

FIEC is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 29 National Member Federations in 26 countries (23 EU & EFTA and Turkey) construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. small and medium-sized enterprises as well as “global players”, carrying out all forms of building and civil engineering activities.
Recognised “Sectoral Social Partner” (employers)



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BIM must be industry-led but public sector can help

■ BIM is improving productivity and competitiveness, but challenges remain

“BIM is transforming construction and the industry needs to lead the effort to encourage widespread uptake across the entire value chain. With this background FIEC has launched its manifesto, to highlight the potential of BIM in terms of facilitating the implementation of EU policy. The document “Making BIM a global success” also summarises the challenges that could delay full adoption by all companies in all sectors” says Kjetil Tønning, Vice President of FIEC and President of its Technical Commission, who has led a working group made up of representatives of FIEC’s Member Federations as well as contractors, industry and academic experts and even a former government minister. FIEC’s manifesto is just one activity amongst several being undertaken, to support contractors with the transformation of the industry as a result of Industry 4.0. BIM actions will be followed by others on digitalisation and industrial production.

■ Interoperability, open access, solutions for SMEs and minimal regulation

As well as retaining control of data platforms and in particular, access to essential data, FIEC stresses the need for interoperability of systems and unlimited access to essential information. Kjetil Tønning explains *“One of the key impacts of BIM is that it both facilitates and relies on closer collaboration across the entire value chain, on a scale not seen in the industry until now. Such collaboration between the various sectors and people involved in a construction project will be impossible without open and free access to all the essential data stored in a Building Information Model. Any control exerted by a non-construction company, interested only in profits and not in the quality of construction would jeopardise the successful implementation of BIM and the future competitiveness of contractors.”*

■ Role of policy makers and public procurement

FIEC emphasises the need to find solutions for SMEs so that they are not left behind due to a lack of appropriate hardware or software, relevant knowledge and/or finance. Policy makers and public sector clients have a role to play, to ensure that SMEs receive adequate support. Moreover, although FIEC believes that standardisation is important, any other regulation should be limited to only what is absolutely essential to facilitate the digitalisation of construction. FIEC recommends a balance between top-down and bottom-up action, with the latter being the preferred approach whenever possible. On the other hand, EU policy makers are set to benefit from the digitalisation of construction. Kjetil Tønning concludes *“BIM in particular is changing the way we build, with benefits for the Circular Economy, energy efficiency, smart cities, climate goals and new jobs for young people that have previously been deterred from working in construction. We are looking forward to strong partnership with the EU institutions, which will deliver win-win results for EU society and our economy.”*

“Making BIM a global success” can be found on FIEC’s website:

<http://www.fiec.eu/en/cust/documentview>