



## **Code of Conduct for European Chartered Engineers Issued by ECEC**

**(adopted by the GAM in Hamburg, 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 2008)**

### **Preamble**

“European Chartered Engineers” are Engineers in Europe, who are members of their national Chambers and legally authorized according to their national legislation.

European Chartered Engineers safeguard quality of life and protect public interest as well as consumers’ interests. They bear responsibility for the functioning of the complicated as well as the easy processes of daily life. With their professional intellectual services they contribute to secure prosperity, protection of environment, technical progress and sustainable development and therefore to the improvement of living conditions for present and future generations. They are promoters of culture and progress.

Knowledge, experience and know-how together with a high standard of ethic and moral demands guarantee the highest level of quality of engineering services. This is warranted by legal authorization and the disciplinary regulations of their national Chambers.

### **Article 1 Introduction**

1. According to article 37 of the Directive on Services in the Internal Market (2006/123/EC) ECEC issues this code of conduct to facilitate the cross border provision of engineering services and establishment in another country.

The code takes into account the EC Working Paper “Enhancing the Quality of Services in the internal market: The role of European codes of conduct” published by the DG Internal Market and Services in 2007.

2. This code is intended to insure the highest standard of professional conduct among European Chartered Engineers. European Chartered Engineers are bound to respect this code of conduct wherever they provide their services temporarily or permanently.

### **Article 2 General Principles**

1. European Chartered Engineers and their employees must respect and properly apply all European and national laws, regulations, technical rules, accepted standards, norms and codes of practice appropriate to their profession or speciality and to the services entrusted to them.

2. European Chartered Engineers are personally responsible for their work.

3. European Chartered Engineers are aware of their responsibility for general public and environment.



4. European Chartered Engineers have to fulfil their tasks with care and diligence. They take full account of technical improvements and developments in their field of expertise, incorporating these improvements and developments in their intellectual services. They are ready to lead the innovation and the search of new solutions and methods.

5. European Chartered Engineers may only provide services for which they have competence. They make sure that the required competence for the provided services exists within their own firms or the firms of their cooperation partners.

### **Article 3 Behaviour towards clients**

1. Confidentiality is the cornerstone for the building of trust between professionals and their clients.

2. European Chartered Engineers must respect and safeguard the confidentiality of information acquired in the course of providing services and ensure that information about the client is not disclosed to others except in specified circumstances and, where possible, with the informed consent of the client. Members of staff and cooperation partners also have to comply with these rules.

3. European Chartered Engineers will insure that any member of staff to whom a task is delegated has the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake that task effectively and efficiently. There should also be appropriate supervision.

4. European Chartered Engineers must not accept any direct or indirect compensation for themselves or other persons from a third party, which could endanger their duty to safeguard the client's interest.

5. The client has a right to expect assessment of circumstances to be carried out and decisions to be made impartially and objectively, without pressure from external sources and without conflicts of interest.

6. European Chartered Engineers will inform their clients about the insurance held, or other form of guarantee which is equivalent or comparable, to cover liabilities in the event of adverse effects resulting from errors or omissions made in the provision of an engineering service.

7. Advertising is an important mean of information for the client and therefore must not be deceitful.

8. European Chartered Engineers must define, or cause to be defined, their services, terms, and remuneration as clearly, accurately and completely as possible. They guarantee that the means of calculating fees is transparent for the client in order to protect the information of the latter and to prohibit any competition deemed to be unfair.



#### **Article 4**

##### **Behaviour towards colleagues**

1. In their professional relations with colleagues European Chartered Engineers shall behave with the greatest loyalty and honesty in order to affirm a common culture and professional identity in all fields in which the profession is involved.
2. European Chartered Engineers may only take on an assignment previously executed by colleagues provided that the previous contracts have been terminated or denounced.
3. European Chartered Engineers strictly respect the copyrights of others.

#### **Article 5**

##### **Professional qualification / development**

1. European Chartered Engineers are obliged to keep their knowledge in their field of practice up-to-date and will extend their competencies as the demand for new services develops.
2. Therefore they should participate in Continuous Professional Development (CPD) throughout their working lives.
3. European Chartered Engineers assist their younger colleagues in their professional development, especially by sharing their experiences.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Supervision and implementation of the code**

1. All ECEC member organisations have to implement the principles of this code in their national systems. They guarantee - within their national disciplinary systems - the supervision of the compliance of their members with these principles.
2. If a European Chartered Engineer commits an offence against the principles of the ECEC Code of conduct during the provision of cross border services, the Chamber of the host country will inform the Chamber of the home country about all relevant circumstances.
3. If the Chamber of the home country receives sufficient information it will examine the case and apply disciplinary procedures in accordance with the national legal and statutory requirement. It will inform the Chamber of the host country about the actions taken.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Accessibility**

The code is available on the websites of the ECEC and its member organisations.