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**FIEC applauds the important role given to the European construction industry
in President Barroso's outline for "making Europe fit for the future".**

"The construction industry is very pleased that President Barroso proposes new financing sources, such as European bonds and PPP, for major European infrastructure projects", says Luisa Todini, FIEC-President coming out of the FIEC Steering Committee and commenting on Barroso's speech "State of the Union 2010". "We fully share the underlying conviction that these investments at the European level are necessary for jobs, not only in the construction industry, and the further development of the EU."

"The construction industry also welcomes the forthcoming action plans on energy and energy efficiency", explains Luisa Todini, "and confirms its readiness to contribute its expertise to both the formulation of realistic aims and their implementation in practice. The energy savings potential in existing buildings is extremely high and at the same time achievable at reasonable cost.'

Referring to President Barroso's views on Europe's role in the world, Luisa Todini says "it will be essential to ensure that all Member States, without exception, fully support the positions to be negotiated and respect the results achieved. Otherwise the EU will fail to play the role that it wishes to play and that matches its economic weight."

In conclusion, Luisa Todini offers the European Construction Industry's active support for "making Europe fit for the future".

FIEC is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 34 national Member Federations in 29 countries (27 EU & EFTA, Croatia and Turkey) construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. small and medium-sized enterprises as well as "global players", carrying out all forms of building and civil engineering activities.

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Construction sector figures:

- **Total Construction (2009, EU 27): 1.173 billion €**
- **3,2 million enterprises**
- **15 million workers**

1 billion € investment = 25.000 jobs (direct and indirect)