

W87 - Post-Construction Liability and Insurance



AND

TG15 - Construction: Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution

Ms. Mary Kvidal, Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry and Energy of Norway gave the opening address at the 12th Plenary Meeting of W87 which was held in Oslo from 29th September to 1st October 1996 in conjunction with TG15.

She noted the satisfactory development towards European Harmonisation and hoped that this would soon be extended world-wide.

Consequently she judged that the work of W87 was proceeding in the right direction and an information exchange on national rules, regulations and practices was particularly useful in this context.

W87 Coordinator Professor Anthony Lavers presented the customary report on Commission activities and membership developments since the previous meeting. These had been very positive.

An Agenda item that is always well received at W87 and TG15 Meetings is What's New in Members' Countries.

Featured this time were Australia (Mr. Paul Bick), Germany (Frau Regina Tuscher), Denmark (Mr. Fleming Lethan), Japan (Ms. Michiko Yamauchi), New Zealand (Mr. Alan Purdie), Sweden (Mr. Lars Lundenmark and Mr. Kåre Eriksson), Singapore (Ms. Monica Yeo), USA (Mr. Robert S. Miles), United Kingdom (Professor Anthony Lavers), Hong Kong and People's Republic of China (Professor Edwin Chan), the European Union (also Professor Anthony Lavers) and NAFTA (Mr. Robert Miles).

Speakers pointed up recent laws and regulations that had appeared and cited important judgements. A lively exchange of questions and answers ensued after each presentation.

Publications

The next item was the Commission's Publications and this commenced with a review of CIB Publication 192 - A Model Post-Construction and Liability System. Two of the 'éminences grises' behind the Book were present in the form of Mr. David Barclay and Professor Gérard Blachère. (Gérard Blachère is featured in another context on page Ö)

Some very pertinent points that merited consideration in any future revision of the Book emerged during the discussions, not least as the result of findings in recent cases.

W87 in cooperation with TG15 is preparing a publication on Case Studies. Hopefully up to 20 countries will make an input and TG15 Joint Coordinator Mr. Edward Davies expressed himself as satisfied with progress to date.

Innovation, Liability and Insurance was the title of the first session on 1st October 1996 and it revolved round separate Papers on the Session Theme contributed by Mr. A. Fryer and Mr. R. Slama (who unfortunately was prevented from attending).

The implications of the Theme on, for example, European Agrément which now encompasses most of Europe (within and outside the EU) were highlighted. Here the precise objective is to facilitate acceptance of innovation.

Three other Sessions had as their respective focal points, the following presentations:

- Construction Contracts in a European Perspective - The Scandinavian Experience by Professor Kai Kruger.

- Summing Up of the Tokyo Seminar on Feedback of Information on Failures in Building by Professor Jan Einar Barbo.
- Public Building Codes and Regulations, Liability and Insurance by Mr. Jens Knocke. In his unavoidable absence the Coordinator presented this paper on his behalf.

Future Work

High on the Agenda for future projects is the W87 - W92 - TG15 Symposium at the CIB World Building Congress in Gävle in 1998. Further details on page Ö

The Commission will take the opportunity to meet during the same period in Uppsala, Sweden on the kind invitation of Mr. Kåre Eriksson.

Pictures:

41 Members and Guests attended the 12th Plenary Meeting of W87 held in Oslo, Norway in conjunction with TG15.

All participants agreed that the Norwegian Hosts had succeeded in putting on a memorable meeting which fully matched the high standards achieved on preceding occasions. Here TG15 Joint Coordinator Edward Davies (left) hands over a mark of his Task Group's appreciation to Jan Einar Barbo at the Official Dinner on 1 October.

The outstanding organisation and arrangements had been in the capable hands of the Organising Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Jan Einar Barbo seen above left with the W87 Coordinator Professor Anthony Lavers.

The venue was the famous Holmenkollen Park Hotel Rica with its spectacular views over the Norwegian Fjords.

CIB Deputy Secretary General Chris Pollington and guests earlier in the evening.

The input from the Insurers' side is always important. Regina Tuscher who represents this sector pointed out the complexities of the current system in Germany where, for example, architects who work in several Länder have to cope with no fewer than sixteen codes.