



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

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Architecture and Society

European Transparency Initiative

ACE Statement on Chapter III

Draft Final

Introduction

The ACE¹ welcomes the moves being made by the European Commission to address the question of transparency and its Green Paper makes a valuable contribution to the necessary debate that must take place in relation to this issue. At a time when Europe is engaging more meaningfully with its citizens in the wake of the "No" votes on the proposed Constitution, it is appropriate to ask questions about the accessibility of citizens to European policy and legislative work.

The ACE strongly believes in the need to carry out its actions in a clear, ethical and transparent manner. These qualities are in line with the ethical approach that professional architects adopt in their work. The ACE is registered in CONECCS.

The ACE has noticed much progress in the manner in which the European Commission allows access to its documents, how it is open to consultation with stakeholders and how it has been striving to improve its own methods over recent years and it urges the Commission to continue to open its affairs more to the outside.

Disclosure of Beneficiaries of Community Funds

The ACE does not benefit from funding by the EU for its functioning or its activities.

It has occasionally been involved in specific EU-funded Projects, as one partner among many, generally with the task of assisting, through its network of Members, in the dissemination of the results of the Project work. As such it is difficult to comment in detail on this aspect of the ETI.

Nevertheless, the ACE believes that the construction of Europe needs to be founded on a high level of credibility and so it agrees with the principle that an obligation should exist for information on beneficiaries of EU Funds to be made available. The ACE is not able to make proposals about how this should be done or at what level although it seems that there may be a need for a multiple disclosure of information at different stages of the process with the Commission disclosing the totals allocated to the individual Member States, the Member States, in turn, disclosing to whom they distribute the funds and the final beneficiaries stating that support has been received and from what source.

End of Note

The ACE has also responded separately to Chapters I and II.

¹ The ACE was founded in 1990 and it is the professional representative organisation of the architectural profession in Europe. It has 42 Members who are the representative and regulatory architectural bodies from all of the EU Member States, the Accession States and Norway and Switzerland. It therefore represents, through its Members, about 450,000 architects across Europe.