



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

New Approach Industries, Tourism and CSR
Construction, Pressure Equipment, Metrology

16 12 09

Brussels,
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For the attention of
Member State administrations in charge of the competitiveness of the construction sector
and European associations of the construction sector

Subject: Study "*Competitiveness of the EU construction sector and its enterprises*";
First meeting of the monitoring and advisory group

Within the broad aim of enhancing the competitiveness of the European construction sector and to strengthen its competitive position on all construction markets (intra and extra-EU markets) DG ENTR, Unit I5 has just launched a study to look into the background, needs and feasibility of developing a "competitiveness agenda" for the EU construction sector¹.

Such an agenda should indicate objectives and means needed in order for the sector to take part in and contribute to society's overall efforts to meet the major European and international challenges of the future, including globalization of markets, reaching adequate economic growth rates, addressing climate change and other energy related issues, the drive to find a more sustainable production and consumption path, demographic changes, social cohesion, safety and health of the citizens, etc. More specifically, is it foreseen that this study, assessing the current setting including framework conditions and identifying potential key objectives, will contribute substantially towards the Commission's development of a comprehensive competitiveness agenda covering the period up until year 2020. The contributions from this assignment are foreseen to constitute the analytical basis for future in-depth discussions between the Commission and relevant public and private stakeholders on an EU construction sector competitiveness agenda. Annex 2 to this circular provides you with the terms of reference for this study.

The contract to carry out this study has been awarded according to a framework contract to a consortium of companies/entities, including:

- **Ecorys (NL), Danish Technological Institute (DTI) and IDEA Consult (B)**

The contract foresees general supervision and guidance of the study by a monitoring and advisory group chaired by the Commission and including representatives of relevant Commission services, Member State representatives and other stakeholder experts. It is

¹ Compare with the "Communication on the Competitiveness of the European Construction Industry COM (97) 539"

planned to hold three meetings of the group at key stages over the 12-month duration of the work. The first meeting of the group will take place on **29 January 2010, in Brussels, Breydel Building Room 5/A, avenue d'Auderghem, 45.** The proposed agenda is attached.

Attachments: Annex: 1 Provisional Agenda
Annex: 2 Terms of reference of the study

Each invited party may be represented by one person who can actively provide guidance to the work to be undertaken. The working language of the group will be English.

The Commission will not reimburse travel expenses of participants.

I invite you to inform us **before 26 January 2010** of your participation. For security reasons, access to the BREY building will only be granted to persons whose name has been communicated no later than 26 January, either by e-mail or by fax +32-2-299.80.29 to:

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Thank you for your co-operation.



Vicente Leoz Argüelles
Head of Unit

Copy: Heads of delegations for the Standing Committee for Construction