

FIEC unveils Manifesto for the European elections

In view of the forthcoming European elections, FIEC, the European Construction Industry Federation, released its Manifesto, presenting proposals and requests for a credible response to the global economic downturn.

“In 2008 the construction industry represented 10.4% of the EU economy and nearly 3 million enterprises, most of which SMEs, which provided jobs to 16.3 million workers, without counting the indirect jobs generated in related sectors” declared Dirk Cordeel, FIEC President.

Mr Cordeel went on to add that *“the construction industry can provide short and longer term solutions to the current economic downturn and therefore set the basis for future growth and competitiveness of the EU economy and employment.”*

Amongst the 10 messages presented in its Manifesto, FIEC underlines, amongst others, the need for:

- **Speeding up decision making and implementation of projects already in the pipeline.**
- **Investing in the renovation of Europe’s building stock to boost energy efficiency, minimize climate change, reduce our dependency on imported energy while creating new skilled employment in construction.**
- **Streamlining planning and procurement procedures and cut undue red tape to ensure projects are started as soon as possible, turning commitments into action**
- **Ensuring timely payment by clients, in particular in the public sector, and encouraging access to lending for viable companies, especially SMEs.**

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FIEC is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 33 national Member Federations in 28 countries (26 EU & EFTA, Croatia and Turkey) construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. small and medium-sized enterprises as well as “global players”, carrying out all forms of building and civil engineering activities.