

## PRESS RELEASE

**RIO+20 : which solutions?  
Engineering consultants contribute to the development of  
“productive eco-metropolis”**

The engineering consultancy sector, represented by FIDIC at global level, and by EFCA in Europe, supports the “Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities” (GIREC), to be launched on 18 June by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the RIO+20 conference.

The sector calls for action to be taken urgently to avoid irreversible consequences for society’s well-being and living conditions. It considers that urban areas are the major source of problems linked to climate change.

FIDIC has been collating and publishing the results of the sector’s experiences at global level. The resounding conclusion of this effort is that the risks linked to climate change are far more wide-reaching and complex than the level for which society is currently preparing itself. And many of these risks are directly linked to urban development as explained in the advance **EFCA-FIDIC white paper “Re-think Cities”** which was presented to UNEP on 13 June in the run-up to the Rio conference. Cities need to face the inevitable long-term soaring of energy costs, limited water resources and proliferation of waste. There is thus an urgent need for efficient and preventive solutions for the development of resource efficient cities.

In order to face up to these issues it will be necessary to re-think the traditional model of urban areas, and develop the capacity to:

- Develop a more holistic and systemic approach to urban space;
- Focus on the programming and attractiveness of cities on a social and economic level
- Re-think spatial planning;
- Implement more efficient urban energy systems.

Standard solutions will not be enough to meet the challenges of urban sustainable development. All parties in each city need a shared vision on the route to be taken for urban areas and the resulting investments as seen from the perspective of a circular economy. The success of these programmes depends on a collaborative effort based on the transfer of knowledge, tools and methods which the UNEP programme will favour and to which engineering consultants will contribute with their experience in the international market.

EFCA and the engineering consultancy sector support the UNEP programme particularly in cities where urban resource consumption will be moderated, waste controlled and regional economic growth re-launched (employment, industrial and tertiary production) in a spirit of increased competitiveness and attractiveness of the metropolis.

In conclusion, EFCA and the engineering consultancy sector support the UNEP programme for resource efficient cities, and will contribute together with all the partners involved in this programme towards the development of methods and processes to create dynamic synergy in the support programmes and infrastructures for urban systems, which are known as productive eco-metropolis.

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## **Note to Editors**

EFCA has member associations in 25 countries, and is the sole European federation representing the business interests of professional engineering consultancy and related services, a sector that employs around one million staff in Europe –

[www.efcanet.org](http://www.efcanet.org)

FIDIC represents the worldwide engineering consultancy sector which provides knowledge-based services, and employs over 5 million highly-qualified engineers, experts and specialists in the design and construction of the built environment in which the majority of us live.

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