



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOUNDATION CONTRACTORS
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Open Letter

The President of the Parliament
of the European Union
Mr. Martin Schulz
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz
1047 Brussels
BELGIUM

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via email to: Mrs. Claire Peretie

EFFC represents EU at its best

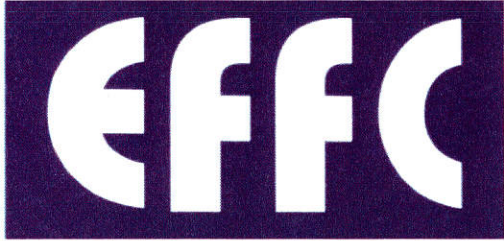
Dear Mr. President of the European Parliament,
Dear Mr. Schulz –

The European Federation of Foundation Contractors - EFFC exists since 1989 – in fact longer than the EU. The work of our member Federations has a long history but we have never felt that the work is recognised and appreciated by the EU. As the acting President of the EFFC I would like to see this changed.

During a meeting with German Minister of Economy and Vice Chancellor Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, I explained the work of EFFC and the ideas of necessary and important future activities. Vice Chancellor Gabriel was so kind to write a letter to you, in order to introduce my wish for a personnel meeting with you as President of the EU Parliament.

In order for you to better understand my intention of that meeting, I wish to summarize my motivation.

The EFFC is a Federation of 16 European Countries – of National Federations – all of them involved in Special Foundations. Since 1989 these 16 National Federations have worked closely together with the unique goal to promote the common interest of the Members of the Federation and to achieve a high professional standing for Special Foundations in Europe.



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The work being done by the EFFC represents Europe at its best, collaborating to solve common problems promoting the common interest of our Industry. It is an important example during a time when Europe is confronted by many challenges: the financial crisis of individual member countries, incoming refugees and the need to distribute them, the question of security – the EU border as well as the security of cities against terrorism, the situation with Ukraine and Russia. These are just a few of the current issues.

It is obvious that the national interest of individual member states makes it difficult to have a clear, common approach to create the necessary solutions. European inhabitants are watching these difficulties and the longer it takes to show the integrity of the Union, the higher the risk of people raising doubts as to the principle concept and the future of the EU.

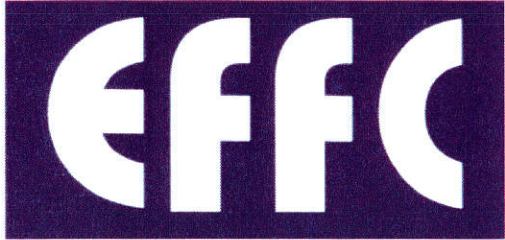
The unity of the EFFC is in the spirit of the joint performance of our Special Foundation industry work. We are united by the joint efforts to produce and deliver quality work and render our services in accordance with shared EU Standards. Standards that we have established through working together and that we continuously develop further.

We are united by the joint efforts to provide safe workplaces to execute our projects with zero accidents. And we are united by the joint efforts to have fair contractual dealings with our partners. As we are mostly employed as sub-contractors, we aim for partnering models where the risk is distributed fairly to all parties involved.

Many of the prestigious projects in Europe – and you can see examples on our homepage www.effc.org – could not have been built without the techniques and solutions that our Special Foundation Industry provides, in order to allow construction in areas with difficult ground conditions and restricted spaces.

Many volunteers from the Members of the National Federations take part in the working groups of the EFFC and by doing so, they are contributing to the continuous development of our standards and technologies and hence the development of our industry services. Our special thanks and appreciation cannot be given enough to those who have participated in this work over the past 25 years.

I believe our example is one that perfectly reflects the values of the EU. Working with FIEC and other Federations and Partners in Europe on issues like Sustainability, Building Information Modelling (BIM) and most important the Mutual Recognition of Education Licenses within EU, deserves more recognition and the support of the EU. We would therefore seek a continuous point of contact including recognition from EU for the work done by the European people.



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The 16 member countries of EFFC comprise about 370 individual member companies – some of them large international contractors and some of them small local enterprises. Assuming an average of 100 employees, we take responsibility of approximately 37,000 employees and their families.

With a yearly budget of €60,000, the EFFC has its limit to administrative and organizational efforts.

We wish to launch an initiative on “European Rig Operator License” as a European Profession, which is recognised and accepted by all Members. EU Member countries are still having their individual recognition criteria, which is placing an unnecessary difficulty on specialist foundation companies in their cross boarder activities. Mutual recognition of professional qualifications within Europe, based on qualified and common education standards should be considered “State of the Art” in Europe.

This idea and maybe other topics is something that I personally would like to introduce to you. We understand that your diary is pretty full but hope we can find a date to discuss the issue in a personal meeting. This would also send a positive signal to our members and motivate them to continue putting further effort in the work for the EU as they did the past years in order to achieve our common goals.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Hans-Joachim Bliss', written over a faint, circular stamp or watermark.

Hans-Joachim Bliss
President of the EFFC