

DECLARATION

6th International Presidents' Meeting of the European Engineering Chambers & Organisations Athens, Friday 11th of October 2013

100 Years Regulated Engineering Profession: Serving the Public Interest, the Safety and Quality, Building the Growth and the Welfare in Europe

The Construction sector is of the main pillars of the European economy, growth and welfare. It benefits to the economic growth through the multiplier effect thanks to the sector's large share of the European GDP. Construction sector also provides millions of jobs mainly in micro and small enterprises as well as in the big companies and every job in construction counts for two additional jobs in other industry sectors. The quality of the construction works has a direct impact on the quality of life of Europeans. Construction sector has also a strong commitment to innovation in its business practice promoting new technologies and new materials. It has the important role and contribution creating the transport, energy and social infrastructure. Construction sector responds to the social needs building a safe sustainable built environment facing proactively the impacts by the natural disasters, promoting a resilient construction for adaptation to climate change, taking care for the rehabilitation, maintenance and energy efficiency improvement of the buildings and infrastructure. The Construction sector was affected strongly by the financial crisis losing more than 30% of its general potential at the last years. Nevertheless, the Construction is substantially the *"solution sector"* for the crisis facing and for re-starting of the economic growth, with its contribution to the National and European GDP and boosting the labour market.

The Engineers are the Leaders, the Decision-Makers, the Designers, the Contractors, the Supervisors, the Operators, the Public Servants that they manage the whole Construction sector and they build, in daily business, the Safety and the Quality of Life of the European Citizens, serving the General Public Interest. Consequently it is essential, for the Society to feel Safety and Quality, the *"Regulatory Framework for the Engineering Profession"* implemented and supervised by the Engineers' Chambers which are should be empowered as Public Authorities.

The Regulatory Framework for the Engineering Profession, necessary for anybody to act as Professional Engineer and to provide Engineering Services to the Society consists mainly of: *Academic Engineering Studies with sufficient frame of the quantity and the quality of the knowledge, as pre-requirement to follow the professional career, Best Practical Experience and Continuing Professional Development, Legally defined procedures for awarding the Professional Licenses or Professional Titles (necessary to act as Professional Engineer) by the Engineers' Chambers, Legal frame for establishing minimum scales of fees/remunerations reflecting the real cost of Engineering Services ensuring the quality in the provided services and the transparency in the competition, Legal frame for Professional Conduct and Ethics, responsibility, insurance and shareholding that can ensure the General Public Interest and the safeguarding of the consumers and clients.*

**The Presidents and the Representatives of the European Engineering Chambers & Organisations,
We call
EU Institutions as well as the National Governments**

- To provide a long-term, coordinated and stable regulatory framework to ensure sustainable growth. As a response to the crisis to take effective measures for public funding the Construction sector and Infrastructure as well as for its private funding, facilitating the access to the credit in order the taxpayers' money to reach the real economy through the Construction.
- To mobilize investments, financial tools, programs and initiatives for the Construction sector – to endorse the use of Structural and Cohesion Funds for creation, rehabilitation and upgrading the infrastructure and the building sector
- To establish integrated legal, financial and fiscal tools and incentives to support the Construction Sector and infrastructure and efficient development, rehabilitation and maintenance
- To support innovation, new technologies, new materials using in the Construction Sector, taking full account, amongst others, of its strategic role in the Horizon 2020 program and supporting effective technologies exchange. To adopt a whole life-cycle assessment for buildings and infrastructure
- To ensure coherence and integration between environmental policy and policies to foster growth in Construction and industry.
- To support and protect the Small Businesses, the Intellectual Engineering Profession and the SMEs in the Construction Sector
- To support the upgrading and renovating of existing building stock
- To mobilize investments in the “green” and “blue” growth and the renewable energy sector
- To increase the efficiency and accessibility of public administration for supporting the Construction sector, Engineers and related companies
- To invest in the Education, Training, Skills Development and Best Practice Exchange for the Engineers, Technicians and Workers in the Construction Sector

**We also call
EU Institutions as well as the National Governments**

- **To recognize the important and critical role of the Engineers Serving the Public Interest, the Safety and Quality, Building the Growth and Welfare in Europe and its Nations**
- **To recognize the important and critical role of the Engineers' Chambers and Engineering Organisations, Serving the General Public Interest by the implementation and supervision of the Regulatory Framework for Engineering Profession and thus to be incorporated in the European and National Legislation**
- **To respect the 100 years and more wise and effective legislation on Engineering as Regulated Profession in many European Countries and to introduce the same concepts and principles to the EU Legislation, ensuring the Safety and Quality of the European Citizens, rejecting the voices for the deregulation mainly responsible for the crisis that Europe suffers today.-**