

PARTICIPATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECTION OF ARCHITECTS OF THE CROATIAN CHAMBER OF ARCHITECTS AND CIVIL ENGINEERS IN THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN BRUSSELS

A delegation of the Section of Architects of the Croatian Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers consisting of: Vladimir Petrović – a Head of Delegation, Zlatko Hanžek – as a Deputy, i.e. former Chairman of the Section, and Helena Knifić Schaps – as a new Chairwoman of the Section, attended the General Assembly Meeting of the Architects' Council of Europe in Brussels.

After the last November admission of the Organization which represents the licensed Croatian architects, with the observer's status, into the ACE, at the EU level, it was the first Assembly Meeting the representatives of Croatian Architects took an active part in. It should be noted that we shall become a regular ACE member upon admission of the Republic of Croatia into the full membership of the European Union.

The first day of the Assembly Meeting, on April 22, 2005, a special all-day session was held about the Profession of architects within the changing Europe, and on the basis of conclusions, an ACE Strategy of acting in the next four-year period.

The Architects' Council of Europe represents the profession of architects in all EU structures. It includes more than forty professional organizations from 25 countries, full members of the European Union, admission countries – Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey, and Norway and Switzerland. This Association represents more than 450.000 of organized licensed architects.

The ACE emphasizes the importance of the living environment quality, of the high level of education, training and practice of architects, and an independent approach of the representatives of architects to different institutions of the European Union. With its important and recognized participation, the ACE contributed a great deal in the establishment of the European Forum of architecture policies, which coordinates the work of important institutions from all European countries. The profession of architects faces important challenges, to meet, as a free profession, the requirements of the European and global society with regard to an intensive development, and to participate, as a specific independent profession, in a development of the building construction economy. An important task is also how to work out a high level of quality and responsibility of the work of architects under the conditions of further liberalization of independent professions.

The ACE has also emphasized its positions regarding the creation of individual policies and of an integral European policy towards the architecture with its programmatic text published in a book – *Architecture and the quality of life*, in 2004. A summary of guidelines were addressed to the European public in the form of – *21 messages for the 21st century*.

The second day of the Assembly Meeting, the attention was paid to different themes, among which particularly emphasize the modifications of the European regulations, through the preparation of a Directive on the Services in the Internal Market – SIM, and a Directive on the Qualifications, regulating the work of independent professions. The services of architects, engineers as representatives of independent professions, and industry and economy in the field of building construction, should be significantly adapted to the consumer protection trends. By individual voting, in which the Head of the Croatian delegation also took part, a unanimous vote was given to the resolution binding the EU countries, and the admission countries not to enter into separate negotiations on giving the status of a licensed architect with NCARB (Federal Register of Architects at the USA level) because of disregard of the negotiation principles by the American side, until the European Commission prepares the frames for further negotiations.

Vladimir Petrović

