

## **Build Green CEE and Romania Green Building Council**

SOPOLEC with the support of, the Romanian Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing and the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development held the inaugural conference highlighting business and economic opportunities through sustainable construction for the Central and Eastern European region. "Build Green CEE" was attended by over 200 persons included real estate developers, architects, construction companies, technology suppliers, real estate agencies, students, academics, members of the government ministries, and media representatives.

In the introductory remarks, Steven Borncamp of SOPOLEC announced the formation of the "Romania Green Building Council" to promote "a transformation toward an efficient and competitive marketplace for green technologies, expertise, and materials to create the next generation of high performance green buildings." The NGO would aim to duplicate the success of Green Building Councils in the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Japan and other countries. SOPOLEC invited companies from a wide range of industries to join including developers, real estate agencies, contractors, product manufacturers and distributors, professional services, government, and research organizations. The Council will disseminate information, provide training, create standards and certifications for green building and advocate for the appropriate regulatory conditions.

Representative of Sonae Sierra, Bovis Lend Lease, AIG Lincoln and BRE Global presented at the conference green building projects being implemented in Central and Eastern Europe. DuPont, Philips, and Lafarge discussed the latest technologies, techniques, and materials for improving energy efficiency and reducing environmental impact. Representatives of F&C Asset Management, the United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative's Property Working Group and EcoNavitas provided presentations on the financing and valuations of green buildings and best practices for successful projects. Details of the obligations related to the Energy Performance Directive in Buildings were discussed by Emilia-Cerna Mladin, President of the Romanian Association of Energy Auditors with law firm Schoenherr & Associates discussing the reduction of legal risk by building green.

An important component raised in the conference was the necessity of a regional and international approach to encourage innovation and cross-border collaboration. The Czech government was represented by Ms. Irena Plockova, the head of the department of Energy and Renewable Energy, who presented their experience with implementing the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive and their policies for the promotion of green building. A representative of the Norwegian embassy discussed a grant program with an energy efficiency component. Sustainable Energy Europe explained the details and ways to participate in their campaign to raise awareness of more response use and generation of energy. Ms. Gamze Celikyilmaz of Regional Environment Center of REEEP provided details of the construction of a "Zero Carbon Emissions" building in Hungary.

The Romanian government was represented at a senior level by State Secretary Horia Irimia of the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing and Deputy State Secretary Florin Andrei of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development who presented their respective ministries

support for more energy efficient and environmental responsible construction. They were supported by seven speakers from their ministries and the National Housing Agency discussing topics ranging from financial incentives to plans for the promotion of sustainable construction and urban planning. The conference concluded with local architects and engineers presenting their designs for green buildings. "Build Green CEE" was an unique event in the region and considered a success by the organizer due. "Given it was a relatively new subject for the region and an inaugural event, we were very pleased with the large attendance and enthusiastic response - both for the conference and the Romania Green Building Council."

More information [www.BuildGreenCEE.com](http://www.BuildGreenCEE.com)