

Post-COVID-19: Europeans want a green recovery / 2020-2021 [EIB](#) Climate Survey, part 1 of 3

Risks, challenges and opportunities in the EU's economic policy response to the COVID-19 crisis / European Court of Auditors [review](#)

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Aligning the global COVID-19 recovery with our response to climate change offers the chance to protect health, promote a sustainable economy, and preserve our planet / Lancet Countdown 2020 [report](#)

The pace of global progress on energy efficiency is set to slow further this year as a result of the economic impacts of the Covid-19 crisis, deepening the challenge of reaching international energy and climate goals and making stronger government action critical / IEA Energy Efficiency 2020 [report](#)

Green pandemic recovery essential to close climate action gap – UN [report](#)

On the way to a climate-neutral Europe – Contributions from the building sector to a strengthened 2030 climate target / [BPIE](#) (Buildings Performance Institute Europe)

2020 global status report for buildings and construction / UN Global Alliance of Buildings and Construction ([GlobalABC](#)).

[World Bank](#) January 2021 Global Economic Prospects: Global economy to expand by 4% in 2021 vaccine deployment and investment key to sustaining the recovery