

# ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY CODE OF CONDUCT

## *INTRODUCTION*

The Code of Conduct is a self-regulatory instrument of the European engineering consultancy industry. Its main objective is to promote the quality of engineering consultancy services; in accordance with Article 37 of the Directive on services in the internal market (2006/123/EC), it also aims at facilitating the provision of cross-border services or the establishment of consulting firms in other European countries.

## *GENERAL PRINCIPLES*

By adhering to this Code of Conduct, the European engineering consultancy industry shall

- provide services at a high professional level
- act in the best interests of its Clients
- comply with professional and ethical standards, and
- strive to safeguard public interest and the environment.

## *APPLICABLE RULES*

The rules are dealt with in three paragraphs concerning respectively society, Clients and other consultants.

### **1. In respect of society**

- 1.1. Engineering consultants shall strive to provide their services in the best interests of society and with due respect for the environment.
- 1.2. Consultants shall neither offer nor accept remuneration of any kind which in perception or in effect a) seeks to unduly influence the process of selection or compensation of consulting engineers and/or their Clients or b) seeks to affect the consulting engineer's impartial judgement.

## **2. In respect of their Clients**

- 2.1. Engineering consultants shall provide their services at a level of quality that is commensurate to the weight placed on quality in the contract award procedure.
- 2.2. Engineering consultants shall carry out their tasks with due skill and care. Consultants shall take account of technical improvements and developments in their fields of expertise. To this end, engineering consultants shall maintain and advance the knowledge and competences of their staff, especially through training and continuous professional development.
- 2.3. Engineering consultants shall treat Clients with a spirit of cooperation, proper respect and courtesy.
- 2.4. Engineering consultants shall develop a common understanding with the Client on the scope and content of their services and the terms for their provision.
- 2.5. Engineering consultants shall act in the best interests of the Client; in case consultants consider that the Client's interests may conflict with the public interest or protection of the environment, they shall advise him accordingly.
- 2.6. Where appropriate, engineering consultants shall seek adequate professional indemnity insurance coverage.
- 2.7. Consultants shall not disclose, without their Client's authorisation, confidential information, which they have obtained in the course of execution of their services for that Client, nor use such information against their Client's interests, except for disclosures required by law.
- 2.8. Engineering consultants shall provide their services with professional integrity; they shall inform the Client of any circumstance that might influence their professional impartiality.

## **3. In respect of other consultants**

- 3.1. Engineering consultants shall act with fairness and integrity towards other consultants.
- 3.2. Engineering consultants shall not seek work by methods incompatible with the dignity and respect of their profession.

## ***CONTROL MECHANISMS***

1. The EFCA Member Associations undertake to abide by this Code of Conduct and to transcribe its principles into their national Code of Conduct.
2. The EFCA Member Associations may apply more restrictive or detailed rules in their national Codes of Conduct.
3. The EFCA Member Associations should sanction infringements of this Code of Conduct that are brought to their attention.