



Tomaž Krištof, President
Zbornica za arhitekturo in prostor Slovenije
Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia
Vegova ulica 8
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

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Dear President,

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) is the representative organisation for the architectural profession at European level: it aspires to speak with a single voice on its behalf in order to achieve its aims. Its membership currently consists of 43 Member Organisations, which are the regulatory and professional representative bodies in all European Union (EU) Member States, Accession Countries, Switzerland and Norway. Through them, the ACE represents the interests of 600.000 architects from 31 countries in Europe.

ACE has been made aware of an important legislative development underway in Slovenia designed to align the description of the architectural profession with the definition included in the Directive 2013/55/EU on the recognition of professional qualifications, namely, that

“architectural design, the quality of buildings, their harmonious incorporation into their surroundings, respect for the natural and urban landscape, and for the public and private heritage are a matter of public interest. Mutual recognition of qualifications should therefore be based on qualitative and quantitative criteria which ensure that the holders of recognised qualifications are in a position to understand and translate the needs of individuals, social groups and authorities as regards spatial planning, the design, organisation and realisation of structures, conservation and the exploitation of the architectural heritage, and protection of natural balances”.

It is understood that historic definitions relating to the architectural profession, namely architects' function of leading designer and coordinator of the project team, are now felt to be inadequate and a common understanding of the profession, at EU level, is important.

ACE fully supports this legislative initiative in Slovenia and underlines the importance of achieving consistency with the wording of the Professional Qualifications Directive not only from a legislative point of view, but also to provide a fundamental guarantee that the regulations enshrined in the legal systems of the EU Member States have a common understanding as regards the foundation of the architect's role in the creation of the cultural, social and economic environment. Such consistency should be seen as one of the basic conditions for architectural policy by individual EU Member States and for the implementation of high-quality Baukultur, which is the subject of the Davos Declaration.

Yours sincerely,

georg pendl
ACE President

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