Conclusions on architecture: Taking Stock 2013

Preliminary Report on the implementation of the Council Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development 2008/C 319/05

Report following EFAP Conference proceedings, Dublin, 8-10th May 2013
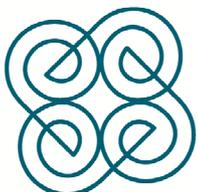
European Forum for Architectural Policies
Conclusions on Architecture: Taking Stock 2013

Report on the implementation of Council conclusions on architecture: culture's contribution to sustainable development

PREAMBLE

Architecture, as a cultural dimension of city and landscape, is an intrinsic and inextricable contribution to sustainable territorial development. The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP)[1] is deeply convinced that architectural policy can contribute positively to a strategy to exit from the current crisis. The future of the European city or region is often discussed in terms of social cohesion, economic growth, mobility or ecological sustainability but not in terms of culture, design or diversity. The task of architecture is primarily to be a 'moderator' between the sometimes conflicting issues at stake, to create a future vision that can be shared with the public and with political decision makers. Moreover, the creation and realisation of quality architecture is a process of creating a sustainable solution; indeed a key component to sustainability, just as are other components of society, economy and ecology. To pursue this cultural approach requires a readiness to find new ways, to be imaginative, to navigate through many rules, regulations and other constraints in order to achieve a sustainable result and to find alternative ways of doing things better.

Council conclusions on architecture 2008 were aimed primarily at raising the profile and ensuring greater recognition of architecture in the EU and national policies, particularly in the context of promoting sustainable development principles in urban planning/design, heritage and architectural quality generally within the built environment. The changed economic and political environment since 2008 is recognised in this draft report. This examination of developments since 2008 is written in the context of the *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Promoting cultural and creative sectors for growth and jobs in the EU* of 26th September 2012, in which the Commission proposed a strategy to exploit further the potential of these sectors in the EU to contribute to growth and jobs.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conclusions call on the EU Commission to facilitate networks that will further promote their implementation. EFAP, as the only trans-sectoral network which brings together professionals, public authorities and cultural institutions, has played an important role in promoting the implementation and progression of architectural policies in the Member States and the European Commission, and in bringing this issue to the forefront of political debate – within the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, and the European Commission.

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[1] The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) is an informal network of experts in the field of architectural policies in Europe, which brings together government administrations, the profession and the cultural institutions in all EU Member States and at European level. Its objective is to encourage exchanges of views and experiences on the promotion of architectural policies designed to enhance building urban and landscape quality, and more generally the quality of the living environment, at both national and European level.

It is important for the Council to acknowledge that even wider scoping networks are now required to embrace the various aspects of an architectural policy: urban planning, territorial approach, heritage and creative industries. Furthermore, it is important to develop evidence-based recommendations to be implemented at local, national and European governance levels, to match the EU 2020 objectives and be part of the partnerships contracts with the Commission.

Future architectural policies should be aimed at creating and executing an integral vision on building, city and landscape, and be a part of the European objectives. In many situations attention has traditionally been focussed on the incidental interventions of building construction without due regard to their surroundings, infrastructure, contextual landscape and ecological considerations. EFAP note that it is perhaps time to develop a more integrated multidisciplinary vision of the living environment as a whole in which design quality is an integral aspect. It is to be recommended that architectural policies should take the form of partnership contracts set by Member States and the Commission.

It would aid the development of policies if architecture were to be included as a specific point on the Council's future work plans and if an OMC expert group on architecture were to be facilitated.

Common Strategic Framework

In 2013, the Member States have to define and adopt the priorities and the framework in which they will make use of European funding and in this regard the *"Common Strategic Framework" (CSF)* will be a great opportunity. Following the Cohesion Policy proposals of 6th October 2011, and in order to help Member States prepare for the next programming period, on 14th March 2012 the Commission presented the *Common Strategic Framework*. It is intended to help in setting strategic direction for the next financial planning period from 2014 to 2020 in Member States and their regions. It will enable a far better combining of various funds to maximise the impact of EU investments. National and regional authorities will use this framework as the basis for drafting their 'Partnership Contracts' with the Commission, committing themselves to meeting Europe's growth and jobs targets for 2020.

In 2013 it is timely for Council to seek to maximise funding for programmes in the creative sector which architectural initiatives can access, given the potential contribution of this sector to growth and jobs.

Next steps:
It is proposed that this stock-taking exercise will be progressed further during future Presidencies.

European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP)
May 2013

European Forum for Architectural Policies
Conclusions on Architecture: Taking Stock 2013

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1.   INTRODUCTION

The *Council Conclusions on Architecture*[2] were adopted unanimously on 20th November, 2008, by the Council of Ministers of Culture and Audio-visual Affairs of the twenty-seven Member States of the European Union.

They were part of the European endeavour in favour of a high quality and far reaching architectural policy, which began with the adoption, on 12th February, 2001, of the *"Council Resolution on architectural quality in the urban and rural environments"*. The 2008 Council Conclusions were intended to give further focus to architecture within the context of the *Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities,* framed by the Ministers of the European Union responsible for urban development in 2007, and the Conclusions of the Council, also 2007, on the contribution of creative and cultural sectors to the achievement of the objectives set out in the Lisbon Strategy (2000, re-launched 2005).

The *Council Conclusions on Architecture* were also based on the report drafted by Gisela Kallenbach MEP and adopted by the European Parliament on 23rd January, 2008, on "*the Follow-up of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter: Towards a European Action Programme for Spatial Development and Territorial Cohesion*".

These documents raised the status of sustainable development from an issue of a concern to a matter of urgency. The European Council accordingly recognised that Architecture, as a creative industry, plays a fundamental role in driving future sustainable growth.

The European Council agreed the following aims and objectives:

- In the field of architecture it will be of the essence to reach beyond technical standards and develop an approach based on broad economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives;
- Architecture must be both federate and drive innovation by the complex and multiple aspects of sustainable urban development;
- Architecture and its specific characteristics must be more directly borne in mind in all aspects of public policy-making: culture, social cohesion, research.

The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP-FEPA)[3] played an active role in the preparation of this text, in cooperation with the French Presidency of the European Council (Ministry of Culture and Communication, Direction de l'Architecture).

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[2] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:319:0013:0014:EN:PDF

[3] www.efap-fepa.eu

The French Presidency stated that "*this text be broadly disseminated to make the challenges and objectives contained therein known far and wide as to stimulate a deepened awareness and active participation of European citizens through the implementation of concrete actions*" (Minister of Culture and Communication, Christine Albanel).

Under Point 7 in the text of the *Council Conclusions on Architecture*, it was originally intended to take stock of its implementation in 2012. This timeline has not been met but the process has been reactivated for progression under the Irish EU Council Presidency with a view to preparing this document in May 2013 for submission to the Council of Ministers.

The practical progression of actions related to the implementation of the EU Council Conclusions has been delegated to EFAP. Specifically, Mrs. Yvette Masson Zanussi, who had been in charge of its preparation at the French Ministry of Culture (under the remit of the Director of Architecture), was seconded to the EFAP office to progress the document, with the assistance of the EFAP secretariat (David Vernet, Isabel Mut, Valentine About, and the project manager Marco Stathopoulos).

In the follow-up to the Leipzig Charter in 2007 and the preparation of the Marseilles Statement in 2008 (under the French Presidency), France was tasked with setting up a high-level European working group.

At the outset, it may be stated that:

- Like other EU "soft policies", the document is not mandatory for the Member States;

- It is up to the Member States to translate and adapt any European Policy and Directive according to their own framework;

- There is no overarching European Community architecture policy in existence, or in preparation. It is considered that because of its sectoral nature, combined with a perceived lack of demand (as concluded by a survey made by the Spanish EU presidency of 2010 for the Toledo Declaration[4]) such a policy is unlikely to be formulated;

- The *Council Conclusions* text is intended to address the Member States and the Commission: Some national professional institutes however, have also taken it on board, for example, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, and France.

In 2010, six years after a first survey on the impact of the Council Resolution of 2001, EFAP launched a survey on the impact of EU Council Conclusions, (this survey is available and downloadable on the EFAP website)[5]. In addition, EFAP prepared a document entitled "*Architectural policies in Europe*"[6], undertaken in preparation for the 2010 Polish Presidency of the EU council.

This document concludes:

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[4] http://www.mdrt.ro/userfiles/declaratie_Toledo_en.pdf
[5] Web : www.efap-fepa.eu , Contact : efap@efap-fepa.eu
[6] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=3%3Adocuments&id=989%3Aarchitectural-policies-in-europe&lang=fr

"Looking at the progression of national architectural policies in the European Union, like other public policies a process of Europeanisation is occurring, where, through bench-marking, each country learns from the other and makes a greater convergence between the policies possible. Nevertheless, the nature and content of the policies cannot be divorced from the constitutional, administrative and political framework in which the policy was developed.

Therefore it is possible to conclude that the European Council Resolution (2001) and Council Conclusions (2008) on architecture are having a positive impact in encouraging the Member States to promote architectural quality as a condition to improving the quality of life of European citizens. Additionally, the two EU Council documents are important to the legitimisation of the architectural policies already published and most important to the stimulation of the ones that are currently being developed.

Nevertheless, some questions can be asked about the real extent of the impact of the Council Resolution and Conclusions in the governmental programs and procurement processes. Like all the other EU soft policies the two documents are not mandatory for the Member States. However, the need for a more direct approach was not mentioned by any of the countries."

The final report, '*Survey of Architectural Policies in Europe'* was published in December 2011. The map on page 8, taken from the survey, identifies the development status of architectural policies in European Union countries.

Apart from specific legislation in some member states, notably the French Law of 1977, the Swedish Bill on Architecture of 1998, and the Italian Bill on Architectural Quality of 2008[7], the most common type of official document concerning Architecture is a statement setting out national policy. Since 1997, EFAP has played an important role in the dissemination of the European Council Resolution and Conclusions; making recommendations to the relevant national administrations; and the organisation of international meetings and conferences, where examples of architectural policies have been presented and discussed.

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[7] For national documents see : http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=category&cid=3&filter_20=PN&Itemid=11&lang=fr

Figure 1: Status of Architectural Policies across Europe – EFAP Survey 2012

(Note: the status of Figure 1 may not reflect completely the current position in 2013)

2.   TAKING STOCK - GENERAL

Some of the information below is taken from the '*Survey of Architectural Policies in Europe'* and the note mentioned previously. Just one third of the 37 administrations surveyed in the Member States have provided information about initiatives in support of the government policy and for advancing EU Council Conclusions objectives. Those received are mostly very succinct.

Member States' Architectural Policies

The EFAP note of 2010[8] summarised the main features of **architectural policies** as follows:

(i)   Architecture:
Architecture is increasingly perceived as an important expression of culture, which represents and documents current forms of life. Chronologically, from the statement "*architecture, expression de la culture*" in the French law of 1977, up to the statement "*architecture is a cultural and artistic form of expression and social element of culture"* in the Turkish law of 2007, this is a common starting point in all national policies.

(ii)   Connotations of architecture:
In national policy texts, architecture is most commonly associated with "culture", secondly with "environment / landscape /the city", and thirdly with "innovation / technology". Texts generally begin with associations with historical heritage and move on towards a comprehensive approach, such as the German concept of "Baukultur", and related characterisations of architecture in Finland and Norway.

(iii)   Denotation of architecture:
In many countries, architecture is taken to denote "any type of construction", and "works carried out to construct a city", "sites", "listed buildings". A minority of countries consider architecture to denote only specific "unique works".

The most salient features of member states' architectural policies are as follows:
"Quality" is understood not only as aesthetic point of view but is also construed as including functionality and interaction with the surrounding environment. All intervening parties, from clients to builders, share the responsibility for achieving architectural quality. Fitness for use, urban layout, and housing are the most regulated aspects, whereas rehabilitation and public spaces may be the least regulated (regulations generally refer to technical and standards rather than to aesthetic aspects, with the noted exceptions of the Netherlands and Denmark).

Heritage is generally subjected to architectural norms of quality and association. There has been a progressive evolution in the formulation of national policies. The most recently adopted are generally more transversal (involving all departments and good co-ordination), giving more importance to the "cultural" aspects of building environment (Norway, Denmark, Ireland, Malta, Turkey, Netherlands).

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[8] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=3%3Adocuments&id=989%3Aarchitectural-policies-in-europe&lang=fr

Common EU guidelines

A survey undertaken during the EU Spanish presidency of 2010 found that only half of the countries q u e s t i o n e d would welcome the establishment of common guidelines for architectural policy. Any such guidelines would have to be flexible enough to accommodate the particular characteristics of each country. Several countries which argued against the provision of such guidelines (notably in western Europe), point to diversity as a factor which would preclude a common direction. A potential directive, it was felt, should focus on the processes that might allow the enhancement of quality, rather than prescribe specific architectural directions.

3.   TAKING STOCK – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS[9]:

This section sets out an up-date or *taking stock* of architectural policies from 2008 to the present as set out in the *format and sequence* of the Council Conclusions on Architecture and is based on information provided by Member States via the 2012 EFAP Survey report and more recently.   The considerations embodied in the Conclusions, notably Point 1, *Having Regard To*; Point 2, *Taking Note Of*; Point 4, *Pointing Out That,* and especially Points 5, *Considering That,* and 6, *Noting with Interest,* may be seen as still relevant towards architecture.

Nevertheless, it may be pointed out that the financial crisis that has occurred since 2008 has raised the priority of economic considerations in the policies of the European Union. The EU 2020 objectives which have been evolving state that: "*The Europe 2020 strategy is about delivering growth that is: smart, through more effective investments in education, research and innovation; sustainable, thanks to a decisive move towards a low-carbon economy; and inclusive, with a strong emphasis on job creation and poverty reduction. The strategy is focused on five ambitious goals in the areas of employment, innovation, education, poverty reduction and climate/energy".[10]*

The architecture sector has been affected in particular by the decline in construction, public procurement and by budget cuts, especially in culture, education and research programs. For instance, one EFAP survey has found that:

"Due to the economic crisis and the crisis in the building industry a lot of architects, urban designers and landscape architects lost their jobs. A programme was launched to temporarily employ architects and designers in the field of the new social, economic and environmental issues of society." (EFAP Survey, Netherlands, page 205)[11];

POINT 7: *calls on Member States and the Commission within their respective spheres of competence and with due regard to the principle of subsidiarity, to:*

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1. Make allowance for architecture and its specific features, in particular its cultural aspects, in all relevant policies, especially in research, economic and social cohesion, sustainable development and education policies:

EFAP has been actively involved in the preparation of the next EU policies and programmes, in particular the *Creative Europe*, the *Regional Policies* (*cohesion*) and *research policies*. Among the national policies following this integrated format is Ireland's *Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015*.

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[9] Read the full text on: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:319:0013:0014:EN:PDF

[10] http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/priorities/index_en.htm

[11] To download the Survey: http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=6:espace-prive&id=737:survey-on-european-architectural-policies-&Itemid=19&lang=en

Creative Europe:

Since 2008, EFAP is chairing the Platform on the potential of the Cultural and Creative Industries, established by the European Commission. The Platform has made valuable contributions to the preparation of this program, by setting a rank of recommendations.
- See Creative Europe programme[12]

Regional Policies, structural funds, urban policies:

Participation in the Urban development Group
Participation in the EU informal Council of Ministers
- See: Toledo declaration of 2010, mentioning the EU Conclusions[13]

Invited expert to the EESC commissions
- See: EESC Opinion on creative Industries[14]
- See: EESC Opinion on Metropolitan areas[15]

Partner of the Urban Intergroup of the European Parliament:
- See: conferences at EP[16]
- EFAP Press releases[17]: architecture is not luxury[18]

Manifesto[19] at the Venice Biennale 2012[20]

Research Policies:

the EFAP has undersigned the Position Paper of the General Directors of Urban Policies: Hungary presidency [21]

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[12] www.dgeac.ec.eu , http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/index_en.htm

[13] http://www.mdrt.ro/userfiles/declaratie_Toledo_en.pdf

[14] http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.ccmi-opinions.11456

[15] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:376:0007:0014:EN:PDF

[16] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=1:actualites&id=361:non-city-next-city&Itemid=6&lang=en

[17] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=3&id=958&Itemid=22&lang=en

[18] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_user&view=login&return=YToyOntzOjI6ImlkIjtpOjY5MTtzOjM6ImNpZCI7czoxOiIzIjt9

[19] http://eucitymanifesto.eu/

[20] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=1:actualites&id=796:europe-for-the-first-time-at-the-biennale-architettura-2012-&Itemid=6&lang=en

[21] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/wiki/images/c/c0/GreenPaper.pdf

2. Devise for architecture, apart from technical standards, an approach involving overall economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives:

o   EFAP has set up the <u>Observatory on innovative architectural and urban processes in Europe</u>[22], with the support of the European Commission. This observatory collected over a hundred completed projects that demonstrate the multi level approaches and the ways of managing regulations to face new challenges. This observatory should be followed-up to increase the knowledge and the needs of the present "state of art".

- See: <u>Europe, terrain d'idées, EK Magazine</u>[23], <u>AlterArchitectures Manifesto Book</u>[24]

o   The Grand Paris programme, based on a research program of the French Ministry of Culture, has brought about one of the most comprehensive approaches to embrace a metropolitan area. It has invited 10 teams to give visions and proposals for the future of the post Kyoto City. Also the Urban Renaissance approach established in UK could be seen as a cultural/ cross cutting urban spatial and architectural design.

- See: <u>Towards a strong urban renaissance, urban Task Force chaired by Lord Rogers of Riverside</u>[25]
- See: <u>Atelier International du Grand Paris</u>[26]
- See: <u>United cities and Local Governments, culture 4ème pilier du développement durable</u>[27]

o   "Baukultur": The German expression *Baukultur* is a broad concept that can be translated into English as *Building Culture*, which includes all aspects of the built environment, such as the spatial, infrastructure, social and economic context of towns, cities and cultural landscapes. Therefore, the concept integrates architecture, civil engineering, urban and regional planning, heritage conservation interests, landscape architecture, interior design and art for public buildings and was developed as a central policy both in Germany and Austria between 2006 and 2008.

- See <u>Baukultur</u>[28]
- See www.bmvbs.de/EN/BuildingAndHousing/BuildingCulture/building-culture_node.html
- See www.bka.gv.at/baukultur

[22] www.underconstructions.eu

[23] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/documents/pieces_jointes/2012_12_2013_01_ECOLOGIK_N30.pdf

[24] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=3:documents&id=783:alterarchitectures-efap&lang=en&Itemid=

[25] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=3%3Adocuments&id=990%3Aurban-renaissance-ten-year-review-cabe&lang=en

[26] http://www.ateliergrandparis.fr

[27] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=3:documents&id=994:united-cities-and-local-governments-culture-4eme-pilier-du-developpement-durable&lang=en&Itemid=

[28] http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baukultur

3. Encourage innovation and experimentation in sustainable development in architecture, urban planning and landscape, particularly in the framework of European Policies or programmes and when commissioning public works:

o   Some architectural policies allow or encourage innovation and experimentation:
   - See: policies of Denmark, Cyprus[29] (architectural competitions organised for local government who received structural funds).

Some Member States are promoting pilot projects to increase the energy efficiency of the building construction through the development of demonstration projects of new buildings and renovation projects with innovative designs, integrating energy efficiency solutions (like the low-energy solar building or the concept of passive building) and by incorporating environmentally friendly and renewable materials in construction. For example see:
   - Austria: the research programme Haus der Zukunft *House Tomorrow*[30] and Grand Austrian National Prize for Architecture or Denmark: the pilot project Bolig+[31].
   - Germany: experimentation in architecture and planning is a crucial part of the federal programme " Experimental Housing and Urban Development (ExWoSt)"[32]
   - Ireland: the encouragement of adaptation and reuse of historic buildings and urban environments as illustrated in *Shaping the Future* (2012)[33]

Following the same idea, other Member States are developing pilot projects in the renovation of their public buildings to demonstrate the possibility of reducing the energy consumption and to use environmentally friendly materials. In the case of Luxembourg, a green cell was set up which lead to the development of a guide to sustainable construction in the renovation of public buildings.

o   Some cities and towns are more advanced in this matter: for instance, Bordeaux CUB, Lille, and more recently, Athens, have sustainable culture innovation based city projects.
   - See: press release "Rethink Athens"[34]
   - See : "departure", Vienna[35]

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[29] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=category&cid=3&filter_20=PN&Itemid=11&lang=en

[30] http://www.hausderzukunft.at/english.htm

[31] http://www.boligplus.org/

[32] http://www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/DE/FP/ExWoSt/exwost__node.html

[33] http://www.ahg.gov.ie/en/Publications/HeritagePublications/ArchitecturalPolicyPublications/Shaping%20The%20Future%20%20Case%20Studies%20in%20Adaptation%20and%20Reuse%20in%20Historic%20Urban%20Environments.pdf

[34] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=1%3Aactualites&id=975%3Arethink-athens-rethink-europe&Itemid=6&lang=en

[35] www.departure.at

4. Improve knowledge of the architectural sector and its contribution to sustainable development, particularly in terms of statistics:

o Statistics on the sector are mainly provided by the professional organisations, in particular by the Architects Council of Europe.
- See: ACE website[36]

5. Raise public awareness of the role of architecture and urban planning in the creation of a high-quality living environment and encourage public involvement in sustainable urban development:

After analysing the information received by the survey it was possible to identify 12 different initiatives/actions that are promoting knowledge and awareness by the Member States:

1. Support to culture organisations
2. Support to culture initiatives
3. Support to research projects
4. Publications (books)
5. Guidelines and manuals
6. Architectural websites and databases
7. Architectural prizes
8. Educational programmes
9. Professional learning programmes
10. Architectural festivals and events
11. Support to young architects
12. Support to international organizations

- See: EFAP survey[37]

Worthy of particular note is the support of the European Commission for the European Mies van der Rohe Prize[38]:

The principal objectives are to recognise and commend excellence in the field of architecture and to draw attention to the important contribution of European professionals in the development of new concepts and technologies. The Prize also sets out to promote the profession by encouraging architects working throughout the entire European Union and by supporting young architects as they set off on their careers.

To raise public awareness for a high quality built living environment it was recommended during the Conference proceedings that the European Council and member states must create a firm supporting system of familiarity of all society through issues of ecology, urban and rural environment in the media, the educational system and public events.

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[36] http://www.ace-cae.eu/

[37] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=6:espace-prive&id=737:survey-on-european-architectural-policies-&Itemid=19&lang=en

[38] http://www.miesarch.com/

6. Consider the feasibility, in cooperation with the professionals and in the light of experience in a number of Member States, of an annual European architecture event:

Initial debate within the EFAP Assembly indicated a lack of enthusiasm for such an initiative. The proposal was that there should be a "world day" of Architecture, or that local initiatives would be undertaken.
The EFAP office presented the results of an enquiry into these initiatives and showed the popular success of the European Heritage Days, as demonstrated by visitor numbers. Notable was the example of Austria's *Architekturtage* or the United Kingdom where Architecture Week, Open House London and Heritage Open Days are held.

Most recently, in this regard, the Cypriot EU EFAP conference in 2012 underlined the strong need of better awareness of public for architecture.

7. Work together to ensure that these conclusions are acted upon and take stock of their implementation in 2012.

The conclusions have been mentioned as a reference text in the new or revised policy documents.

Nevertheless, it is only with the Irish Presidency in 2013 that the conclusions have been raised to the level of a working-session conference, with follow-ups for the next Presidencies.

- See: <u>Agenda of the Council of Ministers Meeting, Programme of the EFAP Irish Presidency</u>[39]<u>.</u>

POINT 8: *calls on the Member States to:*

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1. Endeavor to have architecture play an integrating and innovative role in the sustainable development process, beginning with the design stage of architectural, urban planning landscaping and rehabilitation projects:

<u>Design competitions</u>:

One of the most successful instruments in raising the quality of architecture used by the Member States is through the implementation of architectural competitions, which promotes innovation, stimulates the building sector and renews architecture. In design competitions, several designers compete for a commission responding to the same problem according to a defined set of rules where an independent panel of experts, usually in the form of a jury, evaluates the entries and selects the winner. As a result, design competitions offer several solutions to the same design problem providing the client with different design alternatives and encouraging public debate about the future development of the urban environment. Some noteworthy examples that may be mentioned are:

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[39] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=3:documents&id=972:efap-dublin-eu-conference-may-2013-&lang=en&Itemid=

Netherlands: Architectuur Lokaal[40], Kompas
Flanders: Pilot projects. Sustainable architecture as criteria in design competitions/ workshops

Cyprus: Urban Development Policy[41] includes architectural quality and heritage conservation policies. (EFAP Survey, page 254)[42]

Austria: "Building of Tomorrow" Programme, (Haus des Zukunft) [43]

Scotland: The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) is a non departmental public body (NDPB). RCAHMS is responsible for recording, interpreting and collecting information about the built environment of Scotland. (EFAP Survey, page 254) [44]

Design policy:

In terms of *design,* the Netherlands has promoted the importance of spatial and architectural design through several policy documents and initiatives. (viz. the *Designs and Politics* series of publications developed with the assistance of Henk Ovink) .

Netherlands: objectives of the Policy:

'*1) structural integration of spatial design early in decision processes of own national spatial projects and programmes, 2) stimulate the profession of urban design and regional design and stimulate local communities, private parties and others to use urban design and regional design in their own projects and programmes, 3) stimulate re-use and redevelopment of old vacant buildings and areas 4) providing a stimulating design climate by financing a cultural infrastructure of design institutions'.*

2. Help develop the economic growth and employment potential of architecture as a creative, cultural industry:

o Many Member States have placed this high upon the EU Agenda: for example, the Netherlands has brought it into the "top team", while Estonia, Sweden, have developed new policies. The Open Method of Coordination group, set by the European Commission, has produced documents and recommendations, complementing the Council for Cultural and Creative Industry's Platform.

- See: Sweden (Council for Cultural and Creative Industry, a joint venture between the Ministries of Culture and Industry). Estonia, Austria [45]

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[40] www.arch-lokaal.nl

[41] www.moi.gov.cy/tph

[42] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=6:espace-prive&id=737:survey-on-european-architectural-policies-&Itemid=19&lang=en

[43] www.hausderzukunft.at

[44] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=6:espace-prive&id=737:survey-on-european-architectural-policies-&Itemid=19&lang=en

[45] www.departure.at, www.creativaustria.at

- See: Estonia[46]
- See: Danish Policy, the architectural policy's overall goal is to ensure the development of high quality architecture and by so create a quality of life and economic growth in Denmark. [47]

3. **Promote education in architecture and heritage, and in the living environment in particular through artistic and cultural education:**

o In June 2008, the French Ministry of Culture published a study: '*Sensibilisation du jeune public a l'architecture, étude comparative dans six pays européens, recommandations pour la France* '[48] .

o Many countries have established programmes for pupils at school, for e.g.:
  Italy, Sweden, Ireland and others.
  - See Austria[49]

> **POINT 9: calls on the Commission to:**
> *Take architecture into account in preparing its Green Paper on cultural and creative industries:*

o The European Commission, Director General of the Culture and Education, has taken in account the recommendations made by the CCIs Platform, chaired by EFAP in the Green Paper on CCIs. These recommendations have enriched the Creative Europe Programme for the next period of programming 2014-2020;

o EFAP had regular contacts with the EU Commission, DGEAC, DG Regio in particular. EFAP has been invited to major events such as the Forum on Culture, the Urban Forum;

o EFAP has been grant aided 4 times by the European Commission since 2008:
  A pilot project on Mobility, a cooperation project, and 2 functioning grants.

- See: recommendations of the CCIs Platform[50]

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[46] www.creativeindustries.ee/omc/

[47] www.kum.dk

[48] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=3%3Adocuments&id=91%3Ala-sensibilisation-du-jeune-public-a-larchitecture-etude-comparative-dans-six-pays-europeens-recommandations-pour-la-france&lang=en

[49] www.baukulturvermittlung.at
[50] http://www.efap-fepa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=1%3Aactualites&id=797%3Adraft-position-paper-on-creative-europe-from-the-platform-of-cultural-and-creative-industries&Itemid=6&lang=en

4.   CONCLUSIONS – Next steps

Architectural policies:

During the stock-taking exercise, two key issues appear to be central for the next developments of architectural policies, as also seen from the survey:

1. Public awareness and political commitment are vital factors in the formation of a successful fostering of a good architectural and spatial quality. There is an urgent need to lift the interest of architecture beyond the sphere of the profession only: it is equally a challenge for NGOs and policy makers to jointly act and create a demand for a well-designed living environment by EU citizens. A new public private pact for architecture might be desirable.

2. Research and design should be reinforced and supported via eligible funding. Particular attention and support should be given to:

• the process and design stage of projects;
• a testing stage, prior to the final design and building phase;
• post-completion evaluation and the dissemination of findings.

These are core aspects of a policy which will promote a vibrant research culture and provide a robust evidence base.

Comprehensive policies undersigned by various ministries (notably Norway, Ireland, Sweden, Croatia) not only demand integrated support from the ministries and organisations involved, but also require an inter-ministerial structure to ensure the execution of same. Such a structure could be similar for example to institutions like the MIQP (Mission interministérielle pour la qualité des constructions publiques) and the Baukultur Foundation.

An EFAP survey carried out in Sweden found that: "*The big problem remains to implement the policy among the actual decision-makers, be they politicians on different levels, CEO's of state owned companies, heads of public agencies and all the way down the hierarchies in the building and maintenance sector. There seems to be a division of culture between those who are convinced of the values in the policy (i.e. mostly architects) and those who actually make decisions (politicians, economists and technicians), who are motivated and informed by other values.*" EFAP Survey, Sweden, Page 240.

EU Policies context
The conclusions call on the EU Commission to facilitate networks that will further promote the implementation of these conclusions.

EFAP, as the only trans-sectoral network which brings together professionals, public authorities and cultural institutions, has played an important role in promoting the implementation and progression of architectural policies in the Member states and the European Commission, and in bringing this issue to the forefront of political debate – within the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, and the European Commission.

It is important for the Council to acknowledge that the even wider scoping networks are now required to embrace the various aspects of an architectural policy: urban planning, territorial approach, heritage and creative industries.

Furthermore, it is important to develop evidence-based recommendations to be implemented at local, national and European governance levels, to match the EU 2020 objectives and be part of the partnerships contracts with the Commission. It may be particularly noted of Europe 2020:

"Europe 2020 is the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade. In a changing world, we want the EU to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. These three mutually reinforcing priorities should help the EU and the Member States deliver high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. Concretely, the Union has set five ambitious objectives - on employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy - to be reached by 2020. Each Member State has adopted its own national targets in each of these areas. Concrete actions at EU and national levels underpin the strategy."

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

- See: Further reading[51]

In 2013, the Member States have to define and adopt the priorities and the framework in which they will make use of the European funding.

Future architectural policies should be aimed at creating and executing an integral vision on building, city and landscape, and be a part of the European objectives as such. In many situations attention has traditionally been focussed on the incidental interventions of building construction without due regard to their surroundings, infrastructure, contextual landscape and ecological considerations. EFAP note that it is perhaps time to develop a more integrated multidisciplinary vision of the living environment as a whole in which design quality is an integral aspect. It is to be recommended that architectural policies should take the form of partnership contracts set by Member States and the Commission.

The Common Strategic Framework could be a great opportunity. Following the Cohesion Policy proposals of 6th October 2011, and in order to help Member States prepare for the next programming period, on 14th March 2012 the Commission presented the "*Common Strategic Framework*" (CSF). It is intended to help in setting strategic direction for the next financial planning period from 2014 to 2020 in Member States and their regions. It will enable a far better combining of various funds to maximise the impact of EU investments. National and regional authorities will use this framework as the basis for drafting their 'Partnership Contracts' with the Commission, committing themselves to meeting Europe's growth and jobs targets for 2020.

- See: further reading[52]

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[51] http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/who-does-what/eu-institutions/index_en.htm

[52] http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/index_en.cfm#1

Policy and Society

"The rupture of the bond between architectural culture and society, between architectural services and their users constitutes the most important cause for an unfavourable environment", (Turkish policy, 2007)

The importance of "good architecture" and urban design is widely recognised. Sharing enthusiasm for architecture may be a good thing, but to really foster good architecture and urban design requires knowledge, ambition and sometimes being prepared to take risk. Architecture is an intrinsic and inextricable contribution to sustainable development, not a luxury. However, in daily practice the potential of the creative sector, of planners and designers, is often underestimated and under-utilised. This was acknowledged by the European Council in its 2008 *Conclusions on architecture and culture's contribution to sustainable development*. The Council called on the Member States to endeavour to have architecture play an integrating and innovative role in the sustainable development process, beginning with the design stage of architectural, urban planning, landscaping and rehabilitation projects, and to help develop the economic growth and employment potential of architecture, as a creative, cultural industry.

The future of the European city or region is often discussed in terms of social cohesion, economic growth, mobility or ecological sustainability but not in terms of culture, design or diversity. The task of architecture is primarily to be a 'moderator' between the sometimes conflicting issues at stake, to create a future vision that can be shared with the public and with political decision makers. Moreover, the creation and realisation of quality architecture is a process of creating a sustainable solution; indeed a key component to sustainability, just as are other components of society, economy and ecology. To pursue this cultural approach requires an ambitious and daring attitude from political decision makers. It requires a readiness to find new ways, to be imaginative, to navigate through many rules, regulations and other constraints in order to achieve a sustainable result and, to find alternative ways of doing things better.

European Forum for Architectural Policies
May 2013

APPENDIX 1: European Forum for Architectural Policies Conclusions on Architecture: Taking Stock 2013

Report on the implementation of Council conclusions on architecture: culture's contribution to sustainable development:

FRAMEWORK FOR ON-GOING FEEDBACK: **This section is for relevant stakeholders and EFAP members to add comments by way of short bullet points under each heading below and under each item. The key feedback questions are summarised as:**

   (i) What has been achieved;

   (ii) What has partly been achieved but can be improved;

   (iii) What has not yet been achieved.

1. What has been achieved?

Point 8.2 Help develop the economic growth and employment of architecture, as a creative, cultural industry;

Point 9.1 Take architecture into account in preparing its Green Paper on cultural and creative industries;

Point 9.2 Involve networks of public and private-sector architectural experts and practitioners, such as the European Architectural policy Forum, in work and consultations on issues and/or matters relating to architecture;

Point 7.7 Work together to ensure that these conclusions are acted upon and take stock of their implementation in 2012 – *(this is occurring in 2013);*

Point 8.6 Where appropriate, apply the open method of coordination for culture.

2. What has partly been achieved but can be improved or progressed?

Point 7.1 Make allowance for architecture and its specific features, in particular its cultural aspects, in all relevant policies, especially in research, economic and social cohesion, sustainable development and education policies;

Point 7.4 Improve knowledge of the architectural sector and its contribution to sustainable development, particularly in terms of statistics;

Point 7.5 Raise public awareness of the role of architecture and urban planning in the creation of a high-quality living environment and encourage public involvement in sustainable urban development;

Point 8.3 Promote education in architecture and heritage, and in the living environment, in particular through artistic and cultural education;

Point 8.4 Promote the initial and further training of architects, urban planners and landscapers as regards sustainable development;

Point 9.3 In cooperation with those networks and the European schools of architecture, encourage:
- the provision of information and sharing of good practice and research among architects, developers and users;
- the training of young architects, urban planners and landscapers in sustainable development, promotion of their work and access for them to public or private Commissions.

3. What has not been achieved yet?
Point 7.2 Devise for architecture, apart from technical standards, an approach involving overall economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives;

Point 7.3 Encourage innovation and experimentation in sustainable development in architecture, urban planning and landscaping, particularly within the framework of European policies or programmes and when commissioning public works;

Point 7.6 Consider the feasibility, in cooperation with professionals and in the light of experience in a number of Member States, of an annual European architecture 'event';

Point 8.1 Endeavour to have architecture play an integrating and innovative role in the sustainable development process, beginning with the design stage of architectural, urban planning, landscaping and rehabilitation projects;

Point 8.2 Help develop the economic growth and employment potential of architecture, as a creative cultural industry;

Point 8.5 Highlight architecture in implementing the European Year of Creativity and Innovation (2009).