

The creation of a  
**WORLD COUNCIL OF CIVIL ENGINEERS**

**WCCE**

Last changes introduced 15<sup>th</sup> January 2007 (*7th July 2006*)

Elaborated by the WCCE Working Group constituted by ECCE

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## INTRODUCTION

Spring 2006

Dear colleagues,

Civil Engineers represent a majority of Engineering Organisations at national, regional and international level. Their skills touch the lives of people around the world in their role as professionals managing the built and natural environment. The profession faces significant and rapid changes. The challenges to public safety, health and welfare are becoming more demanding. It is therefore critical to promote high technical standards of civil engineering worldwide and also to encourage the exchange and transfer of knowledge and technological advancement.

In 2002, during its General Meeting in Athens, Greece the European Council of Civil Engineers gave birth to the idea of creating a global civil engineering body in order to foster co-operation between organisations of Civil Engineers and between organisations within Civil Engineering world wide.

At the 41<sup>st</sup> General Meeting of ECCE held in Tallinn, Estonia, June 2005, and following bi-lateral contacts with several major National Organizations of civil engineers, the General Assembly gave approval to the nominated WCCE Working Committee to orchestrate a meeting to introduce and present the concept and ideas around the creation of a World Council of Civil Engineers.

The meeting took place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2005 in Istanbul, Turkey and it was decided to create the World Council of Civil Engineers, participated by 13 civil engineering organisations, 10 from Europe and 3 from the Americas. A Coordination Committee and four working groups were set up to further elaborate the following issues: finance, membership, communication and statutes. Upon an invitation extended by the Federación de Colegios de Ingenieros Civiles de la Republica Mexicana (FECIC) it was decided to celebrate the formal foundation event in Mexico City, Mexico on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2006 in connection with the 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress on Urban Development.

All national and international Civil Engineering Organisations/Civil Engineering affiliated branches, Sectorial Associations, NGOs, Corporations and Individual Professionals world wide interested in taking part as founding members, associate members or observes in the World Council of Civil Engineers are invited to participate in the event in Mexico

The following document is open for discussion and suggestions by any organisation interested in participating in the WCCE.

On behalf of the WCCE Working Groups and the Coordination Committee,

*José Medem*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Medem', enclosed within a large, loopy, oval-shaped flourish.

*Chairman  
WCCE Coordination Committee*

Third Draft Document, dated April 2005, latest changes introduced on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006, elaborated by the WCCE Working Group on the proposal of the creation of a:

## **World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE)**

The WCCE will be a forum for exchange of information, expertise and knowledge worldwide, and will be committed actively and globally to sustainable development and to addressing the needs of Civil Engineers and its mobile members:

### **Preamble:**

Civil Engineers perform and provide unique services for the community involving personal decisions and use of creative skills that carry and demand substantial responsibility. These services are more than often an essential requirement for everyday life and have to be of high quality, reliability and absolute safety. If the services are defective, disruption and grave consequences may result which could include injury and loss of life to many people.

The challenge of Sustainable Development requires ethical and technical commitment from the Civil Engineering society across the entire world. Civil Engineers have a special capacity to establish vital cross-links that contribute to Sustainable Development in ways that are less easy for other professions.

Solidarity with developing countries requires the full engagement by Civil Engineering profession ; including the assurance of mobility of our professionals for the transfer of knowledge and adequate technologies; in order to help less developed societies to increase their standards and to help them to become equal, given the importance of our role in society.

There is a growing awareness towards dealing with Civil Engineering problems in a global way contributing Civil Engineers to the challenges of improving the quality of life for people worldwide. It should be emphasized that Civil Engineers play a very important role in consulting, construction and services related to planning, management and operation and maintenance of infrastructures around the world:

Therefore, the foundation of a **WORLD COUNCIL OF CIVIL ENGINEERS** is highly recommended.

### **Objectives:**

The purpose of civil engineering is to improve living conditions for all mankind, and this can more easily be achieved if Civil Engineers worldwide share their knowledge and experience in the application of technical progress to economic and social advancement throughout the world. For these purposes, the objectives for which WCCE is hereby constituted are:

- To foster co-operation between organisations of civil engineers and between organisations within the field of civil engineering.
- To further civil engineering education, training and continuing professional development.
- To promote high technical standards of civil engineering world wide.

- To encourage the exchange and transfer of knowledge, information and technology.
- To support the formation of national and international associations of civil engineers, encourage the membership of women and young engineers and the fostering of the associations activities.
- To advance the freedom of movement of civil engineers between different countries.
- To safeguard and improve quality of life in the built environment.
- To promote health and safety in all activities related to the civil engineering profession.
- To inform and advise the International Institutions on the organisation and methods of the construction cycle and the framework within which civil engineers work.
- To foster high standards of professional and ethical conduct, fighting corruption in engineering and construction.
- To sponsor scientific and civil engineering meetings, symposia, conventions, congresses and the like.
- To promote peace and mutual understanding.
- To participate, collaborate and foster development programmes in developing countries.

In order to design sustainable solutions able to deal with the need of infrastructures demanded by society, an adequate comprehension of the natural processes is required. In this sense the objectives of WCCE should be:

- To reinforce the traditional education of civil engineers by extending their knowledge to subjects related to natural science and economic evaluations.
- To foster the links between civil engineering and society, by promoting a higher participation and compromise when facing environmental problems, poverty and social exclusion.
- To point out to society the importance of the role of civil engineers in the prevention of natural disasters and in sustainable management of the land.
- To promote I+D projects in the fields of interrelation between the actions upon the land using and conserving natural resources and the protection of the ecosystems, as well as follow-up programmes on the corrective and compensating measures which can facilitate the inclusion of real and experimental data into future actions.

### **Membership:**

Ordinary Members (voting right):

- National Members
- International Members

Associate Members (no voting right):

- Sectorial Associations
- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Corporate members
- Individual members
- Individual professionals

***Definition of Ordinary Members***

**National Members:**

Organisations, Institutions, Associations representing Civil Engineers from all countries around the world.

**International Members:**

Umbrella Organisations related to Civil Engineers, involving two or more countries. Currently there are 3: ECCE, ACECC and NAACE.

***Definition of Associate Members:***

**Sectorial Associations:**

International Sectorial Organisations related to/acting in Civil Engineering.

**Non-Governmental Organisations:**

International organisations addressing Civil Engineering-based challenges anywhere in the world, usually concerned especially with developing countries. This category also includes any academic or educational institution related to civil engineering education

**Corporate Members:**

Any company, directly or indirectly related to/acting in Civil Engineering, at National, Regional and International level, such as Consultants, Contractors, Construction materials and equipment firms, Transport companies etc.

**Individual members** with a significant professional career as Civil Engineers.

**Individual professionals** in the professional practise of civil engineering, recognized to practise in their respective country.

**General Assembly:**

All Ordinary Members are full Members of the General Assembly, with voting rights.

Associate Members have no voting right.

The Ordinary General Assembly shall meet once every year, preferably during the last three months of the year.

The WCCE President will chair the General Assembly.

**Executive Committee:**

The Executive Committee shall consist of

- a) The President, the President-Elect, the immediate Past President, Vice Presidents who hold office by virtue of their election as chairmen of Standing Committees, the Treasurer and the Executive Director, the latter without voting right.
  
- b) Representatives from each group of members represented as follows:

**ORDINARY MEMBERS:**

National members (one from each region: Europe, Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania)	5 representatives
International members	all existing

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:**

Sectorial members	1 representative
Non-Governmental Organisations	1 representative
Corporate members	1 representative
Individual members	1 representative
Individual professionals	1 representative

Eliminado: ¶

Each group of Members shall themselves nominate their representatives on the Executive Committee, nomination which shall be ratified by the General Assembly.

The WCCE President will chair the Executive Committee.

The General Assembly shall elect the President-Elect from the Ordinary members of the Executive Committee proposed by any of them.

The Presidency shall consist of the President, the President Elect and the immediate Past President.

The President-Elect will become President after 2 years and for a single term of 2 years. However, a second term is possible for the remaining members of the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer shall be proposed by the Executive Committee with the approval of the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee shall meet twice a year, once just before the ordinary General Assembly.

The ordinary business of WCCE shall be conducted by the Executive Director/Secretariat, under the responsibility of the President, in accordance with the directions of the General Assembly and of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director is a member of the Executive Committee but has no voting right.

### **Standing Committee:**

Standing Committees (S.C) require the approval of the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. They shall be formed in an area with specific interest to Civil Engineering and with a balanced membership participation.

Each Standing Committee shall have the agreed support of a National Member, providing the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee as well as the administration and expenses.

The S.C. are elected for a period of two years, renewable to other two years, altogether four years. Then the host country must change.

The Chairmen of the Standing Committees are Vice Presidents and members of the Executive Committee.

### **Head Quarters:**

Initially, Spain has offered to provide the Secretariat and will charge no costs to WCCE during the starting process.

### **Languages:**

English

### **Budget:**

#### **SUBSCRIPTION FEES**

The funding resources shall be the subscription fees paid in Euros by the members. Values of fees will be decided at the first General Assembly Meeting, according to an approved criterion. For National Members a subscription fee will be based on a share system being the number of shares corresponding to each member based on population and GDP.

Other source of revenue can be corporate sponsorship, grants and gifts.

Enclosed as an annex, please find a draft proposal for WCCE membership fees.

#### **EXPENSES**

The operational costs and expenses of the Secretariat shall be provided initially by the host country. Once the formal foundation of WCCE has taken place, the salary of the executive director shall be paid by WCCE as of the budget year 2007.

In order to reinforce the independency of the Presidency, it is envisaged that their expenses should be paid from the WCCE funds. However, until this is decided by the General Assembly, all expenses will have to be paid by the Member Group/Organisation from where they were elected.

The Standing Committees should be 'budget-neutral'. The National Member who provides the Chairman and the Secretary of the S.C. should cover all related costs to that Standing Committee in particular.

## **MEXICO JULY 2006**

During the foundation event in Mexico, on July 2006, and according to Article 27 of the Draft Statutes: " *The first President shall be elected by the first General Assembly, and shall hold office until the end of the third ordinary meeting of the General Assembly. The President-Elect will be elected by the General Assembly at the ordinary meeting two years prior to the completion of the President' term of office, and at the completion of the President's term of office shall be elected President....*" The first president of WCCE will be elected in Mexico in July 2006 and the president elect will be elected at the General Assembly in autumn 2007 and the first president elected in 2006 will step down in autumn 2009.

Furthermore, in Mexico, a treasurer, 5 representatives from national members (one from each region) and one representative from each international member will be elected. Finally an executive director will be appointed to take care of the ordinary business under the supervision of the president. The executive director shall be a member of the executive committee but with no voting right.

The World Council of Civil Engineers will be registered under Spanish law. A Foundation Charter will be signed by a representative from each founding member in the presence of a public registrar on July 15<sup>th</sup> in Mexico City.

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