

GCI-UICP

The Brief

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Looking back at the...

European Installers Summit 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** European Installers Summit 2013
- 4** The GCI-UICP Working Parties established in Copenhagen
- 5** Renewing our visual identity
- 7** The EU's ordinary legislative procedure - how does it work?
- 10** EU regulatory news:
The Public Procurement Package
- 13** Events calendar



European Commissioner Connie Hedegaard.

On the 12th and 13th of September 2013, our members gathered in Copenhagen for the annual General Assembly and the bi-annual European Installers Summit, together with the electrical contractors association AIE. Among the positive notes of the General Assembly were the high turnout, the endorsement of the new Agreement of Cooperation between AIE and GCI-UICP, and new initiatives that are highlighted further in this Brief. What absolutely stood out of the Summit was **the speech of the European Commissioner for Climate Action, Ms. Connie Hedegaard**, which was enthusiastically delivered by Ms. Hedegaard.

(continued on page 2)

(Introduction continued from page 1)

'In 2020, the three sectors with the most potential for net job creation are: ICT, Health, and the so-called 'Green sector': recycling; energy efficiency, waste, and renewables.'

- European

Commission outlook
2012

In her speech 'Climate action, energy, opportunities', Hedegaard highlighted a number of major points.

In 2030, Earth will count 9 billion inhabitants, who will all need HVAC, food, and mobility - which will impose a huge burden on our energy, according to the Commissioner. Also, two-thirds of the world population will live in urban areas - more than ever before. Hence, adequate technological solutions to these demographic changes need to be provided.

By 2030, Europe could be the continent to deliver solutions, and export these solutions to the growing international markets.

The EU aims to support European businesses to reach this strategic objective through legislation. According to Hedegaard, the link between this macro-picture and installers is that installers save the energy expenditure that makes Europe so dependent on third countries (in 2012, the EU members together spent 545 billion euro on energy imports). In conclusion, energy efficiency is good for competitiveness.

She urged installers to look for the best, affordable, and trendy solutions to meet the consumers' demand, and their intention to pay only a little more for more energy efficient products. Alternative financing can come from ESCOs, 'that need to be scaled up'.

'When I am at home and I call an installer, I expect him to advise what is the most energy efficient door, window, etc.'

Ms. Hedegaard briefly listed the well-known range of policy instruments of the EU, claiming that 20% of the next seven-year budget 2013-2020 is allocated to energy efficiency. She also added that despite the economic crisis and critics, the Commission is likely to propose making the Energy Efficiency target for 2030 *binding*.

The entire audio recording of the summit is available upon request through Thijs.deWolff@orgalime.org.

On behalf of all the members of GCI-UICP, we would like to thank the host Mr. Niels Jørgen Hansen from TEKNIQ for his superb organization of the summit.

Yours,

Thijs de Wolff

Mr. Michael McCloskey, re-elected president of GCI-UICP, and Mr. Janne Skogberg, president of AIE, at the closing words of the Summit.



Impression from the General Assembly.



*'In a few years,
installers will like to
be called energy
servicers' – Niels
Jørgen Hansen*

The GCI-UICP Working Parties established in Copenhagen

Working Parties are divided in:

Working Groups

Permanent

To prepare official positions representing the interests

External relevance: EU issues, commercial interests

Task Forces

Ad hoc

Serve a temporary need

Internal GCI-UICP

Working Groups

- Energy WG
- Public Procurement WG

Task Forces

- Visual Identity TF
- Membership Fees TF

Renewing our visual identity

The visual presentations that members held in Copenhagen once again showed that members of GCI-UICP have a great corporate identity, but what about GCI-UICP itself? A quick look through the archives gives a set of snapshots of how GCI-UICP has historically evolved in this respect.



UICP, 1961



CEETB, 1991

Our meetings in Copenhagen discussed the sequence of steps of the trajectory towards a new 'visual identity'. The responsible Task Force, now consisting of the Board and Secretariat will first review and define the criteria for the name and logo, tackling GCI-UICP's values and mission and vision statement. A first conference call will be held mid-October for all those interested.



GCI, 1992



GCI, 2000

The Task Force's work will be put to the upcoming Board/GSC meeting, after which the Task Force can make any necessary adjustments. In the first semester of 2014 a designer will be selected with whom the Task Force will go into a 'distilling' and 'refining' process that creates a design with a touch (visual look-and-feel) that makes the new brand (identity) stand out.

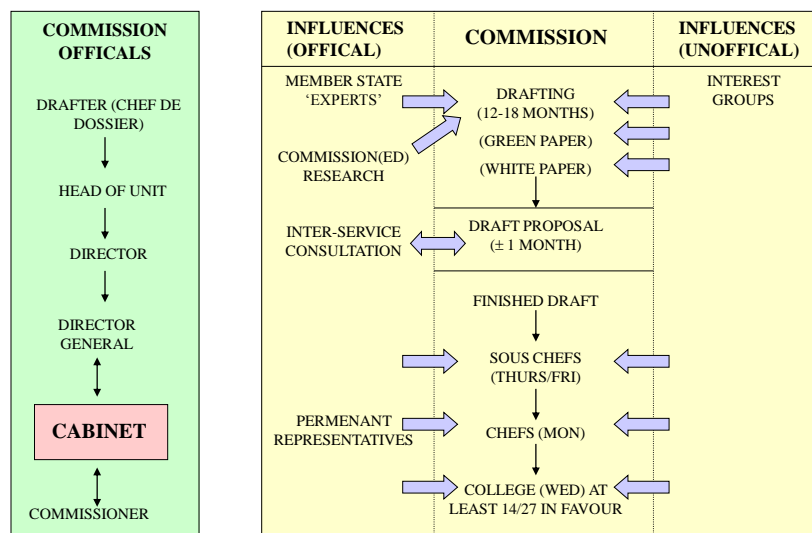
The EU's ordinary legislative procedure - how does it work?

Under the rules of the current EU treaty (Lisbon Treaty), most of the EU legislation is made through the **ordinary legislative procedure** (formerly known as 'co-decision'), which puts the European Parliament and the Council on an equal footing. The GCI-UICP Secretariat deems it important to offer an overview of this procedure, which would help the members understand better how the drafting of legislation comes about and what the main steps and institutional interactions are before a proposal becomes law.

Drafting starts with the consultation of Member States' officials, and stakeholders across the board either informally, or through a Green paper. In parallel the Commission also consults officials from other Directorates-General (DGs) which are interested in the subject. After the approval of the lead DG, the document goes to final inter-service consultations. At this stage a draft proposal is produced.

The drafting phase by civil servants is then followed by the political phase in which the College of Commissioners can discuss (if needed) and officially adopt the proposal.

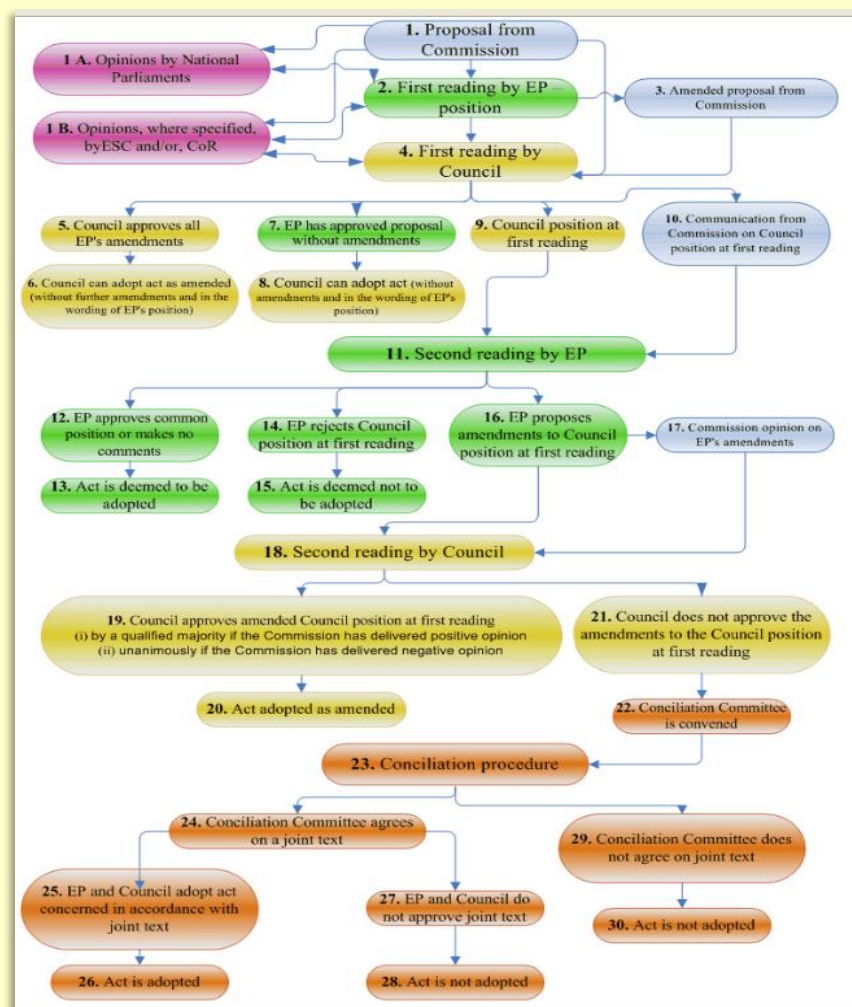
THE COMMISSION: INFLUENCING POLICY MAKING



COMPOLICY

First reading

After the proposal is published by the Commission it is submitted for opinion to the 28 national parliaments, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and/or Committee of the Regions (CoR), where specified, and the European Parliament. In the EP, the responsible **Committee** appoints a **rapporteur** (a Member of European Parliament, who belongs to a certain political group) for the dossier. Then shadow rapporteurs (members from the remaining political groups) are appointed. At the same time other committees can choose to submit opinions to the draft report of the responsible committee so they in turn select their rapporteurs of opinion. At this stage the EP sets the agenda: exchange of views, deadline for amendments, vote in the committee, vote of the opinions, vote in plenary.



If the Parliament has **no amendments**, the dossier passes to the Council who can either **approve** the EP first reading and then the legislative ***act is adopted*** in first reading, or does **not approve** it which means that it will adopt its **common position**. In this case, the Commission can also provide an opinion to the common position. If the Parliament **has amendments**, the Commission may take them into account. The text then passes to the Council. If the Council **approves** all amendments ***the act is adopted*** and if not, it will put together a **common position**.

Second reading

If the Parliament **approves** the Council's common position the text becomes **law**. If it rejects it the act is ***deemed not to be adopted***.

If the EP has **amendments** to the common position, the Commission is asked for an **opinion** on the EP amendments. The Council can then either **approve** the EP amendments (in which case ***the act is adopted***) or not in which case a **conciliation committee** is required to lay out a joint text. If it does not agree on the joint text ***the act is not adopted***.

Third reading

If the Conciliation Committee approves the joint text, the act become law if the EP and Council endorse it, or does not if the EP and Council reject it. If the Conciliation Committee does **not agree** on the joint text ***the act is*** automatically ***not adopted***.

EU regulatory news: The Public Procurement Package

Introduction

DG MARKT initiated the proposal for the Public Procurement Package in December 2011 to modernise two old directives from 2004 and introduce a third one. The scope of the package thus consists of three bundled directives: *Classic* (on public procurement, replacing Directive 2004/18), *Utilities* (procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors, replacing Directive 2004/17), and *Concession contracts*. After their adoption, public entities would have more choice and autonomy in their procurement procedures. The core public procurement legislation remains the Classic one (2004/18/EC) that is left largely unchanged; hence the package can be considered a consolidation - with some novelties that address administrative organisation, award procedures, strategic procurement and access to procurement markets - that are generally beneficial for SMEs.

Relevance specific to GCI-UICP

Green public procurement is on the rise in the coming years. Public entities set the example in compliance with goals for energy efficient buildings. Environmental aspects will thus gain in prominence as criteria for the contracting authority. However, they are voluntary. Likewise, in the public procurement package, perhaps most prominently, the proposal aims to end the obligation of contracting authorities to award the contract to the cheapest tender(er), thus ending the 'the lowest price' principle and bringing in more cost-effectiveness over the whole life-cycle of the building components.

- The latter is facilitated by offering the possibility of flexibly choosing the 'competitive procedure with negotiation' in which the two sides can negotiate a tailored solution to a problem.

(continued on page 11)

- The directive attempts to cut red tape by simplifying the bidding procedure. The directive foresees the creation of a ‘European Single Procurement Document’. Also, electronic communication between tenderer and bidder is sought as much as possible.
- The contracting authority is encouraged to subdivide the contract into separate lots with contracts, which makes it more interesting for SMEs who can then liaise with the main bidder.
- The economic capacity asked of SMEs by contracting authorities is set at twice the contract value.
- Subcontracting:
 - Is there enough flexibility for tenderers, e.g. to decide to grant a part of the contract to a subcontractor after it has made the offer?
 - The main contractor bears liability in case of shortfall of a subcontractor.
 - The contract authority may ask details about the first subcontractor in line.

Latest changes introduced by the European Parliament

In the EP the responsible Internal Market Committee (chair: Malcolm Harbour, ECR, UK) voted on the reports on public procurement (Classic, Utilities and Concessions) on 5th September 2013. Efforts of the EP rapporteur for Public Procurement, Mr. Tarabella, concentrated on higher participation by SMEs in public procurement:

- In its amendments the EP calls for a new procedure to encourage bidders to offer innovative solutions. The draft directives provide for "innovation partnerships" enabling authorities to call for tenders to solve a specific problem without prescribing a solution. Authorities and bidders could then negotiate the most appropriate one.
- The EP did not succeed in getting an agreement on national oversight bodies (which would also act as contact points for the national monitoring and reporting on application of procurement rules).
- The EP aims to make e-procurement (modernising public services with ICT) easier for SMEs.

- MEPs acknowledge the special importance of water as a public good and therefore agreed to exclude it from the scope of the concessions directive. However, they also ask the Commission to assess the impact of this exclusion three years after the new directive has been transposed into member states' national laws.

Next steps

At the moment, triilogue meetings are taking place in view of the adoption by the Council and the European Parliament in first reading. The EP is expected to cast the final vote in the November plenary (19-21 November 2013).

In the subsequent national implementation, it must be noted that the directive leaves significant leeway (interpretation) to the Member States. Therefore, it is worthwhile to monitor the implementation of the directive by the 28 member states, including recording malpractices by public authorities.

Events calendar

Internal

Combined meeting of the Board and General Secretaries Committee

Brussels, 21 November, 2013

10:00 - 13:00h (TBC)

Combined meeting of the Board and General Secretaries Committee

Brussels, 27 February, 2014

External

Orgalime General Assembly (public part)

Brussels, 28 October, 2013

Commission's services aims to help us to prepare the policy options for the next Commission.

15.00 - 15.15 Introductory speech by Orgalime president Sandro Bonomi

15.15 - 16.45 Discussion on the subject of "Energy and Climate change targets: do they make sense at a time of economic downturn?"

- Initial presentation by a representative of the International Energy Agency on the way forward
- Panel discussion moderated by Howard Porter (Chairman of Orgalime's Energy Working Group):
 - Philip Lowe (Director General of DG Energy)
 - Representative of the IEA (Mr. Birrol - Chief Economist tbc)
 - Representative of the EP or of an NGO (tbc)

17.00 - 18.00 Speech by Daniel Calleja Crespo (Director General DG Enterprise and Industry) on "Commission's Industrial policy proposals. Build up to the February 2014 European Council" followed by questions and answers.

Light+Building, Frankfurt

30 March - 4 April, 2014

The world's biggest trade fair for lighting and intelligent buildings. The self-sufficient and sustainable use of energy is a subject of rapidly increasing importance in the modern world. Therefore, the main theme of Light+Building is **energy efficiency**.

[More...](#)

GCI - UICP

This newsletter is reserved for GCI-UICP members

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