

PRESS RELEASE

82nd ECCE General Meeting Concludes Successfully in Braga

European Civil Engineers Adopt Landmark Policies, Welcome Italy as Full Member, Sign the Braga Declaration and Honour ECCE President

Braga, Portugal | 20 June 2026

The European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) successfully concluded its **82nd General Meeting**, held in **Braga, Portugal**, from **18 to 20 June 2026**, bringing together delegates from across Europe and beyond to shape the future of the civil engineering profession. Hosted by the **Ordem dos Engenheiros – Região Norte**, the meeting resulted in major governance reforms, the adoption of new European policy positions on Artificial Intelligence and Affordable Housing, the signing of the Braga Declaration, and the admission of Italy as ECCE's newest Full Member.

Representatives of 26 national civil engineering organisations across Europe discussed key priorities including affordable housing, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, professional mobility, governance, ethics, sustainability, climate resilience and the modernisation of the construction sector. Throughout three days of meetings, technical discussions and strategic dialogue, delegates adopted several landmark decisions that will shape ECCE's future work and reinforce the voice of civil engineers at the European level.

Italy Joins ECCE as a Full Member



ECCE welcomes CNI as a Full Member

One of the most significant outcomes of the 82nd ECCE General Meeting was the unanimous admission of the **Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri (CNI)** of Italy as a Full Member of the European Council of Civil Engineers.

Representing one of Europe's largest and most influential engineering communities, CNI's accession marks an important milestone in ECCE's continued growth and further strengthens its representation of civil engineers across the continent. During the

General Meeting, the Italian delegation presented the organisation, its institutional framework and the important contribution of civil engineers to Italy's infrastructure and economic development.

The General Assembly warmly welcomed the Italian delegation, recognising the considerable expertise and experience they bring to the organisation. Their admission significantly strengthens ECCE's collective voice at the European level and enhances its capacity to advocate effectively for the civil engineering profession before European institutions and international stakeholders.

The inclusion of CNI also creates new opportunities for professional cooperation, knowledge exchange, joint policy initiatives and the sharing of best practices among member organisations, further strengthening ECCE's role as the leading European platform for civil engineers.



CNI delegation: Eng. Luca Scappini and Mr. Guido Razzano

A Modern Governance Framework for ECCE

The General Assembly adopted a comprehensive package of governance reforms designed to support ECCE's continued development, institutional resilience and long-term sustainability.

Among the most significant decisions was the approval of the revised **ECCE Articles of Association (AoA)**, representing a major milestone in the organisation's evolution. The revised Articles strengthen ECCE's governance framework, enhance transparency and operational efficiency, and provide a modern institutional structure capable of supporting the Council's future growth and strategic ambitions.

Delegates also adopted the new **ECCE Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics**, reaffirming the civil engineering profession's commitment to integrity, competence, responsibility, transparency and service to society. The Code establishes a common ethical framework for ECCE member organisations, reflecting the central role of professional ethics in maintaining public confidence and promoting excellence throughout the profession.

Complementing these important decisions, delegates participated in the **ECCE Governance Roadmap – Bylaws 2026 Review Workshop**, an interactive session marking the next phase of ECCE's governance reform. Working in thematic groups, representatives from across Europe examined key elements of the proposed Bylaws, exchanged national experiences and practical perspectives, and identified opportunities to further strengthen the organisation's governance framework. The workshop was designed to ensure that ECCE's future governance structure reflects the principles of transparency, accountability, effectiveness and inclusiveness while responding to the evolving needs of the civil engineering profession.

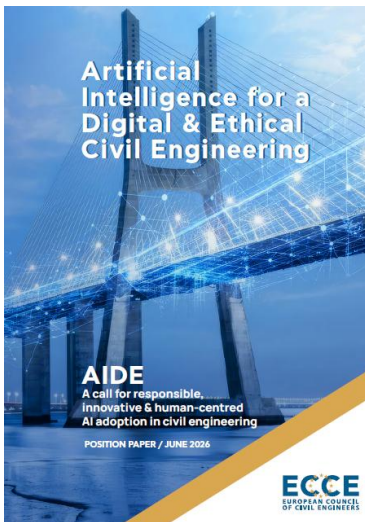


ECCE Governance Roadmap –
Bylaws 2026 Review Workshop



Together, the adoption of the new governance documents and the collaborative review process represent an important milestone in ECCE's institutional evolution. They provide a strong foundation for the organisation's future development, ensuring that ECCE remains well-equipped to address emerging challenges, support its growing membership, and continue serving as the recognised European voice of civil engineers.

Advancing Digital Transformation through Artificial Intelligence



Responding to the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, the General Assembly formally adopted the ECCE Position Paper on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Engineering (AIDE - Artificial Intelligence for Digital and Ethical Civil Engineering).

Developed through extensive collaboration among experts and member organisations across Europe, the AIDE Position Paper establishes ECCE's strategic position on the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence and emerging digital technologies throughout the civil engineering lifecycle. It recognises the significant potential of AI to enhance design, construction, infrastructure management, asset monitoring and engineering decision-making, while reaffirming that engineering judgement, professional responsibility, ethical principles and public safety

must remain at the core of all technology-enabled processes.

The Position Paper promotes a framework founded on Accountability, Innovation, Data Integrity and Ethics (AIDE), while emphasising transparency, cybersecurity, human oversight and responsible governance of AI technologies. It advocates a balanced approach in which technological innovation strengthens—rather than replaces—professional expertise, engineering judgement and public trust.

By adopting the AIDE Position Paper, ECCE consolidates its commitment to supporting the digital transformation of the civil engineering profession and provides an important reference for policymakers, professional organisations, academia and practitioners as Europe continues its transition towards a more innovative, resilient and digitally enabled built environment.



AIDE Position Paper presentation by ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Jeanette Muñoz Abela

Affordable Housing at the Centre of European Debate

Housing affordability emerged as one of the defining themes of the 82nd ECCE General Meeting, reflecting the growing recognition that access to safe, affordable and sustainable housing is one of Europe's most pressing societal challenges.

A dedicated international Round Table entitled "Affordable Housing: Challenges and Solutions" brought together leading European and Portuguese experts, alongside the Presidents of the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) and the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC), to explore practical engineering solutions capable of addressing the housing crisis.



Round Table "Affordable Housing: Challenges and Solutions"

The session opened with the presentation of the joint ECCE–ECEC Policy Paper *"A European Engineering Vision for Affordable, Safe and Sustainable Housing"* by the Presidents of ECCE and ECEC. The Policy Paper highlights the essential role of civil engineers in delivering housing that is affordable, safe, resilient and environmentally sustainable through innovation, industrialised construction, digital technologies, improved planning and regulatory frameworks, and greater collaboration across the construction value chain.

The Round Table examined the complex challenges affecting housing across Europe, including rising construction costs, constrained housing supply, ageing building stock, energy poverty, social inequality and accelerating urbanisation. Discussions focused on practical engineering-led solutions capable of increasing housing affordability without compromising safety, quality, sustainability or resilience. Particular emphasis was placed on modern methods of construction, Building Information Modelling (BIM), digitalisation and emerging technologies, regulatory reform, productivity improvements and long-term strategies to modernise the construction sector.

The discussions reinforced the need for coordinated action among European institutions, national governments, industry and the engineering profession to increase the supply of high-quality, affordable housing and demonstrated ECCE's commitment to placing engineering expertise at the heart of Europe's response to the housing challenge.

The conclusions of the Round Table provided an important contribution to the wider discussions of the General Meeting and complemented the strategic priorities subsequently reflected in the Braga Declaration, reaffirming ECCE's commitment to modernising Europe's construction sector

and promoting engineering-led solutions to societal challenges.

The Braga Declaration: A Strategic Vision for Europe's Construction Sector

A defining outcome of the 82nd ECCE General Meeting was the adoption of the Braga Declaration – "Modernising Construction: Engineering Europe's Sustainable, Resilient and Digital Future", setting out ECCE's strategic vision for the future of the civil engineering profession and the European construction sector.

The Declaration was formally adopted by the General Assembly and officially signed during the Gala Dinner by ECCE President Platonas Stylianou and Ordem dos Engenheiros President Fernando de Almeida Santos, symbolising the shared commitment of the European engineering community to advancing a more sustainable, resilient, innovative and digitally enabled built environment.



ECCE and OEP Presidents signing the Braga Declaration

Building upon ECCE's recent policy initiatives—including the ECCE–ECEC Policy Paper on Affordable Housing, the AIDE Position Paper on Artificial Intelligence, and the ECCE Manifesto on Climate, Resilience and Infrastructure—the Braga Declaration calls upon European institutions, national governments, industry, academia and professional organisations to work together in accelerating the modernisation of Europe's construction sector.

The Declaration identifies five strategic priorities for coordinated action:



Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure – promoting climate adaptation, resource efficiency, low-carbon construction and infrastructure that delivers long-term societal value.



Modernisation of Construction – accelerating the adoption of Building Information Modelling (BIM), Digital Twins, Modern Methods of Construction, automation and other innovative technologies that improve productivity, quality, safety and sustainability while maintaining engineering responsibility and oversight.



Safe, Affordable and Sustainable Housing – supporting policies that increase housing supply, improve affordability, quality and resilience, and place citizens and communities at the centre of decision-making.



Responsible Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence – promoting the ethical, transparent, accountable and human-centred deployment of artificial intelligence and emerging digital technologies throughout the built environment.



People, Skills and Professional Leadership – investing in engineering education, lifelong learning, digital skills, professional leadership and the active engagement of young engineers to strengthen the future competitiveness of Europe.

More than a declaration of principles, the Braga Declaration represents ECCE's commitment to working with European and international partners to advance evidence-based policies that promote engineering excellence, sustainability, innovation and ethical leadership, while reinforcing the essential contribution of civil engineers to Europe's environmental, economic and social development.

ECCE President receives Honorary Membership from Ordem dos Engenheiros



ECCE President awarded the title of Honorary Member of the Ordem dos Engenheiros by the OEP President

During the Gala Dinner, ECCE President Platonas Stylianou was awarded the title of Honorary Member of the Ordem dos Engenheiros, one of the Portuguese engineering institution's highest distinctions.

The honour recognises his outstanding contribution to the civil engineering profession, his commitment to strengthening international cooperation, and his leadership in advancing collaboration among engineering organisations across Europe.

The distinction also reflects the excellent relationship between ECCE and the Ordem dos Engenheiros and acknowledges the growing role of ECCE in promoting engineering excellence at the European level.

Progress Towards a Common Training Framework

Delegates also reviewed progress on the development of a **Common Training Framework (CTF) for Civil Engineers**, an important initiative aimed at facilitating professional mobility and supporting the future extension of automatic recognition of professional qualifications across Europe.

The discussions reaffirmed ECCE's commitment to working closely with European partners in developing a common approach that strengthens the profession while respecting national systems and ensuring the highest standards of engineering education and competence.

Strengthening European Cooperation

Beyond the formal decisions, the General Meeting provided an important forum for dialogue, networking and knowledge exchange among delegates from across Europe.

Participants also attended the seminar "**Modernisation of Construction**", contributed to working sessions on ECCE's future governance framework, and took part in cultural and networking events showcasing Portuguese hospitality and engineering excellence. These activities further strengthened the close cooperation between member organisations and reinforced ECCE's role as the leading European platform for civil engineers.

Looking Ahead

The successful conclusion of the 82nd ECCE General Meeting demonstrated the strength of a united European civil engineering community committed to addressing the major challenges of our time.

With strengthened membership, a modern governance framework, new policy positions on housing and artificial intelligence, and the adoption of the Braga Declaration, ECCE continues to consolidate its role as the voice of civil engineers in Europe and a trusted partner for European institutions and international stakeholders.

ECCE expresses its sincere appreciation to the **Ordem dos Engenheiros**, particularly the **Região Norte**, for their outstanding organisation, generous hospitality and dedication in hosting an exceptional General Meeting.

The Council now looks forward to continuing this momentum at the **83rd ECCE General Meeting**, to be held in **Warsaw, Poland**, from **8 to 10 October 2026**, where European civil engineers will continue working together to build a safer, more resilient, more sustainable and more prosperous Europe.



82nd ECCE General Meeting participants

Photo Gallery

You can access the full photo gallery of the 82nd ECCE General Meeting at the following links:

[82nd ECCE General Meeting – Day 1](#)

[82nd ECCE General Meeting – Day 2](#)

[Gala Dinner](#)

About ECCE

Founded in 1985, the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) is the recognised voice of the civil engineering profession in Europe, bringing together national civil engineering organisations from **26 countries**. ECCE promotes engineering excellence, professional ethics, sustainability and innovation while fostering cooperation among its members. The Council works with European institutions and international partners to advance policies that support resilient infrastructure, sustainable development, affordable housing, digital transformation and the continued development of the civil engineering profession.

[Why should a country participate in the ECCE](#)

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