

European Council of Civil Engineers – ECCE
President’s message on the occasion of the World Engineering
Day for Sustainable Development 2026 (WED 2026)

4 March 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Today, we join the global engineering community in celebrating World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development, proclaimed by UNESCO and promoted worldwide by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO).

This important day recognises the essential contribution of engineers to modern society and to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

This year’s focus on **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** highlights the central role of engineering in strengthening resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation. These priorities lie at the very heart of civil engineering.

Across Europe and beyond, civil engineers design, construct and maintain the infrastructure that enables economic development, social cohesion and environmental protection. In an era marked by climate change, digital transformation and increasing societal expectations, our responsibility extends beyond technical performance. It encompasses safety, sustainability, ethics and long-term value for future generations.

At a time when several regions of the world are experiencing instability, conflict and humanitarian challenges, we are reminded that infrastructure is not merely technical – it is fundamental to human dignity and societal resilience. Disruptions to critical systems, whether caused by natural hazards, climate pressures or geopolitical tensions, directly affect communities, economies and global stability.

Engineering is more than a profession; it is a responsibility. As civil engineers, our mission remains clear: to design and safeguard infrastructure that protects lives, supports recovery, and contributes to peaceful and sustainable development. Engineering must continue to serve as a bridge – fostering cooperation, strengthening resilience, and supporting societies in times of uncertainty.

At ECCE, we remain firmly committed to:

- Advancing resilient and climate-adaptive infrastructure,
- Promoting safe, affordable and sustainable housing,
- Supporting digital innovation in the construction sector,
- Strengthening professional capacity and engineering leadership across Europe,
- Contributing actively to global engineering dialogue and cooperation,
- Inspiring the next generation of engineers to pursue excellence and serve society with dedication.

On this World Engineering Day, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all civil engineers for your dedication, professionalism and unwavering commitment to serving society.

As members of the engineering community, we stand at the forefront of addressing global challenges. Engineering builds more than structures – it builds trust, resilience and the foundations of sustainable development.

Together, through science, expertise, and collaboration we will continue to engineer a better, safer, and more sustainable world.

Together we are stronger.

Happy World Engineering Day!



Platonas Stylianou

President

European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE)