



EUROPEAN BUILDERS CONFEDERATION

The Voice of Construction Crafts and SMEs in Europe

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PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

EBC ANNUAL CONGRESS 2013 How to combine internal market freedoms and an appropriate level playing field in the European construction sector?

Brussels, 1st July 2013

Last week, representatives from European construction SMEs gathered in Brussels at the EBC Annual Congress to debate with MEP Jazłowiecka, social partners and representatives from the European Council and Commission on how to ensure free movement of workers and services, while avoiding the risk of social dumping.

“The European Internal Market offers opportunities of growth to construction SMEs. However, entrepreneurs need some minimum common rules at European level for posted workers to prevent undeclared work, bogus self-employment and social dumping,” stated the European Builders Confederation’s President José Antonio CALVO DELGADO opening the Congress.

Despite being a relatively small group (1.06 million working people), posted workers have qualitative and growing economic value, due to their capacity to supply the needs of special sectors and professional figures. Construction is one of the most affected sectors. Currently, lack of controls at national level and the insufficient exchange of information among Member States create a situation of unfair competition in the Internal Market for loyal SMEs which respect the social rights of workers.

“The new enforcement directive should not require SMEs to take up inspection responsibilities across national borders which belong to public authorities, we cannot be the police of posting,” said Mr. Calvo Delgado. ***“Indeed, SMEs do not have these means of control, in particular in transnational situations, where geographical problems, translations and lack of information would make it extremely difficult”.***

EBC President Mr. Calvo Delgado concluded: ***“What we need are clear European criteria for posting, mandatory declaration prior to posting, open but transparent list of control measures, with notification by Member States and much better administrative cooperation between governments. In addition, we have always supported the application of joint and several liability, for which we propose an easy and light administrative tool, supported by MS cooperation at European level, for a reliable due diligence process”.***

* END *

Links

To see the conference programme, please [click here](#)

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NOTE TO THE EDITOR

Established in 1990, the European Builders Confederation - E.B.C. - is a European professional organisation representing national associations of Craftsmen and SMEs working in the construction sector. Through its national members, E.B.C. represents 2 million micro, small and medium sized enterprises from the construction sector.

The construction sector is of vital importance to the European Economy. With 3.1 million enterprises, an annual turnover of almost € 1600 billion, a total direct workforce of almost 14 million, the construction sector contributes at about 10% to the GDP of the European Union.

The European construction sector is composed at about 99% of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), who produce 80% of the construction industries output. The small enterprises (less than 50 employees) ensure 60% of the production and employ 70% of the sectors working population.

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