

Dear Ellen,

[...]

As regards the draft Declaration I have a couple of comments/suggestion:

- In the first sentence I suggest that it should logically read "...Presidents of our respective World Regional Organisations and national institutes...".
- Also, if I agree that it is important that the Declaration should call on architects, engineers and contractors to be fully committed, it is also very important that it should also call on Governments, Organisations and Agencies to realise the full potential that the sector can bring to addressing the issues and hence that they should adopt relevant policies and measures to effectively allow the actual breakthrough.
- I enclose the recent political statement of the ACE on **Sustainable Architecture & Environment – Energy Efficiency [see under References]** issued in connection with the EU Summit of Heads of States and Governments on 8-9 March 2007, which the ACE Assembly formally endorsed during its last meeting over the week end (20-21 April). As you will see it is completely relevant. It would be much appreciated if this statement could be referred to in the Declaration and also widely distributed at the Convention.
- I should also mention that Prof. J Owen Lewis, Chairman of the ACE Work Group Environment & Sustainable Architecture, was a speaker on behalf of the ACE in the **EU/G8 Conference on “Energy Efficiency – Shaping Tomorrow’s World” in Berlin on 20 and 21 April 2007** (Session 6 B on Energy Efficient Buildings). Mark GINSBERG, Senior Executive Board Member, EERE Board of Directors, U.S. Department of Energy was also a speaker during that conference. I enclose the programme for your full information.

At the EU/G8 Conference, ministers and international experts have met to weigh options on how to boost energy efficiency through market-oriented solutions, giving new impetus to the Commission's Energy Efficiency Action Plan. In an effort to cut energy waste Germany proposed the introduction of mandatory energy certification for buildings, giving tenants and purchasers a clearer idea of the energy costs that they will face. In other words it is pushing for an "Energy Passport" for buildings.

This is something which the ACE itself has advocated in the past, even with a wider scope, notably at the time it was leading the EU Exeprt group on Sustainable Construction Methods and Techniques (see at :

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/urban/sustainable_urban_construction.htm)

in the context of the preparation of the EU Strategy for Sustainable Urban Development adopted last year

(see at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/urban/thematic_strategy.htm).

You may also wish to post these references.

- I will be heading off this afternoon to Hamburg to attend an Event of the **European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP)** organised in the framework of the German Presidency of the European Union at which also Jean-François Susini will be speaking (programme enclosed). As you will already be aware the ACE is committed and deeply involved in these activities, notably as a means to advance its own policies.

- I also use the opportunity to send you the latest, final draft of the **Leipzig Charter on Sustainable Cities** that the EU-27 Ministers in charge of Urban Affairs and Territorial Development are going to formally adopt during the next EU Council meeting, on 24-25 May in Leipzig (Germany). As you will see architecture and architectural quality has a high profile and you can imagine that we actively contributed.

While it is not the final text you can of course refer to it in your deliberations but if you disseminate I ask you to give the usual words of cautiousness.

It is already planned that several of the 6-monthly EU Presidencies that will follow Germany (each half-year) in the next two years (Portugal, Slovenia, France, Czech Republic, Sweden) will give a follow-up to the Charter. Notably Slovenia has already announced its intention to put further emphasis on architectural quality during the first half of 2008 and France will follow, who was at the origin of the initiative of the EFAP back in 2000.

With all best wishes for the activities next week.

Kindest regards

Alain

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