

Mr. Antonio Tajani
Vice-President
European Commission
1049-Brussels

Brussels, 24 November 2011

Subject: Sustainable Competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises

Dear Vice-President,

In the coming months, the European Commission will publish a Communication on the Sustainable Competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises. In these difficult times, it is very refreshing to hear that EU leaders are looking at ways in which to support the long-term developments of the construction industry.

To assist the drafting process, many of the undersigned were involved in the organisation of a well attended workshop at the Commission on 21 June and took part in the Commission's internet stakeholder consultation that ran until 15 September. This consultation gave us the opportunity to express our serious concerns with the numerous, uncoordinated construction-related EU initiatives. From eco-labels, to carbon footprint, eco-design, water efficiency of buildings and resource efficiency, it is extremely difficult to understand the medium and long-term political vision being developed at EU level for our industry. More so, during our recent exchanges, we discussed the importance of access to capital as well as the urban, environmental and demographic pressures that have to be dealt with at local level. Here, the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds may offer solutions for co-financing of sustainable, energy efficient and affordable housing. In addition, the proposed fund, entitled 'Connecting Europe Facility', combined with the use of EU project bonds, will hopefully achieve its aim of boosting the pan-European value of infrastructure projects. The EU may also assist in the promotion of green jobs in the construction industry as we need qualified staff, able to drive the practicalities of our sustainability and energy efficiency ambitions.

Our industry awaits this Communication that you initiated and strongly believes that close collaboration may bring about the much needed solution for Europe. As always, we are grateful for the leading role of DG ENTR in all construction, building-related Commission actions. Therefore, we would suggest supporting this Communication with a high-level stakeholder conference where the ideas expressed above could be debated along with many more, leading to a roadmap for the construction industry.



EXCA



We are certain you will appreciate the benefits of such an event and are therefore looking forward to hearing from you, to jointly start organising such a high-level conference.

Yours sincerely,



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President
TBE



Dr Michael Hiller
President
EFCC



Georges Perelroizen
Chairman Building Group
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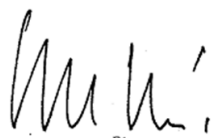
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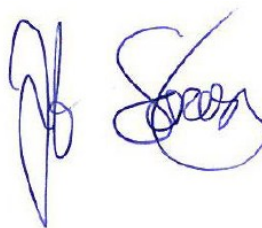
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