

# Agreement

Between:

**FIDIC**, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers, based at World Trade Centre II, 1215 Geneva, Switzerland.

Represented by Catherine Karakatsanis, President

and

**EFCA**, the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations, based in Avenue des Arts, 3-4-5, 1210 Brussels, Belgium,

Represented by Inés Ferguson, President

hereinafter jointly referred to as the Parties,

## Preamble

1. **FIDIC**, founded in 1913, and **EFCA**, founded in 1992<sup>1</sup>, represent the consulting engineering industry and promote the business interests of firms supplying technology-based intellectual services for the built and natural environment, globally and in Europe respectively;
2. The last agreement that **FIDIC** and **EFCA** signed was in December 2019 and both organisations wish this Agreement to further strengthen their relationship and build on the synergies and the added value they provide to each other in the best interest of the industry;
3. **FIDIC** and **EFCA** have developed this new Agreement to ensure the consistency of their policies and products as to avoid overlaps and unnecessary duplication, ensure the maximum efficiency of their actions, and provide maximum value for the Member Associations that are paying subscriptions to both organizations;
4. **FIDIC** and **EFCA** share the ambition to grow the membership of both organisations and the value of the engineering consulting industry;
5. This agreement aims to foster the international recognition and relevance of the industry by improving the regional strategy and growing a solid international network;
6. This Agreement will be implemented in good faith between **FIDIC** and **EFCA**.

## Scope of Activities

1. **FIDIC** is responsible globally for the leadership of and advocacy for the consulting engineering industry and represents its Member Associations in around 100 countries worldwide. **FIDIC** is committed to spreading Best Practice globally within the engineering industry by (but not limited to):

---

<sup>1</sup> integrating the membership of CEDIC, which in turn was founded in 1965, and CEBI, which was founded in 1971.

- a. Continuously developing best practice documents and programs for capacity building, procurement, construction and engineering, sustainable management, closely linked to quality enhancement.
  - b. Promoting quality-based selection for consulting services within multilateral development banks.
  - c. Work in partnership with the MDBs and UN organizations to promote global standards in procurement and contracting and develop training and capacity-building programs on best practices.
2. **EFCA**, representing the countries of the European Union (EU), European Free Trade Association (EFTA), European Economic Area (EEA), countries engaged in formal negotiations with regards to membership of the EU or EFTA, and other countries in Europe, is responsible for the leadership of and advocacy for the consulting engineering industry towards European Union Institutions as defined below:

European Institutions are defined to include:

- a. the institutions of the European Union (European Commission, European Parliament, European administrations, European Central Bank, European Committee for Standardization, etc.);
  - b. European Development Finance Institutions (AFD, KfW etc.);
  - c. the European Investment Bank (EIB);
  - d. the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).
3. Common targets **FIDIC-EFCA**:
- a. Foster the international recognition and relevance of our industry and grow a solid International network;
  - b. Build more resilient, climate friendly and inclusive infrastructure, energy and cities worldwide in line with the Agenda 2030, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement;
  - c. Develop best practice for the engagement of consultants in projects;
  - d. Promote fair, transparent, balanced and sustainable procurement and contract conditions;
  - e. Develop guidance and tools on sustainability certifications and standards;
  - f. Promote the use of data-driven, digital and smart solutions to broaden the business for our firms;
  - g. Foster equality, diversity and inclusion and attract young talent to our industry;
  - h. Contribute to the training and development of professionals in the consulting engineering industry;
  - i. Help bridge the investment gap for infrastructure with stronger private sector involvement.

## Principles governing the Agreement

1. Regional integration is a real trend and firms are placing higher value on exchanging and working together in their region. As the global Federation, **FIDIC** seeks to showcase the developments in each region, and promote an effective and meaningful exchange between them.
2. **FIDIC** recognizes **EFCA** as the sole Regional Federation of Consulting Engineers for Europe and the main contact point for Europe.
3. The present agreement is based on a balanced Partner relationship between **FIDIC** and **EFCA**, the two Federations acting in different constituencies, while complementing and reinforcing each other.
4. The basis of the relationship between **FIDIC** and **EFCA** is one of partnership and communication, seeking to collaborate closely on strategic matters which relate to the engineering industry. In this respect, Parties agree to promote each other's activities and services as long as they do not conflict to each other's objectives.

### **FIDIC** undertakes to:

- periodically request and showcase the regional input from **EFCA** as the European vision for **FIDIC**'s work, to be included at/in the following events/materials without being limited to these:
  - **FIDIC**'s Annual Conference;
  - **FIDIC**'s Global Leadership Forum;
  - Other Conferences, materials, industry events, trainings, etc. as applicable which support showcasing the common objectives of both Federations.
- promote **EFCA** as the regional Federation for Europe and to avoid other redundant structures in Europe, also allowing European countries that are not yet part of **EFCA** to be represented by **EFCA** itself.

### **EFCA** undertakes to:

- timely provide the input requested by **FIDIC** with points of view representing the vision of the European engineering consulting industry.
- promote **FIDIC** activities, materials and services adding value to the European initiatives, regulations and training.

Parties agree and will support that the global, regional and national structures pay the highest attention to good governance, including a balanced representation, transparency in the decision making and the accounts, and a code of ethics including ESG considerations. **FIDIC** and **EFCA** seek to set the highest governance standards to be the example for regional Federations and Member Associations.

## Membership

1. **FIDIC** full members are national engineering consultancy Associations worldwide, while **EFCA** full or observer/associate members are national engineering consultancy Associations in European countries. As such European Member Associations may be members of both **FIDIC** and **EFCA**.
2. **EFCA's** full members are Associations from countries of the EU, EFTA and countries which are engaged in formal negotiations with regard to membership of the EU or EFTA.
3. A list of **FIDIC** and **EFCA** Member Associations as of the date of this Agreement is attached.
4. **EFCA's** membership model will ensure that professional associations of EU member states, EFTA members or EU candidate countries are eligible to become full members of **EFCA**.
5. Countries in Europe that have no official pathway to join the EU could become Associate Members of **EFCA**.
6. As it pertains to full Members of **FIDIC** located in Europe and who are not yet members of **EFCA**, **FIDIC** undertakes to proactively introduce them to **EFCA** and encourage them to also join **EFCA**, looking for the widest regional coverage possible.
7. **EFCA** will prioritise including the European associations that are already Members of **FIDIC** and not yet of **EFCA**, and only one MA per country will be accepted.
8. Any discrepancy between the **FIDIC** and the regional membership should be avoided.
9. In order to ensure that European Member Associations are fully represented regionally and globally, **FIDIC** and **EFCA** shall proactively encourage alignment of their memberships within Europe.
10. **FIDIC** and **EFCA** agree to more generally support the development of national engineering consultancy Associations in European countries and the business development of their member firms.

## Governance and Accountability

1. Parties agree that both **FIDIC** and **EFCA** are two fully independent Associations accountable to their members. Joint activities will be carried out with the objective of value added for the members and the industry.
2. **FIDIC** undertakes to promote collaboration between its regional members and add value to the collaboration to the extent possible.
3. Whenever there are links to EU policies, standards and regulations in global issues, **EFCA** is encouraged to enter into a dialogue with global institutions with **FIDIC**.
4. **FIDIC** recognizes that **EFCA** is the sole regional association in Europe and that **EFCA** is the regional grouping for **FIDIC** MAs in Europe. **FIDIC** does not intend to create a separate FIDIC Europe.

5. **FIDIC** actions in Europe will be coordinated between the two organisations through the European Global Action Committee. European participation in global matters would also be channelled through this Committee.

The European Global Action Committee (EGAC) is assuring the coordination and communication between **EFCA** and **FIDIC** for matters of interest of both associations. The EGAC has three members from each Federation, respectively two board members from each, CEO of **FIDIC** and Director General of **EFCA**.

EGAC will meet periodically (at least three times per year and one in person) and will discuss and jointly agree the main topics to be included in a Joint Action Plan. The Action Plan can be updated by EGAC as and when needed.

The **FIDIC** and **EFCA** Presidents will both participate in at least one of the meetings of the year and approve the Joint Action Plan.

The Plan should also be endorsed by both the **FIDIC** and **EFCA** Boards. It is recommended that it is done in the September Board Meetings, prior to the **FIDIC** GAM.

The operational details of EGAC include:

- Provide and approve the Joint Action Plan;
- Provide a mutual schedule of events to assure mutual participation and support.

The Joint Action Plan will address the following relevant topics (without being limited to these):

- AI and digital solutions;
- New business models;
- Sustainable Procurement;
- Project Certification Systems;
- Private financing in infrastructure;
- Engineer training and certifications;
- Diversity and young talent retention;
- Post-conflict reconstruction programmes (Ukraine).

The content of the Joint Action Plan will include the above and/or other topics, as decided by the EGAC.

6. **FIDIC** and **EFCA** agree that it is not appropriate that there be cross membership on each organisation's Board.
7. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this agreement shall limit **FIDIC** to represent the consulting engineering industry globally.

## Policy Committees

1. Both **FIDIC** and **EFCA** have internal working committees for topics relevant to their member associations. Both parties agree to periodically share information within the Group Committees, with the objective to best fulfil the common targets of **FIDIC** and **EFCA**.
2. For both parties' relevant topics would be taken forward to the EGAC for coordination and communication.

## Communication and Coordination

1. EGAC is responsible for the communication and coordination of the actions of interest to both Parties.
2. Quarterly meetings with EGAC will be organised and joint actions included in the Committee's report, annually. Both parties will define an appropriate presence for the EGAC to ensure regular communication and engagement.
3. Mutual attendance of Presidents and/or CEO/DG to the **FIDIC** and **EFCA** annual conferences/GAM is required.
4. Any other events that should be attended by both Federations should be listed in advance and coordinated as early as possible.
5. **FIDIC** and **EFCA** will use their best endeavours to coordinate their activities, so as not to detract from each other's events and activities.
6. If there are any differences the Presidents shall strive to resolve them. Any differences that cannot be resolved by the Presidents shall be discussed by the **EFCA** Board and the **FIDIC** Board in their respective meetings.

## Financial Matters

1. Any agreed action or service that **EFCA** would carry out in Europe for **FIDIC** would be subject to a fee.
2. No payment from **FIDIC** should be considered as a payment for **EFCA** "as an Agent of **FIDIC**", nor as a compensation.

## Duration

This Agreement shall come into force on 1 January 2025 and is concluded for a period of four years. This agreement will be reviewed and updated if necessary. Negotiations for a new agreement between **FIDIC** and **EFCA** will take place during the first six months of 2028.

## Amendments

Amendments to this Agreement may be made at any time by mutual consent between **EFCA** and **FIDIC**.

This Agreement has been approved by the **EFCA** Board in its [\*] meeting and the **FIDIC** Board in its [\*] meeting.

This Agreement was signed on [\*] in two original copies.

For **FIDIC**

For **EFCA**

Catherine Karakatsanis, **FIDIC** President

*Dec. 4, 2024*

Ines Ferguson, **EFCA** President

*December 4<sup>th</sup> 2024*