

## Services Directive in the construction sector to be assessed

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014, EBC was invited to speak at a public hearing about the Services Directive in the construction sector. The hearing was organised by the European Economic and Social Committee to present a **pilot study** aimed at **assessing the functioning of the Services Directive in the construction sector**.

EBC has contributed to this study by giving its opinion on the main issues for construction entrepreneurs. The free circulation of services produces benefits for SMEs. However, policy-makers should bear in mind enterprises on the ground are suffering from the effects of the legislative system's "grey areas" where controls are lacking and social dumping becomes possible.

EBC suggested a **proper application of existing legislation** instead of the introduction of new regulations and the use of **criteria to identify bogus self-employment**. Concerning the Posting of Workers Directive, even if this doesn't solve all the issues, it still represents a step in the right direction. However, construction SMEs have come up with concrete solutions to this, including a **database** to check enterprises' compliance with social legislation.

► [Click here to read the study](#)



## SBS welcomes new members and experts

On 28<sup>th</sup> March Small Business Standards (SBS) - the association representing European SMEs in standardisation - held its second General Assembly in Brussels.

The Assembly welcomed three **new members**: CNA (Italian Confederation of Crafts and SMEs), EVH (European Federation of Timber Construction) and IFD (International Federation for the Roofing Trade). The Assembly also appointed new experts, so as to have representation in more than 30 CEN-CENELEC-ETSI-ISO Technical Committees, fulfilling the first major goal of SBS in 2014.

The construction sector is one of the most active in the association. It counts on several members and experts working in different Technical Committees to make standards more suitable to SME needs.

► [Click here for more information on SBS](#)

### Calendar

24/04/2014	UEAPME Construction Forum, Brussels - Small Business Standards (SBS) to be presented to the Forum members
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## New rules on public procurement: EBC speaks at the DG Markt Conference

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 EBC Secretary General Riccardo Viaggi spoke at the EU Conference on the new rules on public procurement and concessions organised by DG Internal Market. Over 500 participants attended.

Riccardo Viaggi stressed the positive points of the directive, amongst which:

- ◆ Division of contract into lots and the "apply or explain" principle
- ◆ Direct payment of subcontractors
- ◆ Simplification measures, such as reduction of the annual minimum turnover and self-declarations

Nevertheless, there are some negative aspects for SMEs:

- ◆ Too much flexibility in the choice of the bid procedures for Public Authorities
- ◆ Reduction of the time limits for the receipt of tenders
- ◆ Unclear numerical criteria to identify abnormally low tenders

At this stage the priority is to have a swift and rightful implementation process at national level that could ensure a stable legal framework for the coming years and avoid early revision processes. EBC and its national members will monitor that national implementation will improve SME access to public procurement, as the directive establishes. EBC also calls on the Commission to carefully check the implementation process.

► [Click here to read the programme](#)



Vice-President Antonio Tajani, Mission for Growth in Spain

## EBC President welcomes Vice-President Antonio Tajani to Mérida, Spain

The European Builders Confederation took part in the Mission for Growth organised by DG Enterprise in Spain at the beginning of April. There, EBC President José Antonio Calvo Delgado also met Vice-President Antonio Tajani and DG Enterprise Director General Daniel Calleja Crespo.

Around 1,000 entrepreneurs in Seville and 600 in Mérida from 31 different countries got together in B2B meetings. EBC appreciates this kind of initiatives, as they are very helpful for businesses to find potentially new business contacts in the EU.

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