



Architects' Council of Europe Activity Report

2008 - 2009

Presentation of the ACE

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) is the representative organisation for the architectural profession at European level.

It was founded in Treviso (Italy) on the 11th May 1990 and it will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2010.

The ACE seeks to contribute to those areas of EU legislation and policies that have an impact on architectural practice and on policies affecting the overall quality and sustainability of the built environment. Its objectives are:

1. Promoting Architecture in Europe
2. Advancing Architectural Quality in the Built Environment
3. Supporting Sustainable Development of the Built Environment
4. Ensuring High Standards of Qualification for Architects
5. Advocating Quality in Architectural Practice
6. Fostering Cross-Border Cooperation and Facilitating European Practice
7. Acting as the Single Voice for Architects in Europe

Its membership consists of member organisations, which are the nationally representative regulatory and professional bodies in all European Union Member States, Accession Countries and other European countries that enjoy a special status. Through them, the ACE represents the interests of about 480,000 architects.

The working structure of the ACE is devised in such a way that it maintains and ensures a high level of effectiveness within the realm of European architectural and professional policy.

Contact:

Architects' Council of Europe

Rue Paul Emile Janson, 29
B-1050 BRUSSELS

Tel: (+32) 2 543 11 40
Fax: (+32) 2 543 11 41

www.ace-cae.eu





Table of Contents:

[P.4](#) **President's Letter**



[P.6](#) **Report of the Secretary General**

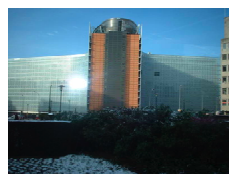


[P.8](#) **Evolution of the Professional Profile of the Architect** The key achievements and studies that were made by the ACE about access to the profession

[P.11](#) **The Business Environment for Architects** The key achievements and all the events that the ACE attended about the practice of architecture

[P.14](#) **Architecture and Quality of Life** The key achievements and the conferences that were undertaken by the ACE in this Thematic Area

[P.18](#) **Specific Cooperations at European level** The various partnerships that the ACE maintains at European level



[P.20](#) **External Relations** The different relationships that the ACE maintains outside of Europe

[P.22](#) **Outlook for 2010-2011** The ongoing work of the ACE and prospects for the period 2010-2011

[P.23](#) **Structure of the Architects' Council of Europe** An explanation of the ACE and its working structure

[P.24](#) **Members of the ACE** Listing of the names of Member Organisations by country with website addresses

[P.26](#) **Communication tools** The various tools used by the ACE to communicate its message

President's Letter

During the years 2008 and 2009 I had the honour of being, for the second time, President of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE). I first served as President in 2002 for a one-year period as a nominee of my national Member Organisation. This time around I was elected by the Member Organisations, adding to the honour of representing the profession at European level.

As you will see from this report the years of 2008 and 2009 were full of activities and achievements for the ACE. You will read in particular about the successful conference on *Designing the Future: the Market and Quality of Life* which my predecessor, Jean-François Susini had put in motion leaving me the pleasure and challenge of presiding over this major European event. You will also read about the many international contacts that the ACE has had during this two years period, contacts that it gave me particular pleasure to nurture and advance. In this context I am thinking about the ongoing negotiations with our Mexican colleagues, the two journeys I had to the United States to interact and debate with our colleagues from the United States and a most enlightening trip to South Korea where initial negotiations towards a Mutual Recognition Agreement on Qualifications were started.

It would be remiss of me not to refer to the major financial and economic crisis that struck the world, and our profession in particular, in the middle of my two years. You will all recall that the crisis commenced in September 2008 and it has had a significant impact on the architectural profession.

At my request the ACE has been tracking the impact of the crisis on the architectural profession by means of a quarterly survey, which now shows that although the main world economists are speaking about a start to the recovery our survey shows that for the architectural profession in Europe the situation is not yet improving. This is of concern as the architectural profession tends to be one of the first to feel the warm wind of recovery and yet workloads and employment rates for architects continue to drop. Our latest survey in the last quarter of 2009 showed that even public sector contracts where there had been promises of renewed investment to encourage an exit from the financial crisis are not being realised for the architectural profession across Europe.

In spite of these difficulties the architectural profession remains optimistic about the short and medium term future and it is growing more and more conscious of the contribution that it can make to creating a sustainable quality built environment. In fact there is a growing awareness and acceptance that it will be by embracing new approaches and adopting sustainable architecture as the mainstream, that the architectural profession can best contribute to the much needed recovery.

During my time in office the ACE itself has seen the start of an evolution within its own working structure that will see a change in approach in the coming years. It is anticipated that there will be a more outward looking policy with a higher number of external events organised in collaboration with suitable partners and it is certain that this evolution will include changes in the permanent staff at the Secretariat in Brussels.



In closing, I wish to thank all of my colleagues that served on the Executive Board during my Presidency:

Jordi Querol (ES),
Vice-President in 2008 and Coordinator of Thematic Area 3
John Wright (UK),
Vice-President in 2009 and Coordinator of Thematic Area 2 in 2008 and 2009
Vincent Cassar (MT),
Treasurer 2008 and 2009
Wolfgang Haack (DE),
Coordinator of Thematic Area 1 in 2008
Jean-Paul Scalabre (FR),
Vice-Coordinator of Thematic Area 1 in 2008 and Coordinator in 2009
Georg Pendl (AT),
Vice-Coordinator of Thematic Area 2 in 2008
Pedro Guilherme (PT),
Vice-Coordinator of Thematic Area 2 in 2008
Jos Leyssens (BE),
Vice-Coordinator of Thematic Area 1 and responsible for sponsorship in 2009
Olgierd Dziekonski (PL),
Member Responsible for Diplomatic Relations in 2008 and 2009
Vlado Krajcar (SI),
Member in 2008
Fernando Martins (PT),
Member in 2008
Eva Tétényi (HU)
Vice-Coordinator Thematic Area 3 in 2009
Serban Tiganas (RO)
Responsible for Communication in 2009
Dalibor Borak (CZ)
Co-Chair of Joint Working Party with Schools in 2009
Christian Lerche (DK)
Vice-Treasurer in 2009

They gave me support and worked hard in the pursuit of the missions of the ACE. I would also like to thank the Chairs of our Work Groups who are all specifically mentioned in the pages of this report and last, but not least, the staff in the Secretariat in Brussels.

Finally, I hope that reading this report of the main achievements and activities of the ACE during my two years as President will raise in your mind the thought that our society cannot prosper without the benefit of quality sustainable architecture that fully understands and answers the legitimate needs and desires of society.

Juhani Katainen
President of the ACE 2008-2009

Report of the Secretary General

After the first stage of implementing the new Statutes of the ACE and after the first mandate of an elected President and elected Executive Board (2006-2007), the ACE has spared no effort in making its proposals and positions better known to politicians at all levels and to relevant decision-makers. It has also continued the implementation of its Statutes via a reinforcement of its internal structure which further increases the efficiency of the organisation.

In relation to external affairs the period 2008-2009 was particularly rich in political developments and significant events for the ACE and the architectural profession that it represents.

The outstanding event of 2008 was undoubtedly the European Conference *Designing the Future: The Market and Quality of Life* organised by the ACE in Brussels in April 2008. This conference, planned and prepared by the outgoing president of the ACE, Jean-François Susini, brought together more than 400 people at the legendary building *Le Flagey*. The very high level of speakers that the ACE invited clearly demonstrated that the market cannot do everything and, above all, that it is not possible and not desirable to try to reconcile market logic with the protection of the public interest. It is exactly this that the conference, which was organised around the four pillars of European Construction (economic, social, environmental and cultural) aimed at, putting the Lisbon Agenda and the Gothenburg Declaration back into perspective: achieving growth and sustainable development at the same time.

In his overture to the hall, the Vice-President of the European Commission, Siim Kallas quoted the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright and called on architects to continue their role as prophets. He announced the putting in place by the European Commission of an architectural policy for its own buildings and, in addition, he and the Minister-President of the Brussels Capital-Region Charles Picqué unveiled the launch of a major international contest for the urban redevelopment of the Rue de la Loi and its surrounding area in the European Quarter located in the centre of Brussels.

In the magnificent hall the overture was followed by the resonant, visionary statements – that proved to be premonitions in a certain way – of Professor Riccardo Petrella who said that cities are like hurricanes. He also incited architects not to give up on their role in the fight against poverty.

Parliamentarians and Ministers from various European Countries followed each other to the stage to participate in the “concert” and to express, often in a vigorously manner, their opinions in favour of quality and sustainable development of the built environment. The crescendo of the Conference saw the President in office of the Council of Ministers of the Environment of the European Union (Slovenian Presidency) close the event and in order to recall that architecture is, without doubt, the most complete art the hall echoed with the energetic, wild notes of the “Dance of Fire” by Manuel de Falla played by one of the founders of the ACE – at that time also Vice-President of the ACE – the Catalan Jordi Querol i Piera who, by this act, enchanted the participants just before they left.

Another significant event in 2008 was the preparation by the ACE, in liaison with the World Congress of Architects in Turin in July, of a *Declaration on Architecture and Sustainability*. This Declaration was founded on the ACE policy in this field that had been adopted by the ACE in the previous year. The Declaration letter became the subject of a publication in 2009 which was widely disseminated and which was brought to the attention of the Heads of States and Governments present on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Among the activities of the ACE with a political character it is important to underline the active engagement of the ACE in the development of the principles of the Leipzig Charter for Sustainable European Cities (2007), particularly in regards to the reference that is made in that document about the need for high quality architecture and for *BauKultur*. In addition to its contribution to the follow-up of the Charter prepared by the Regional Development Committee of the European Parliament and adopted in Spring 2008, the ACE has actively contributed to several different follow-up elements linked to the putting in place and effective implementation of the Leipzig Charter.

Additionally in the context of meetings of the Urban Development Group (UDG) the ACE has contributed to work for the establishment of a European reference framework for the sustainable development of cities in the context of a Work Group of Member States and diverse institutions led by France. The prototype of the tool should be completed during the Spanish Presidency in 2010.

The ACE also prepared a series of political recommendations addressed to the candidates for the European Elections in Spring 2009. These recommendations were actively brought to the attention of the candidates in the Member States thanks to a close and effective cooperation with the Member Organisations of the ACE.



In 2008 the ACE commissioned a European study on the architecture sector, the results of which are particularly interesting and which were published at the start of 2009. It was the first such study and it is planned to repeat the study over the coming years, ideally every two years, in order to progressively build up a database of reliable statistics, an in-depth knowledge of the conditions of practice and the economic importance of the profession of architect at European level.

In April 2009, a diner debate was organised in partnership with the Intergroup URBAN.Logement of the European Parliament and it brought together representatives of European Institutions and Industry on the theme Sustainable Architecture and the Built Environment – Answering the needs of European Citizens.

Another public event that achieved great success was held in September 2009. It was organised in cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee in the context of its campaign "Save it!" related to energy efficiency. The ACE organised the seminar that was held in a sustainably conceived temporary wooden structure (designed by two Austrian architects) known as the "Pallet House" which was installed in the Place Sainte Catherine, a very public space in Brussels.

Still on the theme of external activities the ACE has maintained direct contacts with the European Institutions in the context of negotiations aimed at concluding Mutual Recognition Agreements in the context of Free Trade Agreements or economic partnerships negotiated between the European Union and third-countries. Several meetings took place with representatives of the profession from South Korea in 2008 in Seoul and 2009 in Brussels and also with representatives from the countries of the CARIFORUM (Caribbean) in November 2009 in Brussels.

Following up on its efforts carried out in cooperation with the European Forum for Architectural Policies the ACE was present together with many of its Member Organisations at the Conferences organised by the successive Presidencies of the European Union in Ljubljana, Bordeaux, Prague and Stockholm in order to promote the adoption of architectural policies in the largest number of Member States. These efforts continue to deliver valuable results.

A particular mention should be made of the preparation and eventual adoption, in November 2008 by the European Council, of its conclusions on culture and the contribution of architecture to sustainable development. The ACE actively contributed to the content of the final text, which was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 13th December 2008.

The ACE also participated in several meetings of the International Union of Architects (UIA) including the World Congress held in Turin (already mentioned) which was greatly affected by the sudden death of one of its delegates and a friend of the ACE, Giancarlo Lus, who was also a candidate for the Presidency of the UIA at that conference.

The Presidents of many architectural organisations including Canada, South Korea, the USA, Mexico, and Russia were present during the General Assembly of the ACE held in Helsinki in April 2009 together with the President of the UIA, Louise Cox and the Vice-Presidents of Regions I and II Albert Dubler and Lisa Siola respectively.

To end this part on the subject of external relations and cooperations it is important to underline the reinforced cooperation between the profession and the schools of architecture thanks to the Joint Working Party (JWP) that has been established between the ACE and the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE). The common work in the JWP has identified a structured programme of cooperation on subjects of common interest for the coming years.

Finally this report, short as it is, would not be complete if it did not mention some internal activities.

In relation to the Work Groups actively working within the three thematic areas of the ACE and which number about a dozen at the present time, a particular mention should be made about the holding of several European Workshops in 2009. The Thematic Area *Access to the Profession* held two workshops, one in Paris in June and one in Brussels in December and the Thematic Area *Architecture and Quality of Life*, held workshops in Malta in January and Sibiu in Romania in October.

The few elements presented in this report are only a selection from a much wider range of activities carried out by the ACE during these last two years and they illustrate the very wide variety of issues that the ACE engages in. This engagement is necessary in order to ensure the representation of the interests of the 47 Member Organisations of the ACE that come from 33 countries in Europe.

Alain Sagne
Secretary General of the ACE 1991-2010

Evolution of the professional profile of the architect

◆ Key achievements

Implementation of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC)

Work on Accreditation & Validation

WG Accreditation and Validation

The ACE adopted a policy in November 2009 on Accreditation and Validation for access to the profession. In this policy the ACE encourages all Member Organisations to ensure that they have a transparent and accountable process for identifying which qualifications will be proposed for the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (the PQD hereinafter). The process has to include full consultation with the schools and universities, the professional bodies, the competent authorities and other interested parties, and it has to be clear where and how, in that process, the qualification is assessed.

Therefore, the Work Group on Accreditation and Validation was set up to establish the processes by which member countries decide whether a qualification should be notified to the European Commission for the PQD. The Group was mandated to examine the range of accreditation/validation systems that are in place in the different Member States, so that the ACE would have a clear understanding of the different types of such systems across the EU and how they are being used in Member States. The Work Group was also mandated to identify typical or widely used models.

After some research, the conclusions of the Work Group are that there is a wide range of differing models currently in operation by which countries establish which qualifications will be proposed to the Commission for the PQD. The Work Group considered that this is an issue of concern. Of even more concern was that several countries have no system for checking that the qualifications reach a sufficient standard, and in particular there is no clearly identifiable point where they are formally checked against the requirements of the PQD. So this is an element to be improved in the future

Education & Training of Architects in the European Union

WG Education and WG on Acquisition of Professional Experience

The legislation and the services offered by architects are different in each country. There are also contrasts in their higher education systems and in how the profession is regulated. Accordingly some variations exist in the qualifications required of architects in each country. In 2008, the ACE reaffirmed its policy that states that at least five years of full time education, supplemented by at least two years of professional practice experience is the minimum duration required in order to acquire the necessary competences prior to registration to practice, in accordance with the 11 essential requirements and other relevant provisions contained in the Chapter II and Annex V of the PQD.

Setting up of the Sub-group of Experts of the Coordinators Group assisting the Commission for the implementation of the PQD

WG Professional Qualifications Directive

The Expert Sub-Group of the Coordinators Group that assists the Commission for the implementation of the PQD was approved by unanimous decision of the Coordinators Group in 2008. The establishment of the Sub Group of the Coordinators' Group specifically deals with recognition of diplomas for the architectural profession.

Several delegates from the ACE Member Organisations are the nominated experts for their countries to the Expert Sub-Group, consequently they are able to ensure that the work of the sub-group is known to the ACE and to ensure that information is adequately exchanged among experts.

A good relationship between experts and a build-up of mutual trust significantly assists in the assessment procedures that necessarily must take place and a coordinated and long-term effort is needed by the Group. Moreover, the objectives of improving the functioning of the PQD by the establishment of an Expert Group, linked with a transformation of the way qualifications are notified and listed (i.e. including requirements beyond academic qualifications), should significantly improve the quality of architectural education in Europe.



WG on Education

Chair: Ferenc Makoveyi (HU)

The tasks of this Work Group are oriented within the Policy objectives of the ACE, which is to seek to maintain a high level of qualifications within the profession and to promote a five-year duration for academic studies and a minimum of two years duration for professional practice experience prior to registration or licensing.



WG on the Professional Qualifications Directive

Chair: Toal O'Muiré (IE)

The ACE has established this Work Group in order to specifically address the implementation of the Qualifications Directive within the Member States of the EU since the abolition of the specific directive relating to the recognition of architectural qualifications.



WG on Acquisition of Professional Experience

Chair: Michel Procès (BE)

The goal for this Work Group, in coordination with the Work Group Education and the Work Group Professional Qualifications Directive, is, on the one hand, to describe the development of the career of the architect in the context of the work programme of the ACE and, on the other hand, to develop a global vision of the professional profile of the architect and its disciplines.



WG on Accreditation & Validation

Chair: Sarah Lupton (UK)

The prime purpose of this Work Group is to survey and describe the range of systems that are in place in the different Members States to assess professional qualifications.

◆ Studies

Studies on Education & Training

Several studies have been undertaken about the education and training of architects. One of them concerned continuous professional development for architects (CPD) in Europe and its aim was to improve the knowledge of the existing systems of CPD. Another one was about the modalities to acquire work experience, through internship and complementary qualifications to the academic degree.

But the main study was about the acquisition of competences and how to qualify as an architect in the European Union where there are many differences between countries in their legislation. Nevertheless, the mutual recognition of architects' qualifications across borders, and administrative cooperation under the Professional Qualifications Directive, are helped by reliable knowledge of the systems of training in each country. So the final document shows an overview of the situation in different countries in Europe.

◆ Events

The Oxford Conference 2008 - 22nd and 23rd July 2008

In 2008, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Oxford Conference by organising this event, which was entitled "50 years on – Resetting the Agenda for Architectural Education". Education of architects has significantly evolved during the second half of the 20th century. It turned away from a largely apprentice based system of education of architects to a University based system of education. The education and training of the architect calls for five years of education in a school of architecture supplemented by two years of professional practice experience in an office. This approach is used in practically all countries and is defended by the ACE.

The ACE was represented by Adrian Joyce, who also made an oral presentation on behalf on the Joint Working Party that the ACE has with the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE).

The opening debate took place on the motion: **Architecture would be better off without schools of architecture**. The debate raised the polemical issue of whether or not schools of architecture serve the primary function of preparing persons to practice in the field of architecture or whether they teach architecture as a discipline. It would be fair to say that in the sessions attended by Adrian Joyce this theme was a recurring and persistent aspect of all debates. In the end, there was a vote showing that the participants firmly believe that architecture needs schools of architecture.

On the second day of the Conference, there was a forum "Schools and Professional Views". Adrian Joyce made his presentation "Educational Collaboration with the Architectural Profession" during this session. Adrian Joyce presented the paper prepared with the Joint Working Party between the ACE and the EAAE (European Association for Architectural Education) which calls for a closer collaboration between the profession and schools to better face the challenges that currently weigh on the profession. He used the opportunity to state that the profession was not looking to the schools to produce graduates that were immediately economically viable within their offices but that they were looking for mature persons who can quickly assimilate the necessary skills and abilities required of the practicing architect.

The final conclusion of the Conference was that there is no need to reset the agenda for architectural education, meaning that the structure of architectural education still appears appropriate and adequate but that there is a need to constantly question the content and form of the curriculum.

5th Architecture and Education Congress

The theme of the 5th Architecture and Education Congress in 2009 held in Istanbul was **Quality/Qualification and Responsibility**. The ACE was represented at the Congress by Juhani Katainen, its President, who discussed the vision and the work of the organisation on these topics. This was the perfect occasion to disseminate the core policies of the ACE that relate directly to the theme.

It has been shown that because architects have a responsibility towards society, there is a need, in the public interest, to ensure that the architectural profession is organised

and regulated by fair, appropriate regulations and laws. The ACE works on the issues that such a level of organisation requires and ensures that best practices in the regulation of the profession across Europe are shared by and among its Member Organisations. To make this concrete, the ACE has developed *Guidelines on the quality management of architectural practice* that was prepared by a Taskforce set up for the purpose. And if the guidelines are followed, architectural practices can significantly improve the quality of the service that they provide for their clients.

Another key element of the message delivered to the Congress is that the profession speaks with one voice about what should be the minimum conditions of education and training for architects, because the ACE policy about the education and training of architects is in line with the International Standards of Professionalism established by the UIA (at least five years of full time education supplemented by at least two years of qualifying professional practice experience). But the ACE believes that it is also necessary for all architects in practice to maintain the skills that they have acquired and to remain fully up to date with regulatory, technological and professional developments as they affect the practice of architecture. As a result, Member Organisations of the ACE adopted in 2001 a Charter on Continued Professional Development that saw them committing to the establishment, in each of their countries, of a structured system of Continuous Professional Development that will permit all architects to fulfil this desirable objective of remaining fully competent to practice.



◆ Cooperation

European Network of Heads of Schools of Architecture (ENHSA)

<http://www.enhsa.net>

ENHSA, the European Network of Heads of Schools of Architecture, is a Socrates Programme funded by the European Commission. This Programme is a Thematic Network, which aims to generate a support framework for European schools of architecture. This framework is intended to aid Schools during their integration process in the presently under construction common space for higher education in Europe. The Network to date counts approximately eighty partners, seventy eight of which are schools of architecture in Europe, the EAAE and the Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, Direction de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine (France), are also partners of the Network.

European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE)

<http://www.eaae.be>

In addition, the ACE has an established collaboration with the EAAE in the form of a Joint Working Party (JWP). As part of this collaboration the ACE is regularly invited to send representatives to the annual meeting of the ENHSA, which is held in Chania, Greece in early September each year. Moreover, the ACE has adopted the Chania Resolution (2007), prepared by the EAAE because it was fully in accordance with the policy of the ACE.

The Business Environment for Architects

◆ Key achievements

Services in the Internal Market (SIM)

Preparation of the SIM Collection

WG Services in the Internal Market

The idea of the SIM Collection is to publicise the positions of the ACE in relation to each of the critical items covered by the Services Directive (2006/123/EC) and to give guidance and information to Member Organisations in their defence of the profession at national level. The documents presented in the SIM Collection are the Quality Charter, the report on Cost Information Systems, the European Deontological Code and the Manual on Quality Management of Architectural Practice. These documents represent the ACE Reference documents.

Survey on Cost Information Systems

WG Cost Information Systems

In the context of the implementation of the SIM Directive this Work Group surveyed the methods and approaches used by architects in the Member States of the EU to charge for their services. This was the basis for thorough work on models the outcome of which was a practical reference tool in order to better evaluate the actual cost of operation of architectural offices in the various countries of the European Union. The goal is to provide transparent and objective information to clients and consumers that fully respect EU competitions laws.

Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)

Opening of negotiations with KIRA & CARIFORUM towards Mutual Recognition Agreements

WG Trade in Services

The ACE initiated profession-to-profession talks with the Korean Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA) for a Mutual Recognition Agreement. First contacts took place in July 2008 on the fringes of the UIA Congress in Turin. It was decided to establish a Joint Working Party with representatives from the two Organisations for this purpose and two meetings have already taken place between the two organisations, in Seoul and in Brussels. The aim of the negotiations is to ensure that an agreement on architectural services will, in due course, be annexed to the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement that was nearing completion at the end of 2009.

In parallel, the ACE met with a delegation of architects from CARIFORUM that gathers together the Island Nations of the Caribbean (Caricom), with a view to cooperation. Initial contacts and one meeting have already taken place. This comes just in time since the Committee on International Trade of the European Parliament has approved the Economic Partnership Agreement with CARIFORUM Countries. During the discussions between ACE and CARIFORUM representatives it appeared that some work still has to be done in order to secure unified conditions and standards for the profession in that Region and also that a mutual exchange of information between CARIFORUM and the EU is necessary in order to facilitate the process towards a potential MRA.



13th Asian Congress of Architects

A delegation of the ACE was invited by the KIRA to the 13th Asian Conference of Architects for the period 29th October to 3rd November 2008, organised back to back with a meeting of ARCASIA, the Association of Architects' Organisations in Asian Countries. The delegation consisted of the President, Juhani Katainen, the rapporteur of the ACE on Trade in Services, Ian Pritchard and the Secretary General, Alain Sagne. This event provided a valuable opportunity to enhance links with Asian colleagues and organisations and, more particularly, provided an opportunity for the ACE to initiate formal discussions with the KIRA on the fringes of the Conference on the subject of how to progress the negotiation of a profession-to-profession Mutual Recognition Agreement on architectural services.

◆ Studies

Sector Study

In 2008, the ACE commissioned the independent consultant Mirza & Nacey (UK) to carry out a European study of the architectural profession. The study has been a resounding success thanks to the cooperation and efforts of the Member Organisations of the ACE. It constitutes the first really reliable survey at European level of the architectural profession. This survey, which it is intended to repeat and supplement on a regular, if possible biennial, basis should, in the future, enhance the pool of knowledge about the profession and its business environment, increase the visibility of the ACE and allow the ACE and its Member Organisations to shape their political actions. The final report of the first study is available on the ACE website.

It emerges from the study that the number of Architects in Europe is 483,480 from 32 countries and the number of Architects Practices is 69,800.

The size of the Architectural Market was €22 billion in 2007.

The average annual earnings for an architect is €35,570 (adjusted).

The percentage of architects working in their own country is 93%.

Work on private housing represents 45% of workload.

Survey on the impact of the Economic Crisis

The ACE has launched a periodic study of the impact of the crisis on the architectural sector since the economic downturn began in September 2008. The survey has been run every quarter in 2009. The fourth survey, in December 2009, shows that the architectural profession is still badly affected by the crisis. The results indicate that the profession has not felt any benefit from the promises made by European and national governments to increase spending on public projects in the construction sector. Consequently, architects are pessimist about the public sector and not confident in the future.

Study on Professional Indemnity Insurance

This study seeks to collect reliable and complete information on the liability and insurance regimes in force for architects in Europe. It was prepared by the ACE in collaboration with the CEA Belgium (Centre d'Etudes d'Assurance). The main objective was to establish an inventory of information on the liabilities and insurance regimes for architects in the 33 European countries from which the Member Organisations of the ACE come.

◆ Events

Designing for the Future: The Market and Quality of life – April 2008

(see also report of the Secretary General at the beginning of this Biennial Report)

On the 10th of April 2008, the Architects' Council of Europe organised a conference, entitled *Designing for the Future: The Market and Quality of life*, placed under the patronage of José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission. The event was divided into five main sessions plus the opening and closing formalities. The opening speech was given by Mr Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission and the closing speech was given by Mr Janez Podobnik, Environment Minister of Slovenia and President-in-office of the EU Council.

Session A was dedicated to social aspects and architecture's role in ensuring social cohesion. Speakers said that urban policies needed an integrated as well as holistic approach; which takes account of those involved in, or affected by, urban policy-making.



Session B was based on the economy, the market and quality in the built environment. It was said that using the city as a wealth-creating machine has left it ugly and environmentally dangerous. In fact, it seems that saving the environment always comes second to economic interests. Some speakers are willing to believe that urban renewal will come from private finance; others regretted the loss of public interest in the political process.



**WG on Services
in the Internal Market**
Chair: John Wright (UK)

This Work Group was established in order to deliberate on the implications of the directive on Services in the Internal Market. It prepares appropriate guidelines on the directive for the Member Organisations of the ACE in order to assist them in their contacts with their national governments.



WG on Health and Safety
Chair: John Graby (IE)

The Work Group was requested to monitor the dissemination and the translation of EU Guide to the Temporary or Mobile Construction Sites Directive (TMCS).



**WG on Procurement of
Architectural Services**
Chair: Georg Pendl (AT)

The main goal of the work of this Work Group is to ensure that the views of the profession are fully taken into account so as to ensure that quality based selection procedures becomes the accepted norm for the procurement of architectural services across the EU.



**WG on Cost
Information Systems**
Chair: Philip Ridgway (FR)

The major function of this Work Group is to deliver tools that can be exploited for the calculation of the cost of running architectural practices, so as to provide transparent and objective information to clients and consumers.



**WG on Insurance and
Professional Liability**
Chair: Steven Daelman (BE)

It is important to ensure that the architectural profession is not unduly burdened with Insurance requirements in the coming liberalised era and to seek an equitable and economical availability of appropriate insurance for the liabilities properly carried by the profession.

In a Special Session on the Leipzig Charter for Sustainable European Cities the audience learnt that it is a tool to integrate urban development, contribute to sustainable cities and return life to the deprived areas of inner cities.

Session C talked about the environment and how to use an integrated approach. It was argued that the environmental situation is so serious that we must use every possible tool to change attitudes. Speakers described the challenges of scrapping traditional thinking to carry out an integrated approach to the built environment, both at national and European Union level.

In Session D on culture, architecture was described as the art that combines all the aspects of today's world. The French government described the measures it will take during the EU Presidency to push the cultural agenda forward.

At the end of the conference, the organisers recalled the importance of involving all parties in urban regeneration, taking an integrated, holistic approach, using public procurement to promote sustainability and quality. Architecture was emphasised as a positive tool in this process.

A publication was made based on this conference. It includes all the speeches made by the various speakers during the conference and the proceeding of the day and can be found at:

http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/docs/Proceedings_Complete.pdf



Architecture and Quality of Life

◆ Key achievements

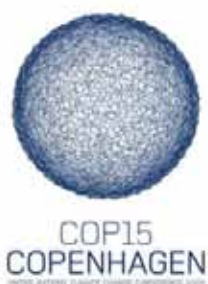
Architecture & Sustainability - Declaration and Policy of the Architects' Council of Europe

Declaration on Architecture & Sustainability

WG Environment and Sustainable Architecture

In 2008 the General Assembly adopted an ACE Declaration on Architecture and Sustainability based on a Policy of the ACE on the Environment & Sustainable Architecture adopted the year before. The Declaration was presented during the UIA (International Union of Architects) Congress in Turin in July 2008. Sustainable architecture is gaining ground and is being built in many countries of the EU and it is becoming more and more important in society. In its Declaration, the ACE takes account of several European and International charters and declarations but also quotes the actions to which the architectural profession in Europe commits. For its Policy, the ACE proposed an action strategy on energy efficiency and the built environment. The Declaration and Policy was published in 2009 and widely disseminated. It was officially launched during the seminar **Architecture and Sustainability: already with us** held in September 2009 by the ACE in cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee in the context of the "Save it!" Campaign on energy efficiency launched by the EESC.

Statement for COP 15



The publication referred to above was pertinent to the topic of the Conference on Climate Change held in Copenhagen in December 2009 and hence was brought to the attention of the Heads of States and Governments, and the relevant Ministers of the EU Member States present at the COP 15 in Copenhagen together with a statement urging them to recognise the importance and role of architecture in lessening the impact of development on the environment. The statement emphasised the fact that Architecture is a powerful tool that should be used to mitigate the effects of Climate Change and that can have a positive impact on our future life.

Architecture, Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion

Follow-up to the Leipzig Charter

WG Urban Issues

In 2008 the ACE contributed to the parliamentary report prepared by Mrs Gisela Kallenbach MEP on behalf of the Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament on the follow-up to the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities adopted in May 2007 by the Ministers in charge of Urban Development.

The ACE has been regularly involved in the last few years in the activities of the Urban Development Group (UDG) that was set up by the Member States in the aftermath of the Lille Ministerial Conference in 2000. Thus the ACE was able to make specific input on architectural quality for the Declaration on Urban Development adopted by the competent Ministers during the ministerial meeting held in Marseille in November 2008 during the French Presidency, to which the ACE was also invited.

The ACE also participated in the Cities Forum organised as part of the activities of the French Presidency in Montpellier (France) in December 2008.

Another, ongoing activity is the contribution that the ACE is making to the work carried out in the context of the Member States/Institutions (MS/I) Group that was set up to develop a reference framework for the implementation of the Leipzig Charter, as decided during the Marseille Ministerial, to produce a web-based tool for cities to use to benchmark the sustainability of their development.

Furthermore, the Directorate-General Regional Policy of the European Commission (DG REGIO) has engaged in a serious reflection on the topic of quality indicators and the ACE was invited to take part in a meeting of experts convened by the DG REGIO in order to debate the question of the development of indicators for sustainable cities as part of its input to the process for the development of a reference framework for the implementation of the Leipzig Charter mentioned above.



WG on Environment and Sustainable Architecture

Chair: J Owen Lewis (IE), 2008 and Paula Cadima (PT), 2009

This Work Group examines issues surrounding energy efficiency, sustainable construction methods and techniques, standardisation and sustainability. Many of the priority issues being dealt with by the ACE resonate with the work of this Work Group.



WG on Housing

Chair: Teresa Taboas (ES)

The Work Group was mandated to identify the specific aspects of the added value of architecture in the policy area of housing in an urban context, with a European perspective and with an integrated and holistic approach. It will devise concrete recommendations on measures that arise out of its deliberations on these issues.



WG on Urban Issues
Chair: Antonio Borghi (IT)

The Work Group has been asked to contribute to strengthening the architectural dimension of the urban space for the development and regeneration of cities and urbanised areas and to prepare concrete recommendations on measures that arise out of its deliberations on these issues.



WG on Research
Chair: Laszlo Miko (HU), 2008
and Liviu Gligor (RO), 2009

This Work Group debates the issues of research and ensures that the Member Organisations of the ACE are informed of relevant matters that arise in the field of research including the delivery of a considered view of the role that the profession can play in research at European level.

Architecture and Sustainability: Already with us – September 2009

With challenges such as the consequences of climate change being faced, European society has become more and more aware of the need for greater energy efficiency, more respect for the environment and smarter use of resources. In the wake of these observations, the European Economic and Social Committee organised from 22nd to 25th of September 2009 a series of energy days housed in a temporary building conceived from a sustainability point of view. As a partner to these energy days, the Architects' Council of Europe was invited to hold a seminar on the afternoon of the 24th of September.

The seminar, entitled *Architecture and Sustainability: Already with us*, focused mainly on showing a series of case studies that clearly demonstrate how sustainable architecture is gaining ground and is already constructed in many countries of the EU. Various projects were presented such as *Pallethouse*, a sustainable building for poor and for rich in Austria; *Solar Building XXI*, a passively cooled building in Lisbon; and York Street Housing, a social housing scheme of 66 apartments in Dublin.

During the seminar, the ACE stated that the profession had realised that the challenges facing society as a result of climate change must be addressed, at least in part, by a new architecture based on responsibility for the resources of the planet. The ACE also presented various steps in which it had been involved recently, including several research projects in the field of sustainable architecture and much work at various events around Europe.

At the end of the seminar, the President of the ACE officially launched the ACE Declaration and Policy on Architecture and Sustainability. The then Chair of the ACE Work Group on Environment and Sustainable Architecture, Paula Cadima, informed the audience of the background and content of the Declaration and Policy.

◆ Other Important Events and Cooperations

URBAN.Logement Intergroup in the European Parliament

<http://www.urban-logement.eu>

The URBAN Intergroup (previously "URBAN-Housing") was set up and worked successfully in the 2004-2009 parliamentary term to ensure that urban related problems were reflected in the decisions of the European Parliament. It was in place until the end of the legislature, in Spring 2009, and its President was Jean-Marie Beaupuy MEP (ALDE Group, France).

In December 2009 the Secretaries General of the political groups in the European Parliament agreed that the Intergroup should be re-established for the period 2009-2014 and would be named URBAN Intergroup. The President is Jan Olbrycht MEP (EPP Group, Poland).

There are about 70 MEP (Members of European Parliament) members of the Intergroup that come from all political tendencies represented in the European Parliament. The work of the URBAN Intergroup focuses on a number of subjects linked to sustainable development of urban areas such as:

environment and energy efficiency; urban transport; housing; social aspects (social exclusion, migration, ageing of the population); services of general interest; local public finances and the impact of the financial and economic crisis in cities.

The main objectives of the URBAN Intergroup are to:

- monitor the legislative and non-legislative work of the EP committees on urban related issues
- work on common EU strategies – to put urban needs on the agenda of EU policies
- be actively involved in the preparation of EU legislation
- constantly stay in contact with partners and practitioners
- inform about the realisation of EU policies on the ground

The members gather once a month in Strasbourg. International conferences are organised in cooperation with partners in Brussels and abroad.

The ACE, who has been a partner since the inception of the Intergroup, will remain an active partner and will seek to organise relevant joint events.

Sustainable Architecture and the Built Environment: Realising European Citizen's Needs – April 2009

On the 1st April 2009, the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) co-organised with the Intergroup Urban.Logement of the European Parliament a Dinner Debate that was held in Brussels. The objective was to bring to the attention of highly placed personalities in the EU the importance of the contribution that architecture can make to sustainable development. Four Members of the European Parliament, as well as many highly placed Officials within the European Commission and other European Institutions and Professional Organisations attended the event.

During the dinner, three speeches were made. The first was made by the President of the ACE, Juhani Katainen, who pointed out the significant impact that architecture has on society and on its potential for having a positive influence on the attractiveness of European cities and regions and thus on productivity, prosperity and well being for citizens. He also referred to the enormous societal challenge that is facing the world at the present time - climate change, which requires an urgent societal response based on best knowledge and technology of all sectors, including construction.

The second speech was delivered by Rob Docter, President of the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP), and he recalled that architecture is an illustration of what culture can contribute to sustainable development. He regretted that it is not common practice to use the capacity of the architectural profession in planning and decision making about sustainable development arguing that it is something that should absolutely be the case during the 21st century. He noted that architecture is an important creative cultural industry that could encourage innovation and encourage the economic growth and employment potential.

Finally, the third speech was made by Jean-Marie Beaupuy, President of the European Parliament Intergroup Urban.Logement, in which he highlighted the fact that architects have a lot that they can offer to decision makers. They could, in cooperation with the Intergroup, lobby decision makers in order to urge them to take account of the knowledge and experience that resides in the profession in order to incorporate that into their work.

Following the presentations there was a debate moderated by the Secretary General of the ACE, Alain Sagne.

European Union Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)

During the Second European Union Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) that took place from the 28th January to the 1st February 2008 and consisted of hundreds of events in many locations across the EU the ACE attended a number of conferences, workshops and other events in Brussels, notably those on the subject of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). The ACE, represented by Adrian Joyce, participated in four events.

The first one was ***EnR Perspectives on Implementation of the EPBD*** on the 29th January. This event was organised by the UK-based Energy Savings Trust, currently President of the European Energy Network (EnR). The main objective of the event was to launch a report commissioned by the EnR on the implementation of the EPBD. The ACE was invited to speak and give its impressions of the state-of-play of the implementation of the EPBD.

Speaking for the ACE, Adrian Joyce welcomed the publication of the report and its recommendations saying that the ACE laments the slow implementation of the EPBD across the EU (only one country – Denmark – had, at that time, fully implemented the EPBD). He recalled also that there still remain obstacles to its uptake and to the incorporation of energy efficiency approaches in buildings.

The second event was ***Energy Performance Certificates for Buildings – Getting the Conditions Right***, on the 30th January. It was organised by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI). The ACE was present only for a part of the day. During that part, a number of EU funded projects that have been targeted at ensuring the effective certification of buildings were presented.

These projects were:

- Towards Class "A" – Municipal Buildings as Shining Examples
- IMPLEMENT – The EPBD in Action; Check and Improve the Energy Performance of Schools and Disseminate Best Practice
- Retrofitting of Social Housing and Active Preparation for the EPBD
- Electronic Energy Building Directive

All these projects have prepared the market for the introduction of the EPBD and of Energy Performance Certification. Adrian Joyce reported to the event that the ACE was interested in going further to devise methods that could reliably act as indicators for quality in the built environment.

The third event was ***Investing in a Sustainable Built Environment***, on the 30th January. It was organised by the Royal Society of Chartered Surveyors. The ACE was only present for part of the event.

The conference was opened by Alfonso Gonzales Finat, Head of Directorate D in DG Enterprise which covers new & renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency and innovation. He spoke about the proposed issues that will be considered by the Commission in reviewing the provisions of the EPBD.

Nevertheless, the most important fact for the ACE was that all the messages delivered in this session resonated with its policies and objectives, thus strengthening its convictions.

The fourth event was the Film: ***Last Call for Planet Earth*** on the 31st January. This film was directed and produced by Jacques Allard, the man behind a number of organisations known to the ACE: Archi-Europe, Archi-Student, Archi-World and the European Architecture Foundation.

The film consisted of a number of edited interviews with 12 leading architects who all speak about their approach to architecture in the context of the challenge of global climate change. They demonstrate that sustainable architecture is not a style, but a necessity in today's world.

Union of European Historic Houses Associations (UEHHA) – conference on Energy Efficiency & innovation in historic houses

On 16 October 2009 in Brussels, the UEHHA held a conference on Energy Efficiency & Innovation in Historic Houses because the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) was advancing quickly. The conference consisted of various presentations in the wider context of EU sustainability policy for all land and buildings, urban and rural, commercial, residential and historic.

The ACE was represented by Selma Harrington who was, at the time, a candidate for the Presidency of the ACE.

<http://www.uehha.eu/>

Towards Net Zero – A global forum accelerating the transition towards zero energy and carbon neutral buildings

The one-day-conference was about the assessment of the impact of new carbon abatement and energy efficiency legislation. It was also intended to evaluate the strategies that we can develop to mitigate the risks and maximise the opportunities of the drive towards net zero energy buildings.

The conference contained a mix of case studies, analyses of the economic and policy impacts of shifting to a low carbon built environment and some representative talks from international associations such as the ACE, EuBAC, Climate Alliance, etc. The ACE was represented by Paula Cadima, Chair of the Work Group on the Environment and Sustainable Architecture 2009.

Ensuring quality of life in Europe's cities and towns – EEA Report N°5/2009

The ACE collaborated in the preparation of this important Report prepared by the European Environment Agency. It addresses the issues surrounding the environmental challenges that are being faced due to European and Global Change in the cities and towns of Europe. It is a Report that will raise awareness on the various perceptions of/and perspectives on a quality of life in our cities and towns. By its involvement the ACE has hoped to ensure that architecture features as one of the key elements that must be considered in achieving such quality of life.

www.eea.europa.eu/publications/quality-of-life-in-Europes-cities-and-towns

Common Language for Sustainable Construction

www.sccommonlanguage.eu

The ACE has prepared, in collaboration with the European Concrete Platform (ECP), a set of definitions for the most commonly used terms in Sustainable Construction with the intention that the final set of definitions will be adopted universally at European level as the definitions of terms in this field, so that all actors will have the same understanding of what each term means.

The work done by the ACE and the ECP that was due to be finalised during the first half of 2010 is seen as a positive contribution by the European Commission in the field where such work is necessary and welcome. This exercise will help to refine and build consensus around the definitions proposed by the ACE and the ECP, thus making a more politically acceptable document. It might even become a Commission Reference Document and its definitions might be used in the Energy Services Directive (Recast).



Specific Cooperations at European Level

EFAP: European Forum for Architectural Policies

www.efap-fepa.eu

The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) is a forum that has three main sectors represented in its composition. These are the Member State administrations responsible for architecture and the built environment, the architectural profession and cultural institutions that concentrate on architecture. It was established in the year 2000 and it has had a significant impact in raising awareness about the important beneficial impact that official architectural policies can have on the lives of EU citizens. The ACE is active in the management of the EFAP and has participated in all of its events since its inception. These events are usually official events of the EU Presidency and take place in the countries that hold the EU Presidency. As such there are usually two EFAP events each year and the EFAP is currently developing efforts to ensure that the Trio of Presidencies (the new concept resulting from the Lisbon Treaty) will coordinate their activities in this field such that there is continuity between Presidencies and architecture is included in the rolling agenda.

The President and Secretary General of the ACE as well as many delegates from the Member Organisations took part in several EFAP Conferences organised in conjunction with the successive EU Presidencies during the past two years.

- Ljubljana, June 2008: *“Urban Regeneration & Climate Change”*
- Bordeaux, October 2008: *“Architecture & Sustainable Development”*. A meeting of the ACE Executive Board was exceptionally held in Bordeaux on the fringes of the EFAP Conference.
- Prague, April 2009: *“Implementation of Architectural Policies – New Expectations”*
- Stockholm, December 2009: *“Crossing Borders – Bridging gaps towards innovative planning for and design of sustainable infrastructure”*

One activity of significant political importance that deserves a special mention was the preparation of Council Conclusions on the contribution of architecture to sustainable development that were adopted by the European Council at the end of 2008 and published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. It was developed in the context of the cooperation with EFAP and the ACE was deeply involved.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:319:SOM:EN:HTML>

ECF: European Construction Forum

www.ecf.be

The European Construction Forum (ECF) was established in 1997 (with the ACE as one of the founding members) and brings together many of the European level professional representative organisations with whom the ACE maintains close and regular contact. The ECF permits an ongoing, open exchange of information on European Legislative and Policy developments and permits a comparative appreciation of their impact on different sectors. It also acts as a resource on which the European Commission often calls for opinions and expertise.

ESF: The European Services Forum

www.esf.be

The European Services Forum (ESF) is a network of representative organisations and branches from the European services sector. It is committed to actively promoting the interests of the European services sector and the liberalisation of services markets throughout the world in connection with the Global Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations as well as with regional and bilateral trade negotiations. The ACE is an active participant in the ESF and the architectural sector has been an acknowledged leader in the field of trade negotiations, being one of the first professions to regularly enter into negotiations with potential trade partners that have opened negotiations with the EU.

ESP

The European Services Platform (ESP) was set up in 2006 and its first Chairman was Alain Sagne from the ACE. The platform is co-sponsored by BusinessEurope (formerly UNICE) and the European Services Forum (ESF) and its aim is to collaborate for the mutual benefit of its membership on issues related to services in the internal market of the EU. The ESP complements the work of the ESF by turning attention on to the difficult issues that the opening of the internal market has brought to European companies. The ESP does not currently have a website.

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

http://www.eesc.europa.eu/index_en.asp

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is a consultative body that gives representatives of Europe's socio-occupational interest groups, and others, a formal platform to express their points of views on EU issues. Its opinions are forwarded to the larger institutions - the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament. It thus has a key role to play in the Union's decision-making process. The EESC was set up by the 1957 Treaty of Rome in order to involve economic and social interest groups in the establishment of the common market and to provide institutional machinery for briefing the European Commission and the Council of Ministers on European Union issues. The 344 members of the EESC are drawn from economic and social interest groups in Europe.

EUROCITIES

www.eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities that brings together the local governments of more than 135 large cities in over 30 European countries. Founded in 1986 it provides a platform where its member cities can share knowledge and ideas, exchange experiences, analyse common problems and develop innovative solutions.

The ACE has a long established co-operation and working relationship with EUROCITIES in which matters of common concern affecting the quality of the built urban environment are debated and worked upon, notably in the framework of respective Working Groups. In the context of several EU initiatives including the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, Public Procurement and the Energy Efficiency Action Plan closer collaboration in the coming years is envisaged.

CLUB PROFILE

Club Profile is an informal grouping of the Secretaries General of many of the European representative organisations for the regulated professions. Its membership consists of the ACE, FEANI (engineers), PGEU (pharmacists), FVE (veterinarians), FEE (accountants), CNUE (notaries), CCBE (lawyers), CED (dentists), CFE (fiscal advisers) and CPME (doctors), and it meets about 6 times a year to exchange views and experiences of each profession in the face of changing EU legislation and policies.

External Relations

CARIFORUM

CARIFORUM was created in 1993 and gathers the Member States of CARICOM and the Dominican Republic. It is the system of coordination between these States and the European Union in the preparation and the selection of the eligible projects in the Indicative Regional Programme for the Caribbean.

On the 19th November 2009, a Delegation of the ACE and a Delegation from the CARIFORUM countries met in Brussels and have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that is aimed at setting the right conditions to enable negotiation of a Mutual Recognition Agreement between the architectural profession at EU level and the architectural profession in the CARIFORUM countries.



Union of Architects of Russia (UAR)

The Union of the Architects of Russia is the professional body for Architects in the Russian Federation.

In July 2008, the ACE signed a General Accord on Cooperation with The Union of Architects of Russia on the basis of a memorandum on Mutual Recognition Agreements between the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the ACE of April 2006. It is a cooperation agreement respecting the diversity of their cultural and political background.

This way, they desire to promote understanding, fellowship and freedom of movement and establishment between architects in the European Union and the Russian Federation. But also promote the practice for announcing architectural competitions adopted for the European Union to be introduced in the territory of the Russian Federation and attract architects from each party to participate in competitions announced in the other party's territory.

Korea Institute for Registered Architects (KIRA)



Established in 1965, the Korea Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA) is a leading expert organisation representing Korea's architectural community. It aims to bolster the competitive edge of the Korean architectural industry by enhancing public understanding of architecture, creating a comfortable urban architectural environment, promoting the advancement of architectural culture and technology and supporting research into the architecture of the future.

As stated above, the ACE has initiated contacts with the KIRA and has commenced negotiations on a Mutual Recognition Agreement.

Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA)

The overall objective of the UIA is to help architectural education and the profession to meet the challenges of sustainable architecture and urban planning, and to offer specialised professional advice on project design and architectural realisations to the international community.

The UIA is organised in five Regions, and each region has specific objectives and takes responsibility for specific topics. The Member Organisations of the ACE come from Region I and Region II and, as a result, the ACE maintains contact with both these Regions as well as with the Secretariat of the UIA in Paris. Given that both the ACE and the UIA strive to ensure, among other things, that the education and training of architects is of the highest possible level, there are grounds for collaboration that also brings greater efficiency to the work of the two organisations. In particular the work of the ACE and of the UIA in the field of sustainable architecture offers a potential area for collaboration and efforts are underway to find the most effective means of engaging in such collaboration. Additionally, representatives of each organisation take part in the major events of the other.

XXIII UIA World Congress of Architects – Torino 2008 (June 29th-July 3rd)

The theme chosen for this congress was Transmitting Architecture, which studied architecture as a means of communication. The congress examined all aspects of the profession that deal with the quality of life, the city, landscapes, and the environment, through a dialogue involving all stakeholders.

Three days were dedicated to developing the general theme and divided it into three major sessions: the past, the present, and the future. So on the 30th June, the session was about the past of architecture, its culture, talent, history, heritage and education. On the 1st July, the speakers discoursed on the present and democracy: urban democracy, participation, negotiation, and decision. For the last conferences on the 2nd July, it was about the future and hope: innovation, sustainability and protecting the environment.



OECD

For more than 40 years, OECD has been one of the world's largest and most reliable sources of comparable statistics and economic and social data. As well as collecting data, OECD monitors trends, analyses and forecasts economic developments and researches social changes or evolving patterns in trade, environment, agriculture, technology, taxation and more. The work of the OECD is largely used as reference for the deliberations in the WTO.

In June 2008 the ACE was invited as one of the participants in a closed seminar on Professional Services organised by the OECD.

WTO

During the summer 2009, the WTO Secretariat produced a Background Note on Architectural Services that was informally shared with the UIA for comments and was considered during the UIA Professional Practice Commission (PPC) meeting in New Delhi. It was an update to an earlier note of 1998 on architectural and engineering services, while this time specifically dealing with architectural services.

Consequently, the World Trade Organisation organised the Council for Trade in Services on 5th October 2009 in Geneva, and invited the UIA to share with Members the relevant specialised work on architectural services produced by the organisation.

It was during the PPC meeting in New Delhi that Alain Sagne was requested to accompany the UIA representative in Geneva in the context of the PPC Implementation Task Troup. About 120 people attended the Session of the WTO Council for Trade in Services⁽¹⁾.

The UIA statement prepared by Russell Keune (former AIA Director of International Relations and former Co-Director of the UIA PPC) and the UIA Draft Disciplines (2006) were distributed to the delegates present at the meeting. Then Russell Keune was able to deliver a verbal statement and it had the effect of generating a number of comments from delegations supportive of sector specific regulatory disciplines with Australia leading off and being the most comprehensive in their remarks. This Council permitted the presiding Chair to take note of the UIA concern with the lack of WTO progress in relation to domestic regulations.

⁽¹⁾ The Council for Trade in Services operates under the guidance of the General Council and is responsible for overseeing the functioning of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). It's open to all WTO members, and can create subsidiary bodies as required.



Outlook for 2010 - 2011

In the period 2010-2011 the ACE will have Selma Harrington from Ireland as its President. Her slogan for her election campaign was Review, Resource and Re-imagine and the ACE looks forward to a period of adjustment and evolution during these two years. It is expected that an in depth review of the working structure of the ACE and the priority issues on which it works will take place that will lead to a modernised, streamlined and more effective organisation. The planned review will be built on the strength and established reputation of the ACE which has been won through hard work and persistent high quality representation on the European stage. These changes are expected to occur within the over riding objectives of the ACE to promote the development of a sustainable built environment for all European citizens and thus to contribute to continued EU prosperity and sustainable, smart growth.

In the coming two year period the ACE hopes to gain more visibility by organising a greater variety of public events and higher engagement and collaboration with associated professions and actors in both the construction and political fields. These events will be milestones in the evolution that is now planned for the ACE. .

Another significant aspect is that 2010 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the ACE and it is planned to hold a series of events to mark this occasion in December 2010. These will include an exhibition of the exemplary examples of sustainable architecture in the European Parliament and the holding of the General Assembly in the premises of the European Parliament. The sponsorship of these events by a Belgian MEP Frieda Brepoels, underlines the high standing that the ACE enjoys in the eyes of policy and decision makers at the European level.

It is clear that the ACE must continue to work on current priorities and ensure continuity during its upcoming evolution. This challenge will strengthen the ACE and its internal working structure.

Among the expected outputs during the coming two year period is significant work on issues around the revision and evaluation of various European directives including the Professional qualification Directive and the Directive on the Services in the internal Market. In addition, extensive work is expected to take place in relation to the development of strategies for the creation of indicators for sustainable cities and targeted project work is underway to develop true sustainability criteria for the assessment of individual buildings.

This brief outlook cannot touch on all aspects that the ACE plans to engage in during the coming period but hopefully delivers a flavour of the ambition of the organisation. The ACE looks forward to collaborating with you, our readers and with all actors in the Construction sector and decision makers at European level in order to achieve our vision of a sustainable quality built environment for all.



Structure of the ACE

The Architects' Council of Europe is an international not for profit association composed of Representative Organisations of European Architects.

The ACE consists of a General Assembly, an Executive Board, a Finance Committee, Work Groups distributed in three Thematic Areas and a permanent Secretariat established in Brussels, at rue Paul Emile Janson 29, 1050 Brussels.

The **General Assembly** is composed of the Delegates from all Member Organisations. In the hierarchy of the ACE, it is the most important element. It meets twice a year and its function is to consider, formulate and adopt the policy of the ACE and its budget. Without the approval of the General Assembly, no policy or position can be considered to be fully representative of the views of the ACE.

The function of the **Executive Board** is to ascertain and execute the policy of the ACE as formulated by the General Assembly. It is also charged with securing, maintaining and monitoring the proper and efficient administration of the ACE. The Executive Board is composed of 11 Members, of whom 6 are elected by the General Assembly (including the President) for a mandate of two years, with the balance consisting of 5 nominees of the Members Organisations (according to an established rotation) serving for a two year mandate that alternates with the elections to ensure continuity from one Board to the next.

The function of the **Finance Committee** is to advise the General Assembly and the Executive Board in all matters relating to the financial management of the ACE. The Committee is composed of one Delegation from each Member State of the EU and only one member of each Delegation attends any meeting of the Committee. For countries from which there are multiple Member Organisations, it is for those organisations to co-ordinate at National level and to decide on the member from that State that will attend the meetings of the Committee.

For the **Secretariat**, its main function under the directions from the Executive Board is to be the permanent interlocutor of the EU Institutions and to do the advocacy work towards them on behalf of the ACE and its Members. Another important mission is to procure relevant information on the work of the EU Institutions and disseminate that information to the Member Organisations, as well as maintain the accounts and properly manage the affairs of the ACE. The Secretariat is also charged with the proper and efficient routine administration of the ACE - a task that includes, among much else, assisting in the organisation and management of the meetings of the bodies of the ACE held in Brussels.

The **Work Groups** are established by decision of the Executive Board, ratified by the General Assembly and their function is to undertake the technical work involved in the execution of the tasks assigned to them by the Executive Board. For many representatives of the Member Organisations, participation in a Work Group is the main exposure that they have to the ACE. It can also be said that it is the work of the Work Groups that represents the lifeblood of the ACE. The Work Groups should be composed of expert nominees from the Member Organisations.

The Work of the ACE is organised in three thematic areas which included the following Groups during the period 2008-2009:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the profession: - Education and Training - Professional Qualifications - Acquisition of Professional Experience - Accreditation and Validation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice of the profession and Trade in Architectural Services: - Services in the Internal Market - Trade in Services - Health and safety - Procurement of Architectural Services - Cost Information Systems - Insurance and Professional Liability - Arbitration and Dispute resolution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architecture and Quality of Life: - Environment and Sustainable Architecture - Housing - Urban Issues - Research |
|---|--|---|

Members of the ACE

AUSTRIA

Bundeskammer der Architekten und
Ingenieurkonsulenten BAIK

Web site : <http://www.arching.at>

BELGIUM

Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes
CNOA

Web site : <http://www.OrdredesArchitectes.be>

Fédération Royale des Sociétés d'Architectes
de Belgique FAB

Web site : <http://www.fab-arch.be>

BULGARIA

Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria CAB

Web site : <http://www.kab.bg>

Union of Architects in Bulgaria UAB

Web site : <http://www.bularch.org>

CROATIA

Croatian Chamber of Architects and Civil
Engineers CCA

Web site : <http://www.arhitekti-hkaig.com>

CYPRUS

Cyprus Architects Association CAA

Web site : <http://www.architecture.org.cy>

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Chamber of Architects CCA

Web site : <http://www.cka.cc>

DENMARK

Akademisk Arkitektforening AA

Web site : <http://www.arkitektforeningen.dk>

Danish Association of Architectural Firms DA

Web site : <http://www.danskeark.org>

ESTONIA

The Union of Estonian Architects UEA

Web site : <http://www.arhliit.ee>

FINLAND

Finnish Association of Architects SAFA

Web site : <http://www.safa.fi>

FRANCE

Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes
CNOA

Web site : <http://www.architectes.org>

Syndicat d'Architecture SA

Web site : <http://www.syndarch.com>

Union Nationale des Syndicats Français
d'Architectes UNSFA

Web site : <http://www.unsfa.com>

GERMANY

Architects' Delegation Germany -
Bundesarchitektenkammer BAK

Web site : <http://www.bak.de>

Architects' Delegation Germany-Bund
Deutscher Architekten BDA

Web site : <http://www.bda-architekten.de>



Architects' Delegation Germany-Bund
Deutscher Baumeister Architekten und
Ingenieure BDB

Web site : <http://www.baumeister-online.de>

Architects' Delegation Germany-Vereinigung
Freischaffender Architekten VFA

Web site : <http://www.vfa-architekten.de>

GREECE

Association des Architectes Diplômés SADAS-
PEA

Web site : <http://www.sadas-pea.gr>

Chambre Technique de Grèce CTG

Web site : http://portal.tee.gr/portal/page/portal/INTER_RELATIONS/english/role

HUNGARY

Chamber of Hungarian Architects MEK

Web site : <http://www.mek.hu>

IRELAND

Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland RIAI

Web site : <http://www.riai.ie>

ITALY

Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti,
Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori
CNAAPPC

Web site : <http://www.archiworld.it>

LATVIA

The Latvia Association of Architects LAA

Web site : <http://www.architektura.lv>

LITHUANIA

Architects Association of Lithuania AAL

Web site : <http://www.architektusajunga.lt>

LUXEMBURG

Ordre des Architectes et Ingénieurs Conseils
de Luxembourg OAI

Web site : <http://www.oai.lu>

MALTA

Kamra tal-Periti KTP

Web site : <http://www.ktpmalta.com>

NORWAY

Association of Consulting Architects in Norway ACA

Web site : <http://www.arkitektbedriftene.no>

Norske Arkitekters Landforbund NAL

Web site : <http://www.arkitektur.no>

POLAND

Association of Polish Architects SARP

Web site : <http://www.sarp.org.pl>

National Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland IARP

Web site : <http://www.izbaarchitektow.pl>

PORTUGAL

Ordem Dos Arquitectos OA

Web site : <http://www.arquitectos.pt>

ROMANIA

The Chamber of Romanian Architects OAR

SLOVAKIA

Slovak Chamber of Architects SKA

Web site : <http://www.komarch.sk>

SLOVENIA

Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia ZAPS

Web site : <http://www.arhiforum.si>

SPAIN

Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España CSCAE

Web site : <http://www.arquinex.es>

SWEDEN

Sveriges Arkitekter SA

Web site : <http://www.arkitekt.se>

SWITZERLAND

Conférence Suisse des Architectes CSA

Web site : <http://www.csa-archi.ch>

THE NETHERLANDS

Bond van Nederlandse Architecten BNA

Web site : <http://www.bna.nl>

Stichting Bureau Architectenregister SBA

Web site : <http://www.architectenregister.nl>

TURKEY

Chamber of Architects of Turkey CAT

Web site : <http://www.mo.org.tr/eng>

UNITED KINGDOM

Architect's Registration Board ARB

Web site : <http://www.arb.org.uk>

Royal Institute of British Architects RIBA

Web site : <http://www.architecture.com>

ACE Observer Members**BOSNIE AND HERZEGOVINE**

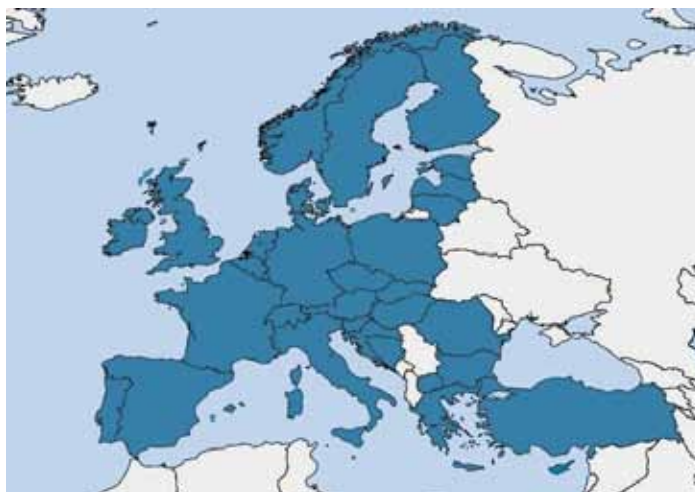
Association of Architects in Bosnia and Herzegovina

FYROM (Former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia)

Association of Architects from FYROM - AAM

Web site : <http://www.aam.org.mk>



Communication tools

ACE Info

The *ACE Info* is a News bulletin about issues in Europe related to architecture and architectural policies in general and about the different actions of the ACE in particular. This bulletin is published about eight times per year and is available on the ACE website. It is actively disseminated to more than 3,000 interested people in Europe. It includes seven sections: Core Issues, ACE Matters, Other Matters, Publications, Call for Papers, Events and Competitions. At the end of 2009, a survey was undertaken to find out the reader's opinion of *ACE Info* and improving it.

Press Releases

The ACE issues press releases on issues of central importance to its policies and for actions it undertakes as deemed appropriate. In this way, the ACE maintains a strategic presence as it progresses in the achievement of its global aims. These press releases are available on the ACE website but if you want more information about the matters reported, you can contact the ACE Secretariat.

Website

The ACE maintains a Website as a highly important resource for the use of its Member Organisations and for the general public. It contains a great number of high quality documents and links and it is regularly maintained by the staff at the Secretariat. In the coming period it is anticipated that the Website will be further improved so that it can begin to take advantage of new media technologies to make it more useful and pertinent for architects in practice and more attractive for the general public. The Website can be accessed at:

www.ace-cae.eu.





Architects' Council of Europe

Rue Paul Emile Janson, 29
1050 Brussels

Belgium

www.ace-cae.eu