



...installing energy efficiency to buildings in Europe

450.000 CONTRACTORS
2.4 MILLION EMPLOYEES
200 BILLION TURNOVER

**JOINT NEWS-
LETTER OF:**

- **AIE**
European Association of Electrical Contractors
- **GCI**
Genie Climatique Internationale
- **UICP**
International Union of Roofing and Plumbing
- **CEETB** European Committee for Technical Equipment of Buildings

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CEETB-NEWS Flash

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Hakan Bergkvist new President of GCI-UICP



At the annual general assembly held mid-September in Valencia, Spain, Hakan Bergkvist has been elected as new President of GCI-UICP, the European Association of HVAC contractors representing member organisations in 23 EU-countries and beyond.

Hakan Bergkvist is a former Vice-President of VVS-Företagarna in Sweden and a business-leader for NVS-Imtech.

"It is my aim to integrate all installer enterprises in Europe to a strong interest representation in Brussels. The value of high-quality energy efficiency installations needs a strong and common voice here", said Bergkvist upon receiving congratulations about his election victory.

New GCI-UICP Vice-President is Marcel Engels, who currently serves as President of UNETO-VNI (NL).

Commission proposal for major energy infrastructure funding in the EU budget 2014-2020

In July the EU Commission proposed the budget for the EU for the next financial perspectives, from 2014-2020. With respect to energy, it proposes a radical change from the exiting approach; there is presently very limited funding for energy infrastructure, around 20 million Euros per year that focuses largely on studies and preparatory work, for "Projects of European Interest".

This however changed during the beginning of the last financial crisis, when the Commission secured agreement to spend 1 billion Euros on energy infrastructure projects of EU interest,

covering gas and electricity infrastructure needed to catalyse the construction of "missing links", as well as lay down the foundations for incorporating the huge increase in renewable electricity that will result from the Renewable Energy Directive.

The Commission now considers that this exercise was a success, because for the next EU budget it proposes to devote 9.1 billion Euros over the period 2014-2020 to energy infrastructure

For more information regarding the proposed new EU budget:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/biblio/documents/fin_fwk1420/fin_fwk1420_en.cfm

Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation



Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research and Innovation, has announced in Brussels the new name for the future EU funding programme for research and innovation: "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation". It will enter into force on 1 January 2014, after the end of FP7 on 31 Dec 2013.

"Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation" is not just a new name for the same Framework Programme. It is the name for the new, integrated funding system that will cover all research and innovation funding currently provided through the Framework Programme for Research and

Technical Development, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). These different types of funding will be brought together in a coherent and flexible manner. Research and innovation funding will focus clearly on addressing global challenges. Needless red tape will be cut out and access to programs and participation will be made easier and simpler.

With ChemXChange, GCI-UICP currently operates under the FP 7 program as a major project partner along with 9 other organisations from Poland, Norway, Bulgaria, Italy and France.

More information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/435&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=fr>.



European Commission seeks to modernise Professional Qualifications Directive

In consultation with stakeholders, the European Commission is currently seeking to modernise the Professional Qualifications Directive ([Directive 2005/36/EC](#)).

The Professional Qualifications Directive is one of the priorities of the Single Market Act and will help make the European economy more competitive while encouraging growth and job creation.

Qualified professionals must have easier access to where job vacancies exist in Europe.

Important issues like the creation of a professional card for interested professions and im-

proving the training requirements for certain professions will also be considered.

The Green Paper will finally outline possible ways forward that build on past achievements while developing new approaches to enhance mobility.

The Commission will organise a high level conference on 7 November 2011 in Brussels, CEETB is invited to attend.

A legislative proposal is foreseen for December 2011.

For further information: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/index_en.htm

Commission preparing to review controversial REACH regulation

Five years after the adoption of the controversial REACH regulation, requiring the chemical industry to justify that their products are safe for consumers, the European Commission is preparing to launch a review for a new proposal due in 2012. The review of the legislation will draw on lessons from the implementation of REACH, focusing especially on administrative costs and other impacts on innovation. This will include an evaluation of registration conditions for lower tonnage substances. Moreover, addi-



tional chemicals are to be added to the list of established harmful substances.

The REACH regulation imposes substantial costs on smaller chemical producing companies, which have to pay fees for each substance listed. Moreover, the implementation of the regulation has so far had unintended consequences, which now need to be adapted.

CEETB had always lobbied for SME conformity solutions, especially in favour of small-series production.

EP ENVI Committee endorses a collection system of small volume WEEE against SMEs interests

By end-September the European Parliament's ENVI Committee adopted the Recommendation for 2nd reading of MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz on the Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recast with 52 votes in favour, 1 against and 5 abstentions.

Amendment 53 and other similar amendments foresees that retailers (with the exemption of those operating in very small surfaces) will be obliged to take back small volume of WEEE even in those cases when there has not been any previous sale of electric or electronic equipment.

As discussed in many CEETB workshops, such amendments put an additional burden on

many installers/retailers in Europe. CEETB, together with UEAPME will therefore continue to ask MEPs to return to the current one-to-one collection system of take back, which has proven successful for SME installers/retailers.

CEETB calls on its members to contact their national Governments and ask them to keep the one-to-one collection system since the system backed so far by the Parliament is too harmful for SME installers/retailers.

Once fully adopted in parliamentary ENVI committee, the recommendation for second reading is placed on the agenda of the plenary session, which is due in January 2012.



New energy savings fund for public sector



The European Commission is investing €125 million in the European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF), the European Investment Bank (EIB) is putting up €75 million, and the mostly state-owned Italian bank Cassa Depositi e Prestiti is committing another €60 million.

A landmark €255 million fund to kick start European energy efficiency projects was launched on 1 July after protracted negotiation between EU member states.

The monies, originally from unspent EU funds, were earmarked in the aftermath of the 2008

financial crisis to help kickstart the European economy.

Philippe Maystadt, the EIB's president, said "the idea was that monies left over from the European recovery fund at the start of the economic crisis could be used by local authorities for small-scale energy efficiency initiatives".

The Fund's criteria could also cover sustainable energy investments in combined heat and power systems, decentralised renewable energy sources, clean urban transport and infrastructure modernisation, from smart grids to

More details about the funding: <http://www.managenergy.net/news/articles/74>



Greenflextube

The building and construction community in Europe includes about 220.000 plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning contractor SMEs with 1.2 million employees generating a total turnover of €130 bn.

Our community faces the challenges of meeting the growing demand for plastic pipes and the EU Landfill Directive and the revised EU Waste Framework Directive.

The polluter-pays principle says that the costs of waste management are to be borne partly or wholly by the producer of the product from which the waste came and the distributors of such products, in many cases SMEs.

Under floor heating, radiator heating and plumbing systems accounting in total 1.7 million kilometres of new piping in Europe, of which 56%, namely 0.96 million km are plastic pipes.

More: www.greenflextube.com

46% of these plastic pipes are made of PEX, which due to its cross-linked nature is not recyclable. Recycling of multilayer pipes with encapsulated aluminium is also problematic. About 3500 tonnes of scrap plastic pipes is disposed in land fill due to the use of non-recyclable plastics.

The new universal GreenFlexTube pipe will be recyclable by using innovative technologies.

The plumbing and heating contractors will benefit from selling a new innovative environment-compatible universal pipe system providing: savings in costs for storage, transportation, and logistics; improved work facilities (easy to install and bend); waste cost savings and CO2 emission savings.

The project is expected to generate over €980 million in Europe within 5-year post-project time, including exports up to €300 million and creating an estimated 2000 jobs.



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