



First of all, on behalf of the FIEC President, Mrs. Luisa Todini, the Steering Committee and the FIEC Member Federations, I would like to present our cordial congratulations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of our Romanian Member Federation ARACO!

As early as June 1995, ARACO has joined FIEC and has now already 15 years of membership and experience in FIEC! A further special anniversary to be mentioned, because over these years, thanks to the personal involvement of personalities such as ARACO's Presidents Petro Cmit, Alexandru Dobre, Marcel Florescu and over the last years Laurentiu Plosceanu, all assisted by competent contractors and members of staff, the Romanian Contractors have tackled the challenges and opportunities linked to the new developments and the EU rules on the Internal Market.

Initially, ARACO participation concentrated on the FIEC group "Central & Eastern European Countries", intended to assist our colleagues from the "candidate countries" (as they were called at the time) in their preparations for the future EU membership. This shows that the European construction industry has not passively waited for things to happen, but actively contributed to the developments.

Indeed, the EU enlargement process has been THE major event during these years, with Romania joining the European Union in January 2007!

Always insisting on the mutual respect for EU and national legislation, we would like to thank ARACO, our Romanian Member Federation, for its involvement in actively supporting numerous key issues for our sector at EU level, among others:

- reduced VAT rate on all building works to promote jobs and growth;
- calls for investment in infrastructure to secure long term EU and national growth;
- development of Social partnership in Construction

One of the most concrete and recent examples of ARACO's direct involvement in this specific social aspect in our sector, has been the Conference promoting the development of paritarian social funds held in Bucharest 19th – 20th October 2010, which took place at the request of ARACO. This initiative of the European Social Partners FIEC and EFBWW was financially supported by the European Commission and organized in collaboration with AEIP (European Association of Social Paritarian Funds). The committed involvement of our colleagues from ARACO in the preparation and the organisation definitely laid the foundations for the success of the event which was attended by more than 150 participants from 26 different countries.

We look forward to further positive developments in the Romanian construction industry which will facilitate the continued fruitful cooperation with our Romanian colleagues for the benefit of our sector at both national and European levels!

We wish ARACO and its contractor members all the best on the occasion of this anniversary. ARACO vivat, crescat, floreat!