

Message from Luisa Todini, President of FIEC

29/9/2010

On 9/9/2010 the Presidents of FIEC member federation ANCE and CCIA, The Chinese Construction Industry Federation, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (encl.). The same day, I have discussed this issue with a journalist from the news agency Reuters and this has led to an article, published worldwide, in which it says, among others: "Todini, a construction businesswoman from Italy, also said FIEC was seeking ways to cooperate with China's builders.....she dubbed a deal signed last week....as an important political step and a precedent for other federations." This article has raised a number of questions from FIEC members so that I would like to explain the reasons for my statements which are otherwise (almost) correctly cited by Reuters.

1. The text of the MoU, in its first paragraph, contains a fundamental break-through, a first step of a development which will take quite some time. To me, this is a good example which could serve other FIEC Member Federations as a precedent, namely the commitment of not only ANCE but also CCIA "to act entirely respecting and observing the principles of reciprocity, transparency and correct competition". So far as I know, this is the first time that China accepts "reciprocity" in an official document and this is a break-through.
2. Obviously, any such agreement will raise doubts whether these commitments will be respected and I understand that the ANCE-CCIA MoU is no exception in this aspect. It is a first step and we will have to carefully monitor the developments and ensure that the commitments do not remain simply written words.
3. In this context, I consider that it is a task for FIEC to work, together with the Member Federations, on how best to cooperate with CCIA, in order to contribute to real progress in the areas of fair competition, full reciprocity and transparency, both in relation to European contractors working in China and Chinese contractors working in Europe.

I am confident that these explanations will allow FIEC and its Member Federations to develop a sustainable strategy and I invite all FIEC members to join efforts, in order to achieve the best result for our enterprises, our sector and society in general. The debate is open!