

ESCL Conference 2012

## SUBCONTRACTS

Liège, Belgium 12 October 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives us great pleasure to announce/confirm you the subject of the 2012 conference of the European Society of Construction Law : **Subcontracting in the European Union**

The venue of the conference is the city of Liège in Belgium. Thanks to the support of the University of Liège, we are proud to advise you the following program (subject to further amendment as required):

Thursday 11 October	5.00 pm	Registration of the foreign participants
	6.00 pm	Guided visit of the railway station (design by Santiago Calatrava)
	7.00 pm	Dinner
Friday 12 October	8.30 am	Registration of participants
	9.00 am	Welcome
	9.10 am	Theme 1 : <b>Definition &amp; formation of subcontracts</b>
	10.40 am	Coffee break
	11.00 am	Theme 2 : <b>Subcontract payment issues</b>
	12.30 am	Lunch
	1.40 pm	Theme 3 : <b>Transparency / Back to back</b>
	3.10 pm	Coffee break
	3.30 pm	Theme 4 : <b>Dispute resolution</b>
	5.00 pm	Cocktails
	7.30 pm	Dinner
Saturday 13 October	10.00 am	Presidents' meeting, followed by a lunch

At the conference each of the 4 themes viz.:

1. Definition & formation of subcontracts
2. Payment
3. Transparency / back to back
4. Dispute resolution

will be dealt with in depth. Presentations will be given during 3 x 30 minutes addressing :

- a) the status of the (case) law in Belgium,
- b) the status of the (case) law in one of our neighbouring countries; and
- c) particular features of the (case) law in other countries.

Speeches will be given in English, French or Dutch with translations being provided into these languages.

Your assistance would be highly appreciated as to c). We have prepared in annex a limited number of detailed questions on each theme. We invite each of the 27 member associations to provide us with a reply (in English) on these questions. Your replies (max. 2-3 lines per issue, in total max. 2-3 pages) are very important to us. They shall serve to complete the presentation of the corresponding theme at the conference. Dr. Ulrich Paetzold, director general of the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC), has agreed to serve as speaker for each time this part. Clearly, he will appreciate all the input he can get for yourselves.

The success of the conference will depend on our capacity to respect some deadlines. Please note them as follows:

- 16 April 2012: theme assignment and appointment of spokesperson by the associations of the Netherlands, France, Germany and the UK.
- **01 June 2012: hand in of the replies to the questionnaire**
- 01 September 2012: hand in of papers by Belgian and foreign speakers (NL, Fr., De. and UK)

Subcontracts are the thrilling subject of many debates in the construction industry and among construction lawyers across Europe.



Please publish the subject of the conference with your members, and advise them to block their agenda already now in view of their participation to the 12 October 2012 conference in Liège. Also, we would appreciate if the seminar could further be promoted on your websites, in your publications and in other specialized journals. With your assistance we will be able to make it a memorable event that no specialist can afford to miss. We will gather speakers who are very knowledgeable with the different sub-themes. They will provide original and up to date comments on the status of the (case)law in their home countries that will inspire each and every participant.

Liège is easily accessible by highway, (HST) train and via the airports of Brussels, Brussels-South, Eindhoven (the Netherlands) and Köln/Frankfurt (Germany). We are in the course of securing interesting lodging conditions at a first class local hotel. Also, an alternative companion program will be arranged that caters for all interests. Finally, the college classes of the University of Liège and the settings of the dinners (a marvel of modern architecture, sumptuous premises (Napoleon III era) with a fantastic view on the city of Liège as well as the cellar of a castle from the 14<sup>th</sup> century) will make it a conference not to forget.

We look forward to your positive reaction to this announcement and we hope we may welcome large delegations from each and every member country at the congress.

Yours sincerely,

Marco Schoups & Prof. Dr. Benoît Kohl  
Presidents BVBR-ABDC  
Belgian Construction Law Society