

## ACE General Assembly

GA25/2, 14 November 2025, Prague

Notes of the meeting

Date: 25/11/2025 - Ref: 164/25/CO

### **Decisions of the ACE General Assembly held in Prague on 14 November 2025**

#### **1. Opening Session**

##### 1.1 Welcome, introduction of new members

Delegates were welcomed and new members introduced.

Apologies were received from North Macedonia.

Obituary - a minutes' silence was observed in memory of

- Former BIA, CAU and FPAA President J Virmond Suplicy Neto (Brazil);
- Former ACE EB member, Nicholas Galabov (Bulgaria),
- Former ACE EB member, Emil Jordanov (Bulgaria),
- Former RIBA and UIA President, Rod Hackney (UK).

##### 1.2 Adoption of the agenda

GA25/2/01	The Agenda was adopted subject to the following changes – <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- it was agreed to take items 1.5 (President's report) and 1.6 (Immediate Past President's report) after the Elections;</li><li>- it was noted that Marcelle Rabinowicz (BE) and Andre Pizzuto (MT) had withdrawn from the elections.</li></ul>
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##### 1.3 Notes of the last meeting

GA25/2/02	The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record
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##### 1.4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

##### 1.5 President's report

The President's report was noted, focusing on

- the review of the Public Procurement Directive – avoiding lowest cost in favour of MEAT, better access for SMEs, greater innovation through ADCs and the ARCH-E Project; meeting with Ms. Schaumberger (to present the Luxembourg Declaration);
- Affordable Housing (Conference and Prague Declaration); meeting with Commissioner Roswall;
- Architects' Compensation Conference (Porto) looking at different approaches;

- Circular Economy & NEB – response to a consultation
- ACE presence at the Sarajevo Biennale (D Basic)
- 110 submissions for the new ACE Exhibition (jury meeting on 25/11; private view at the European Parliament in April 2026.

He thanked the Immediate Past President, the out-going Executive Board members, the SG and staff for their support – and on behalf of the EB, thanked the SG for his long service and wished him a happy retirement.

#### 1.6 Remarks of Immediate Past President

RS expressed her gratitude for the trust and appreciation of the MOs and pride at the achievement of recent years, emerging from the pandemic and the start of war in Ukraine. She felt that ACE had moved from reactivity to proactivity, from being listened to, to being heard – and the voice of architects was now at the centre of the EU – Green Deal, NEB, EPBD, LCA, WLC, Circularity, PP advocating for the quality of design and the social value of architecture.

She also thanked the Executive Board of 2022-2023 and 2024-2025, as well as the SG and staff.

## 2. Elections

2.1 Procedure – the voting procedure was explained

#### 2.2 Election of President

Daniel Fügenschuh received 60% of the individual votes and 60% of the countries; Carl Bäckstrand received 40% of the individual votes and 37% of the countries

GA25/2/03	The Assembly elected Daniel Fügenschuh as ACE President for the period 2026-2027
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#### 2.3 Election of 5 EB members

GA25/2/04	<p>The Assembly elected the following members to the ACE Executive Board</p> <p>E Gossart (France) C Bäckstrand (Sweden) D Zoppi (Italy) R San Emeterio Pedraja (Spain) R Gmür (Switzerland)</p>
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#### 2.4 Appointment of 5 Rotating members

GA25/2/05	<p>The Assembly noted the appointment of the following members to the ACE Executive Board</p> <p>Arja Lukin (Finland) Istelliana Atanassova (Bulgaria)</p>
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	Andro Mänd (Estonia) Eugen Panescu (Romania) Judit Kimpian (UK)
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## 2.5 Confirmation of the composition of the new Executive Board

GA25/2/06	<p>The Assembly confirmed the composition of the ACE Executive Board for 2026-2027 as follows:</p> <p>D Fügenschuh (Austria), President</p> <p>I Atanassova (Bulgaria) C Bäckstrand (Sweden) R Gmür (Switzerland) E Gossart (France) J Kimpian (UK) A Lukin (Finland) A Mänd (Estonia) E Panescu (Romania) R San Emeterio Pedraja (Spain) D Zoppi (Italy)</p>
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## 3. **Political Issues**

### 3.1 Secretary General's report

#### 3.1.1 Single Market Strategy

Recalling ACEs' response to the Call for Evidence, which advocated for 5 actions to achieve an integrated Single Market namely to

- improve Professional Mobility
- reduce the regulatory burden
- improve the provisions of the Public Procurement Directive
- make better use of existing regulations
- fill a regulatory gap

which would allow ACE to advance some of the recommendations made in its Manifesto for the European Parliament elections, the COM had now published its strategy (on 21.5) by which it proposed to address some of the points made in the Draghi and Letta namely

- fewer barriers (the "Terrible Ten")
- greater ambition to boost markets
- more focus on SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups
- more simplification (less red tape)
- more national engagement (ownership / enforcement)

The SG had identified a number of element of the Strategy that impact on ACE and at least five of its work groups. These would be incorporated in the Business Plan for 2026.

### 3.1.2 2012 – 2025

The SG focused the second part of his report on highlighting some of the key achievements over the period 2012 – 2025, in the following areas

- Operational and strategic rigour
- Better governance
- Staff development
- Financial stability
- Timely political positions
- Increased professional activity.

In particular, the reserve had increased from € 265k to €1.3 million and funded activity had been provided to the value of €3 million (from Creative Europe) and €4 million for Research Projects from Horizon Europe. The Strategy runs to 2028 and there is an expectation of c. €300k p.a. from Creative Europe, also to 2028.

GA25/2/07	The SG's report was noted with satisfaction
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### 3.2 Observer Membership application

GA25/2/08	The application for Observer Membership from the Association of Serbian Architectural Practices (ASAP) was approved.
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### 3.3 Conference Statement

GA25/2/09	The Conference Statement "Affordable & Quality Housing for all" was noted with satisfaction.
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### 3.4 Closing remarks from the out-going Secretary General

The out-going SG made some remarks about his background and the history of Wales, gave some personal highlights and thanks the many people with whom he had collaborated over the years.

## 4. Finance

### 4.1 Treasurer's report

- 4.1.1 Budgets – KK reported that while the 2025 was 'tight', the budget for 2026 was even tighter, with an increase of only 1.8% (1/3 of core inflation). It had been approved with Double Qualified Majority at FICO and was then approved by Double Simple Majority in the GA.

GA25/2/10	The 2026 Budget was approved with one vote (Malta) against.
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- 4.1.2 Other financial matters - on the advice of the Auditor, bad debts had been cancelled. There was generally a high payment discipline though one country had arrears.

- 4.1.3 Key for Membership Subscriptions – the proposal to switch from GDP-PPP to GDP nominal over the next three years (already agreed in FICO) was approved (Malta voted against). It was also agreed that the impact of the change will be examined with a view to reducing or removing the minimum fee (1% according to the formula but currently applied at 0.55%).

The Maltese delegate explained that the reason for voting against was that they felt the system was unfair on the smaller countries and needed to be changed more quickly.

GA25/2/11	The adjustment to the subscription key (to apply GDP nominal instead of GDP-PPP over the next three years) was approved. The Assembly also agreed that the impact of the change will be examined with a view to reducing or removing the minimum fee.
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TP invited a discussion on how to redress the imbalance in a non-budgetary way i.e. outside subscriptions and through services. AP advocated that consideration also be given to ability to pay and hoped that the new EB would be open to constructive dialogue.

## 5. Recruitment

CLV presented her report describing the recruitment process for finding the new Secretary General. She described the qualities of the successful applicant (Katharina Erdmenger, DE) who will start at the beginning of February.

GA25/2/12	The Assembly confirmed the EB's recommendation to appoint Katharina Erdmenger as the next Secretary General
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The GA confirmed the EB's recommendation to appoint Katharina Erdmenger as the ACE Secretary General.

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### *New Secretary General (from February 2026)*

After the lunch break, K Erdmenger joined the Assembly and described the relevance of her career (study, work experience, public service, urban planning, cross-border, EU-funding, affordable housing).

### *Work groups – inter-linking issues*

Reto Gmür then introduced the thematic areas with a commentary on the cross-cutting session conducted at the General Coordination meeting in September. He underlined the importance of exploiting linkages between the groups so that the whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts. He also observed that the new EB should look at the number and size of groups, fill some chairmanship vacancies, appoint some co-chairs and up-date the Delegates' handbook.

## 6. Area 4 (Research & Development)

### 6.1 Coordinator's overview

The GA noted DB's general description of the work, recalling that the Research Policy and procedure for adopting new projects had been approved in Luxembourg.

He reported that 15 projects submissions had been made (2 had been accepted; 2 were awaiting evaluation results; 5 were in progress and 6 had been unsuccessful).

He then announced the publication of "Building on Knowledge – 20 years of ACE in EU-funded projects".

### 6.2 UREHERIT

The GA noted RL's description of the project which involved the evaluation, preservation and restoration of the urban architectural heritage of Ukraine. – in particular, its recovery from war-damage.

The work of ACE and participants (from AT, DE, DK, EE, IT, LIT, RO, SE) includes research, workshops, recommendations, pilot projects and CPD/Education; topics include damage assessment, renovation, participatory methods and architectural design competitions.

### 6.3 EU-funded projects

The GA noted LdR's up-date on current projects – ARV, ARCH-E, CiD, SONATA , Heritace and BUSunited as well as other projects e.g. UREHERIT, NONA where ACE is an associate partners. She also illustrated the interest group on Plus Energy Buildings that has been established on the ACE HUB.

As usual, ACE takes every opportunity to respond to new calls and continues to issue the "ACE Key" – a newsletter giving information on how to access EU funding.

### 6.4 NEB (Call for Evidence)

The GA noted JT's report. The EU COM will present a Communication and proposal for a Council Recommendation to increase the NEB's overall visibility, recognition and funding.

GA25/2/13	The ACE response to the Call for evidence was noted focusing on Procurement, Housing , Quality assessment, Planning & Building Regulation, Skills & Knowledge and Communication.
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## 7 Area 3 (Baukultur)

### 7.1 Overview

BCz gave an overview of work in Area 3 including the recent publication on Quality of Life & Architecture, highlighting some of the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, e.g. new work activities arising from AI. In that context, he also highlighted some of the new

competences relating to the requirements of the EPBD and their relationship with Quality of Life and Architecture (cf. new publication).

He then invited GT to report on the Decarbonisation event held in Barcelona the previous week. She highlighted the key messages of the conference as follows:

- Decarbonisation, Affordable Housing and High Quality Architecture are interconnected;
- accelerating renovation is essential;
- architects must take the lead in this process;
- the COM, Member States and Member Organisations should support architects' innovation
- there are EU funding opportunities for Member Organisations;
- Member Organisations can organise similar events.

## 7.2 Off site construction

CGY presented a position paper describing the benefits, challenges and risks of Off-Site Construction. She underlined the importance of positioning architects at the centre and proposed seven key strategic principles for a responsible off-site transition:

- (a) Architectural quality must remain paramount;
- (b) Support standardisation for interoperability
- (c) Localise production and supply chains
- (d) Encourage early collaboration and procurement reform
- (e) Promote Design for Disassembly
- (f) Invest in upskilling
- (g) Ensure policy coherence and EU-level support

She called for a balanced, adaptable and quality-driven approach that integrates off-site methods without compromising architectural integrity or social values – and then presented some best-practice off-site housing examples, inviting architects across Europe to contribute their insights and experiences.

## 7.3 Housing Affordable Housing Plan – (EC Public Consultation)

EP summarised the ACE policy position

GA25/2/14	<p>The Assembly approved the ACE policy position to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revise the EU PP Directive to foster better public procurement models that prioritise quality and sustainability</li> <li>- Streamline planning and building permitting processes and support experimental housing models, to reduce delays and foster innovative solutions</li> <li>- Develop a voluntary set of criteria for housing quality, based on the Davos Baukultur system, the NEB and Level[s]</li> <li>- Support a comprehensive housing data policy at all levels (EU, MS, regions, cities).</li> <li>- Monitor key indicators to make it possible to track progress, identify challenges and continuously refine policies</li> <li>- support the legal proposals put forward by House Europe! including the boosting of renovation markets with tax incentives</li> <li>- Establish platforms for showcasing and discussing housing innovation: exhibitions, conferences and forums to highlight innovations in design, materials and construction methods.</li> </ul>
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It was also noted that ACE had

- Responded to the Call for Evidence on revision of rules on services of general economic interest in particular on housing (July)
- Responded to the Call for Evidence on the housing construction strategy (September) – including positions on off-site construction, renovation and re-use of existing stock, circular economy and climate change adaptation;
- Established a position on the draft reports of the EP's Special Committee on the housing crisis.

#### 7.4 Heritage

S Musso reported that the work group was focusing on the following problematic areas

- (i) knowledge and understanding
- (ii) recognition and/or attribution of values – interpretation
- (iii) technological and technical answers for preserving / adapting modern Heritage
- (iv) challenges regarding the protection / conservation / adaptation of modern or recent Heritage
- (v) NEB as a tool in Heritage

And will further activate the following action

- (vi) collection of international documents on modern Cultural built Heritage
- (vii) good practices of maintenance, restoration, re-use, adaptation and retro-fitting
- (viii) research programme about modern Heritage and its fate
- (ix) possible future actions
- (x) final remarks.

#### 7.5 Disaster Relief

RR reported that the aim of the task-force was to build on knowledge-sharing among ACE Member Organisations, collect and share best practice and create a set of recommendations to public authorities.

He then listed six areas of responsibility that are to be explored

- (a) Risk assessment – to identify potential hazards and to analyse what could happen if a disaster occurs;
- (b) Culture of prevention – how well are we prepared to prevent any disasters? What could a Prevention Plan include?
- (c) Emergency protocols – what guidelines must be followed in the event of a disaster?
- (d) Role of the Profession – what can architects do to assist in assessing risks, preventing disasters and helping communities rebuilt in case a disaster occurs?
- (e) Training for architects – how can architects be trained to help communities mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters?
- (f) Quality of reconstruction – how can high-quality temporary or permanent shelter be ensured for disaster-stricken communities?
- (g) Specificities inherent to Heritage – how can Heritage be protected?

The group had also responded to a request to organise a joint webinar with the UIA a few weeks before.



## 8. Area 2 (Practice of the Profession)

DZ introduce this area, highlighting the call (in the Draghi and Letta reports) to strengthen the Single Market for Services. He underlined the importance of the work carried out in the IBM work group, and the additional responsibilities inherent in the new roles identified. He also stressed that professionals are bound by strict ethical codes and this should be reflected in regulation.

The PP / ADC work group had been particularly busy and reported that he had attended a meeting at the European Parliament to present the four pillars of the Luxembourg Declaration which was well received.

He concluded his remarks by suggesting that a move towards more common regulation would help to reduce conflict e.g. in the AESOP task-force, to promote classification of professional activities.

### 8.1 Public Procurement

KR announced the COM's objective to publish its report in Q.2 of 2026. To this end it had published a further call for evidence the previous week.

The INI report from the European Parliament called for public tenders to place greater emphasis on non-price criteria, prioritising the best price : quality ratio, rather than the cheapest initial id, underlining that very low cost projects often compromise quality, incur higher maintenance costs, harm the environment and exploit workers.

GA25/2/15	<p>The Assembly agreed the following issues for the revision of the Public Procurement Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Clarification, simplification and digitalisation of the process;</li> <li>(ii) SME-friendly procurement</li> <li>(iii) Quality Selection Criteria</li> <li>(iv) Green Public Procurement (and the inclusive of NEB values in the MEAT criteria)</li> <li>(v) Architectural Design Contests</li> <li>(vi) Professionalisation (of public authority personnel)</li> <li>(vii) improved procurement practices (clear rules, better implementation, best practice)</li> </ul> <p>And a dedicated chapter in the Directive for intellectual services to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tailored rules for intellectual services</li> <li>- Simplification without compromising quality</li> <li>- Fairer competition for SMEs and young professionals</li> <li>- Greater innovation, sustainability and excellence</li> </ul>
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### 8.2 AESOP task-force

D Mance report on the Conference in Porto; task-force meeting the next day  
QR codes – links to YouTube recording.  
The real focus is on Scope of Service

3 surveys – one to MOs, one to architects, one to enquire about cost calculation methods

## 9. Area 1 (Access to the profession)

CLV gave a brief overview

- Accompanying Certificate – there was no presentation due to residual technical glitches. However, the ACE initiative was thought to complement the COM's own initiative;
- Proposal for a Planning Services Directive – most partner organisations have agreed the rationale (ECTP's position is now more aligned and one further meeting has been scheduled with EFCA);
- The Access to the profession survey had been finalised and a brief is ready to send to consultants;
- Schools - DB reported on the EU Mies van der Rohe Award, the EAAE-ACE Pedagogy Award, the EAAE Sector Study and collaboration with a view to the UIA Congress in Barcelona in 2026.

## 10. Any Other business

### 10.1 Quality of Life & Architecture

AK introduced this publication, the aim of which is to present architecture as a public policy tool that shapes the quality of life, supports social cohesion and enables ecological transition.

The publication features nine chapters

- 1) Changes to urban and social spaces
- 2) Adaptation to changing social needs
- 3) Protection quality and European values of architecture
- 4) Climate-responsive architecture for our planet
- 5) Architecture and Housing for sustainable and liveable cities
- 6) Protection of cultural heritage and sustainable development
- 7) The role of architects in society
- 8) Ethics and technology – the impact of small architectural practices
- 9) Education, competence and the responsibility of architects

And ACE calls for

- Strengthening the role of architects in decision-making processes;
- Reforming public procurement towards quality
- Supporting education & research and recognising architecture as a foundation for prosperity and democracy.

### 10.2 ARCH-E

DF reported that the ARCH-E Glossary will migrate to the ACE website. Other tools included How to procure via ADCs; an evaluation tool and a network of experts.

He noted that ARCH-E had won 3 Awards – best co-operation project; plus a NEB Award and an Austrian award. He underlined that MOs are still able to submit good practice examples.

## 11. Calendar of meetings

GA25/2/16	The calendar of main meetings for 2026 was agreed.
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### Date & time of next meeting

The next ACE General Assembly meeting will take place in Brussels on 24 April 2026 (the day after the ARCH-E Conference).

End  
IDP 21.11.25

## **Annex 1 – List of Participants**

<b>ACE EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>	
Carl Bäckstrand, President	
Kornel Kobák, Treasurer	
Carla Lima Vieira, Coordinator Area 1	
Diego Zoppi, Coordinator Area 2	
Boryslaw Czarakczew, Coordinator Area 3	
Dubravko Bacic, Coordinator Area 4	
Anda Kursisa	
Daniel Fügenschuh	
Andre Pizzuto	
Reto Gmür	
<b>SECRETARIAT</b>	
Ian Pritchard, Secretary General	
Lukas, Bollaert, Policy&Administrative Officer	
Julie Deutschmann, Head of Communications	
Pierre Obajtek, Senior Policy Officer	
Catalina Olteanu, Office Manager	
Larissa De Rosso, EU Funding and Projects Manager	
Marta Candidi, EU Projects Officer	
<b>Guests</b>	
Marko Matejić, Member of the ASAP Board	
Igor Marsenić, Executive Manager of the ASAP	

<b>ACE DELEGATIONS</b>			
<b>COUNTRY</b>		<b>NAME</b>	
AUSTRIA	BKZT	Katharina Fröch, Head of Delegation	
		Cornelia Hammerschlag	Zoom
BELGIUM	CNOA	Axel Polis	
		Anton Draye	
		Francis Metzger	
		Frédéric Lapôtre	
	FAB	Thomas Serck, Head of Delegation	
		Li Mei Tsien	
		Jacques Timmerman	
BULGARIA	CAB	Margarita Kozovska, Head of Delegation	
		Veselina Nikolova	
	UAB	Istelianna Atanassova	
CROATIA	CCA	Rajka Bunjevac	
		Iva Krkalo Mrvelj	
CYPRUS	CAA	Alkis Dikaïos, Head of Delegation	
		Phanos Kyriakides	
		Constantinos Constanti	
		Maria Constanti	
		Marios Kazamias	
CZECHIA	CCA	Jan Kasl, Head of Delegation	
		Pavel Martinek	

		Petr Leseck	
DENMARK	AA	Dorte Kirstine Sibast, Head of Delegation	
	DA	<i>Proxy, AA Denmark</i>	
ESTONIA	EAL	Aet Ader, Head of Delegation	
		Andro Mand	
FINLAND	SAFA	Asko Takala, Head of Delegation	
		Arja Lukin	
	ATL	<i>Proxy, SAFA Finland</i>	
FRANCE	CNOA	Elizabeth Gossart, Head of Delegation	
		Fabien Gantois	
		Joris Boutin	
		Marie-Aude BAILLY-LE BARS	
		Corinne Girard-Young	
		Christophe Millet	
	UNSFA	Philippe Klein, Head of Delegation	
		Laure-Anne Geoffroy Duprez	
	SA	Nikhil Calas, Head of Delegation	
		Hugo Franck	Zoom
		Hugo Plagnol	Zoom
GERMANY		Architects' Delegation Germany (ADG)	
		Evelin Lux, Head of Delegation	
		Alexander Schwab	
		Heiner Lippe	
		Axel Mutert	
		Tillman Prinz	
		Ruth Schagemann	
		Kathrin Rapp	
		Frederic Tenberge	Zoom
GREECE	CTG	Olga Venetsianou, Head of Delegation	
		Elena Laine	
	SADAS	Dimitris Xynomilakis, Head of Delegation	
		Olga Pappa	
HUNGARY	MEK	Andras Bordas, Head of Delegation	
IRELAND	RIAI	Sean Mahon, Head of Delegation	
		Frank Turvey	
		Selma Harrington	
		Kathryn Meghen	
		Erik Maher	Zoom
ITALY	CNAPPC	Massimo Crusi, Head of Delegation	
		Carmela Cannarella	
		Roberto Rocchi	
		Stefano Musso	
LATVIA	LAA	Gvido Princis, Head of Delegation	
LITHUANIA	AAL	Ruta Leitanaite, Head of Delegation	
	ACL	Algimantas Pliucas, Head of Delegation	
		Linas Tuleikis	
LUXEMBOURG	OAI	Michelle Friederici, Head of Delegation	
		Pierre Hurt	

MALTA	KTP	Matias Camilleri, Head of Delegation	
		Sebastian Grima	
		Ivynne Grixti	Zoom
NETHERLANDS	BNA	Anne Schroën, Head of Delegation	
	BA	Jorrit Rosema, Head of Delegation	
NORWAY	ACA	Anette Bakker	
		Rasmus Jorgensen	
	NAL	<i>Not represented</i>	
	AFAG	Silje Andrea Sceverud, Head of Delegation	Zoom
		Per Christian Opsahl	
POLAND	IARP	Krzysztof Frackowiak, Head of Delegation	
PORTUGAL	OA	Marlene Roque	
ROMANIA	OAR	Ștefan Bâlici, Head of Delegation	
		Eugen Pănescu	
SLOVAKIA	SKA	Nora Vranova, Head of Delegation	
		Michaela Fillova	
SLOVENIA	ZAPS	Vlado Krajcar, Head of Delegation	
SPAIN	CSCAE	Marta Vall-Ilossera Ferran, Head of Delegation	
		Román San Emeterio Pedraja	
		Miguel López García-Amorena	
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SWITZERLAND	CSA	Francesco Buzzi, Head of Delegation	
		Doris Waelchli	
		Celine Guibat	
		Myouki Inoue	
UNITED KINGDOM	ARB	Emma Matthews, Head of Delegation	
		Rob Wilson	
	RIBA	Emmanuelle Meunier, Head of Delegation	
		Judit Kimpian	
<b>OBSERVERS</b>			
Ukraine	NSAU	Lidiia Chyzhevska	
		Haris Piplas	
Kosovo	AAK	Bledion Baraliu, Head of Delegation	
		Blerim Bajraktaraj	
Rep. North Macedonia	KOAI	Dejan Metikos	Excused