

ACTIVITY REPORT

DECEMBER 2018

CEPI aisbl (European Association of Real Estate Professions) is the European umbrella association of 25 national associations in the EU and EFTA countries. Headquartered in Brussels, it is a non-profit organisation with a full-time Secretariat. The association aims to raise standards in the real estate professions, promoting that real estate brokerage and property management be conducted by qualified professionals with high ethical standards. It also aims to use its combined strength to bring the views of real estate professionals to the attention of decision-makers in the EU, and to address and find solutions for the practical concerns of real estate professionals in dealing with the implementation of EU policy and legislation. Therefore its work has an accent on European policy, lobbying and a strong presence in Brussels.

2018

Policy areas in which CEPI was active during the course of 2018 in addition to regular monitoring and provision of information including a monthly policy newsletter and a twice monthly report the “Brussels Flash” included:

Anti-Money Laundering (AML)



In 2018, there was an agreement on and the adoption of the revised Fifth Anti-Money Laundering Directive (AMLD) with attention turning to the implementation of the legislation in different countries.

An article on the Fifth AML Directive was prepared and distributed to members in October for their information and reference.

CEPI is also working on the development, with its Belgian member association IPI/BIV of a practical tool or "app" to assist members in complying with the AML requirements.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The GDPR became applicable across the EU on 25 May 2018 raising a number of issues common to all CEPI members.

This was discussed in the PTC and an action plan prepared for CEPI together with a guide to the GDPR for CEPI members distributed in February 2018.

Work continues on planned support for members including the possible preparation of guidelines, a training seminar and eventual discussion of a possible European Code of Conduct with the assistance of a working group and the Data Protection Group Ireland.

Energy

Energy continued to be a priority issue for 2018 with the EU legislators continuing work on the Clean Energy Package published by the European Commission in 2016.

Members were informed about agreement on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, Energy Efficiency Directive and the Renewable Energy Directive and CEPI is working on the organisation of an Energy Day in May 2019, with the cooperation of the European Commission, to discuss the practical implications of legislation on energy efficiency for members.

An information article to update members on changes to legislation on energy efficiency is planned before the end of the year.

Permanent Technical Committee (PTC)

- PTC Policy :
 - These previously mentioned policy-related issues and other policy-related issues have been discussed in the PTC Policy, which has met regularly throughout the year.
- PTC Communication :
 - They also met regularly to discuss the development of a range of new communication tools for CEPI members.
 - Projects have included the publication and distribution of the Factsheet 2017 with a word from MEP Nicola Danti, and EU market data; the launch of CEPI on social media (Facebook and LinkedIn) and protection of the CEPI logo.
- PTC Education :
 - They have been activated with the support of an intern to review and update the Eureduc programme and its requirements and has met regularly to discuss the next steps with a meeting planned to take place early next year with the educational partners interested in continued participation in the programme.
 - In the meantime a complete update of all the Eureduc database (contacts) was completed before summer 2018 and the 'Attestation of Recognition' (certificate for members that organise training courses) has been approved.
 - The PTC Education will also work on a new project about lifelong learning.



Other activities

CEPI met regularly with representatives of the European institutions and other stakeholders to discuss various issues throughout the year. On 6 March CEPI took part in a meeting on energy organised in Brussels by German real estate associations Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Immobilienwirtschaft Deutschland (BID) in Brussels. The topic for discussion was energy efficiency and climate protection policy. High level speakers included Dr. Artur Runge-Metzger, Director DG Climate Action and Dr. Markus Pieper MEP who presented the latest developments in Brussels and their impact on the real estate sector. The importance of the topics of energy efficiency and climate protection policy at both national and European level was stressed.

On 3 May 2018 CEPI took part in a workshop organised by FTI Consulting in Brussels, with the support of EPRA, to discuss how the real estate sector should deliver EU energy targets. Speakers included Philip Lowe, Special Adviser FTI Consulting, former Director-General of DG Energy, Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Advisor to Director General for Energy and Dr. Josefina Lindblom, DG Environment.

CEPI was present, upon invitation, at the Provada Real Estate Fair in Amsterdam 5 and 6 June, when a meeting of the CEPI Board was followed by CEPI's participation in the fair including a presentation given on CEPI's priorities and the Dutch perspective. On 6 September CEPI received a visit at its Brussels office from a delegate of the New Zealand Real Estate Authority.

On 25 September CEPI was invited to and took part in an event organised at the European Parliament by UIPI on the topic of taxation and real estate. On 8 October CEPI participated in a workshop in Brussels on the possibilities presented for the real estate sector of building renovation passports.

CEPI continues to be a member of the European Housing Forum, the last meeting of which took place on 22 October.

Visits have taken place to a number of member associations by the President and Director General as part of a programme to improve contact and knowledge of the needs of member associations. Examples are Austria, Ireland, Poland, Finland, Germany and Belgium.

CEPI also held a number of internal meetings including two General Meetings, in Madrid in April 2018, a 2-day event including meetings of the professional divisions PAC and CEAB, policy and communication technical committees and Board of Directors meetings, and again in Warsaw in October 2018.

Working groups have been activated for the two professional divisions, CEAB and PAC, on the national characteristics of the work of property managers and estate agents respectively. Calls for action and questionnaires have been sent as part of the information gathering for both working groups.

The CEPI President and Treasurer held regular monthly meetings with CEPI's Director General to keep a close eye on developments budgetary and otherwise. The CEPI Board of Directors met in Brussels in February and has also met using a web-based meeting system. A full calendar of meetings is being prepared for 2019 including a meeting with educational partners, a High-Level Summit to be held in Vienna at the end of February, an Energy Day to be held in Brussels in May 2019, and a Lobby Day for November 2019 in addition to the organisation of two general meetings in Malaga and London respectively.

Thank you!

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