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WORLD NEWS

EUROPE

**CECE's
10-point
manifesto**

A manifesto for a 10-point action plan to improve industrial production in Europe has been presented to the European Parliament by the presidents of the Committee for European Construction Equipment (CECE) and the European association representing the agricultural machinery industry (CEMA).

Johann Sailer (CECE) and Gilles Dryancour (CEMA) handed over the manifesto to MEP Malcolm Harbour at the CECE-CEMA summit held on October 16 in the European Parliament.

The two associations said that by doing this, the sectors underlined their commitment to playing an active role in reaching the European Commission's target of raising the share of industry in Europe from 16% of GDP to at least 20% by 2020.

At the manifesto handover, Mr Dryancour said, "We call on the EU to make industrial competitiveness the centre of EU policymaking, and this is our contribution."

He added, "Strong and competitive industrial production in Europe is essential to drive Europe out of recession and keep our common economic area wealthy and economically successful."

The action plan calls for the introduction of stronger competitiveness-proofing and fitness checks, and to ensure more coherent EU policy-making. In addition, ensuring EU legislation boosted the industry's ability to innovate to remain ahead of competitors was another point, followed by a call to seek greater international policy alignment to avoid technical barriers to trade, and to reduce the administrative burden of complying with EU legislation.

The completion of the Internal Market was highlighted, as was the need to ensure fair competition through better market surveillance.

There was a need, the manifesto said, to invest massively in infrastructure, and to deepen partnerships for a skilled workforce.

SOUTH KOREA

**Contractors barred
following Four Rivers
collusion**

South Korean government bans ten companies from public projects for up to 15 months following price fixing allegations.

The South Korean state agency, the Korean Water Resources Corp., has banned ten contractors from being awarded government projects for up to 15 months following allegations of price collusion. The companies are accused of fixing prices on the Four Rivers Restoration project.

The most heavily penalised contractors are Daelim Industrial, GS Engineering & Construction (E&C) and Hyundai E&C, which have been barred from winning government contracts for 15 months. Lesser bans have been given to Hanjin Heavy Industries, Keangnam Enterprises, Kumho Industrial, Kyeryong Construction, Samsung C&T, Samwhan Corp and SK E&C.

Several of the banned companies were charged last month by the Supreme Prosecutor's Office in Seoul for bid rigging on the KRW 22.2 trillion (US\$ 20.5 billion) project.

The Four Rivers Restoration project was a scheme to rehabilitate South Korea's main waterways, the Geum, Han, Nakdong and Yeongsan Rivers, and their tributaries.

It was launched in January 2009 and reached completion in October 2011, and was designed to secure water resources for the country, prevent floods, improve water quality and protect river ecosystems. The scheme saw some 929 km of rivers restored and a series of 14 reservoirs constructed.

News of the bans by the Korean Water Resources Corp. come after the Supreme Prosecutor's Office in Seoul charged 22 individuals at 11 construction companies with bid rigging on the project.

UAE Turner & Townsend has been awarded the contract for cost estimation, scheduling and risk management on the expansion of Abu Dhabi International Airport in the UAE. The project involves the construction of a state of the art new terminal, the Midfield Terminal Complex (MTC), as well as the redevelopment of existing terminal facilities and services to support the airport. Developed by Abu Dhabi Airports Company, the MTC is expected to have a total area of some 700,000 m², including 20,000 m² of shops and food & drink outlets. Construction on the project is already underway, with completion expected in 2017.



GLOBAL

**Infrastructure
trade to triple**

Global trade in the equipment and materials used to construct infrastructure such as roads, railways and power networks is forecast to triple by 2030.

This growth will be fuelled by increased investment from emerging markets, according to HSBC's latest Global Connections report, produced in conjunction with Oxford Economics.

The report forecasts that trade relating to infrastructure will grow at an average of +9% per year between 2013 and 2030.

China is set to become the top importer of equipment as it invests in manufacturing productivity and moves into increasingly sophisticated products. Its exports of construction materials and machinery for infrastructure projects are also forecast to rise.

The report also forecasts that Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Vietnam are set for rapid increases in infrastructure-related imports.

CHINA

**Climate
change
warning**

China needs to invest in climate proofing its infrastructure now or face the consequences of losing a landmass four times the size of Hong Kong, warns the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its report, Economics of Climate Change in East Asia.

The report estimates that climate proofing of all infrastructure in China, including roads and drainage, would cost up to US\$ 44 billion a year between 2010 and 2050.

Rising sea levels place 4,000 km of China's coastline under threat of submersion, according to the ADB report, which notes that the international port cities of Shanghai and Tianjin and the business centres of Guangdong and Jiangsu are highly vulnerable.