

“ENGINEERS EUROPE ADVISORY GROUP”

1. IDEA AND MOTIVATION

National Members of any European Federation – more rigorously than in the past – desire a return on investment and therefore it is required to make our federation future oriented and proactive, whilst listening to and learning from the shareholders and other stakeholders. For this “*generating membership value*” to succeed, we must engage in substantial innovative actions. These actions will vary from developing new projects to working in partnership with other associations to achieve common goals. This will allow us to reach out to wider audiences and build a larger community, a process that necessitates mutual understanding.

Attached we have drafted a first overview of **what** the Engineers Europe Advisory Group (EEAG) could aim at as inspiration, a starting point or a basis for what we believe could become the “Engineers Europe-concept”. The goal and objective would be to ensure a more harmonized European voice of the engineers to other international Organizations or platforms. In order to be fully representing the interests of the engineering community in Europe and to legitimately represent all aspects relating to “Engineers Europe”, the input of industry will also be paramount. Therefore, we are looking for setting up a network which engages and interacts with other European networks, such as all major European Associations in the field of Engineering.

We aim for a more holistic solution, while tying in and involving other partner associations to that aspiration from the beginning. According to common agreed subject matters and topics, Working Groups with mingled participation and membership can be set-up. The outcome of their work being debated and considered at the EEAG. We believe this can be beneficial for other Associations as well, since it will widen their agenda, create additional value to their members and stakeholders, while their continued autonomy as an individual Organization will continue to be fully safeguarded and respected from the beginning.

The EEAG should not become just another “Working Group”, it should become an instrument which enables the engineering community to have a larger impact on society. By including at a later stage two or three representatives from the appropriate EU Parliamentary Committees (Industry, Internal Market, Education and Culture, Social Affairs and Employability), by including Industry Associations, (BUSINESSEUROPE, CEEMET, ORGALIME, etc.), Academic- and Professional Organizations (ENAAEE, SEFI, BEST, EYE, etc.), we can channel our endeavours and invest efforts only once instead of addressing various stakeholders separately at separate times with often different agenda and non-related items.

If we can get the EEAG off the ground, it can serve as a vehicle to bring our Organisations to a higher level, it will gain credibility and value, also to individual engineers. Building a bridge between these stakeholders is one thing, finding the appropriate people to walk

the bridge certainly another. We have also started to retrieve reactions from industry (ENGIE, SHELL, AIRBUS), industry associations (BUSINESSEUROPE, UEAPME, etc.) academic people (KU Leuven) and others (SEFI, BEST, EYE, EFCA, etc). All of them had initially positive reactions, whereas the “outcome” and the “goals” of such engagement still require further clarification. We have listed possible “results” and outcomes in the following pages.

2. WHY - WHAT - WHO - WHEN

Why an EEAG = to have greater impact on society

- to assist the EU to be a centre of excellence in education and training
- to support our member countries outside the EU in their modernisation efforts
- to support higher education institutions, business and our national professional organisations in their internationalisation efforts
- to promote common values and work towards a closer understanding between the stakeholders
- to support our strategic decision-making processes
- to learn from evidence-based management and policy
- to deepen mutual understanding and knowledge
- to exchange experiences and opinions = mutual learning
- to identify barriers or obstacles that restrict or inhibit the ability of engaging, etc.

What the EEAG should do = provide substance

- ensure better understanding about future job prospects of students and young engineers
- gain industry-based insights into the variation of different professional roles an engineer can take on
- promote STEM
- assess the relevance of research conducted within the HEI
- transfer knowledge and experiences to impact product and services development of professional engineering bodies
- engage in curriculum development, CPD, LLL-priorities (e.g. entrepreneurship) with industry and governance support
- improve commercial orientation of the academic world
- address societal challenges and issues
- gain new insights and contribute to the “knowledge society”
- widen the networks and develop support mechanisms while working cooperatively and in a coordinated manner

Who should be involved in the EEAG = major stakeholders

Four major groups of stakeholders can be identified: industry representatives, academics, professional organizations, policy makers.

- Industry Associations of relevance to the Engineering Profession, such as BUSINESSEUROPE, CEEMET, ORGALIME, UEAPME, EAPM, etc.
- Academic and related Organisations of relevance to the Engineering Profession such as SEFI, BEST, ENAEE, CESAER, EUA, etc.
- Professional Organizations and networks of relevance to the Engineering Profession such as EYE, ECEC, EFCA, etc.
- European Policy Makers and networks which could be of relevance to the Engineering Profession such as the EU Parliamentary Committees of IMCO, ITRE, CULT, etc. but also UIIN, EUROCHAMBRES, etc.

When should the EEAG be composed = timely

The start-up and kick-off meeting should be planned for Q3-2018. We foresee two meetings in Brussels p.a., one in every semester with the participation of key-officers (President, Sec Gen) of the partners involved (still to be determined). The intention is to aim for 1 or 2 representatives per involved stakeholder to attend, i.e. 15 to 25 people in total. It is meant to be an Advisory Group to the various Executive Boards of the stakeholders who sign up for it, i.e. not a Conference.

3. OUTCOME AND RESULTS

In order to ensure outcome and results of the EEAG, FEANI will ensure the operational support and leadership. Possible outcome of the EEAG and its WGs can result in :

- More accurate strategic monitoring and planning
- Developing common policy documents
- Organizing common meetings, seminars, conferences and site visits
- Publishing a common electronic newsletter
- Supporting international recognition for educational and professional standards
- Developing best and good practice manuals
- Enhancing the image of the profession
- Being in liaison with government structures at all levels
- Liaising with media
- Networking with other professions
- Ensuring common publications and statements
- Developing an interactive website and setting up a structure for administrative support to NMs
- Maintaining connection with international business and technical networks
- Monitoring of international and European legislation of interest to the engineering profession

- Following-up on the accreditation of academic institutions and programmes
- Funding and sponsorship initiatives
- Establishing a common annual calendar of events and programme of activities
- Considering meeting facilities and organize a common Annual Business Meeting – Engineers Day
- Developing EEAG as a “Think and Do Tank”.
- Providing input and know-how to a variety of National Members, while obtaining input from industry and policy makers and vice versa.
- Materializing the ambition that “Engineers in Europe” can speak with one voice.
- Establishing a “Mirror EEAG” of youngsters to deal with the same issues of the “EEAG”.
- Considering an Annual Award Ceremony “European Engineer of the Year” and to set up an “Awards Committee”.
- Etc.

4. POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

It could be that we are better capable of issuing relevant “**Policy Papers**” faster and with more impact and credibility. They may very well end on the table of the 13th floor of the EU Commission. For instance, we could work on the “EU STEM Coalition”, generate a view point on “Delivering Digital Competence”, help in providing advice on “Human Prosperity in a Changing World”, contribute to the EU draft paper on “Harnessing Globalisation by 2025”, but also on “Value of Accredited Engineering Programs”, “Embrace the UN Sustainability Goals”, etc. We may **qualify easier for non-project related EU-funding** since we would be helping the EU in the pursuit of its “Single Market”-strategy. We would streamline, concentrate and **join our efforts and resources more efficiently** (network meetings with our NMs, meetings and links with other Organizations, **harmonized lobbying efforts**, intensified partnerships, etc. all those could come together at once). We would all have **a more attractive business proposition** to engage more those who are critical for the moment, to simply be involved and participate.

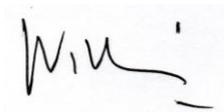
5. CONCLUSION

We believe that we can move from “**access and relationships**” to “**influence, substance and impact on society**”. This is a call for a new type of cooperation between the Engineering Profession. The EEAG can become the place where we find common answers to common challenges. Therefore, more than ever, we need to come up with new solutions in areas (such as education) where we can deliver concrete benefits and where common actions provide for clear added value. It is crucial to take a joint responsibility to define an effective way forward and develop a positive narrative together regarding the Engineering Profession, while safeguarding the respective individual market value of each partner involved. Full respect of the rules of law by all partners must be ensured as this is an essential condition to continue operating autonomously. The EEAG must act only where real value and progress can be achieved. “Doing much more together” is the motivation of this concept, reflecting a longer-term

perspective, enriched with some additional features. Those who want to do more could be used as an instrument and a process but at no point should it create barriers or jeopardize the proper functioning of the involved partners. We acknowledge that it is essential to preserve the consistency and coherence in our co-operation but to become more cohesive and transparent.

We hope your Organization will be supportive to these intentions and we look forward to meeting with in Brussels on 11 June for a first “change of thoughts”.

Kind regards,



Prof. José VIEIRA
FEANI President



Dirk BOCHAR
Secretary General