

VIII. ZAGREB ENERGY WEEK 8 – 13 May 2017

We do not wish to stop development, but we can stop pollution!

Tuesday, 9 May 2017, Ćirilometodska 5, Zagreb - Hall A

Under the auspices of the *Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning* and Mayor Milan Bandić, with the support of the *Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management*, in organization with the *City Office of Energy, Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development*

CONCLUSIONS

of the discussion of the participants of the Green Day of the Croatian Chamber of Architects
INNOVATIVE METHODS, MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

The 21st session of the *Conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* and the 11th session of the *parties to the Kyoto Protocol* were held in the framework of the *Paris Climate Change Conference* held in Paris on 30 November-12 December 2015, resulting in the conclusion of the new *global agreement on climate change - the Paris Agreement*.

The Republic of Croatia adopted the *Act on the Ratification of the Paris Agreement*, with final proposal of the Act, at the 3rd session of the *Croatian Parliament* convened on 17 March 2017, as of which date the provisions of the Paris Agreement became officially binding for our country.

About the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement was ceremoniously signed by the representatives of 171 countries, including the President of the *Republic of Croatia*, Kolinda Grabar Kitarović, in *New York*, on *Earth Day*, 22 April 2016, under the presidency of the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. This was the first step towards its entry into force upon the ratification of the *Paris Agreement* by 55% of the national parliaments of the signatories of this historic document. It was ratified by 132 out of 197 countries, entering into force, based on the above criterion, on 4 November 2016.

Underlying assumptions of the Paris Agreement?

long-term goals: to keep the average global temperature rise below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1,5°C.

contributions: prior to and during the ratification of the *Paris Agreement*, the signatory countries developed and presented comprehensive national climate action plans,

ambition: the governments of signatory countries undertook to report on their national contribution to the realization of the goals set,

transparency: the governments of signatory countries undertook to inform each other and the public of their progress towards the goals set, to ensure transparency and systematic supervision,

solidarity: the EU and other developed countries will continue to fund the combat against the negative consequences of climate change to assist the developing countries in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop resistance to the effects of climate change, thus expanding the number of participating countries.

As a direct result of its climate and energy policy, the EU, with 28 *Paris Agreement* signatory countries, anticipates the reduction of national greenhouse gas emissions under the *Paris Agreement* by minimum 40% in comparison with 1990 levels, minimum 27% increase in the share of consumption of energy from renewable energy sources, and a comparable increase in energy efficiency, all by 2030.

Planned activities and assessment of the current condition

In terms of the initiation of activities intended to achieve the goals of the *Paris Agreement*, the Republic of Croatia commenced with the development of:

- *Low Carbon Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia by 2030, with a view towards 2050,*
- *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of the Republic of Croatia by 2040, with a view towards 2070.*

The *Low Carbon Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia* is anticipated to be adopted in the second quarter 2017 and the *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of the Republic of Croatia* by the end of 2017 at the latest.

The aforementioned documents will include a comprehensive economic, developmental and environmental strategy, anticipated to boost the development of industrial production, spur new business activities, improve economic competitiveness and create new jobs through innovation, transfer of advanced technologies and extensive structural change across all sectors.

There exists a comprehensive legislative framework for the attainment of the ambitious goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and goals of the *Paris Agreement* in the EU, which will have to be revised both at EU and national levels before being implemented.

What kind of climate / social change are we talking about?

The effect and scope of climate change are immense global problems exceeding all past projections and expectations. The best illustration of the extent of the effects of climate change is the fact that if no action is taken to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, global warming is likely to exceed pre-industrial levels by 2°C, i.e. by as many as 5°C by the end of the century, which would have a tremendous impact on the environment, sea levels and the quality of life on Earth.

Two thirds of human kind are anticipated to live in urbanized areas by 2050. The construction is increasingly condensed; construction dump surfaces are decreasing, as are the green surfaces in urban areas; the quality of life is on a downward slope... We must raise the awareness of the importance and true value of space!

The interests of the profession and the society are making a determined step away from the trendy towards the essential; from the transient towards the permanent; from the particulate towards the integral; from the desirable towards the moral; from the cost-effective towards the sustainable...

We are also faced with the new dynamics of change of human activity in general, requiring us to improve ourselves at a similarly accelerated pace at which the world around us is changing, if we wish to remain competitive on the vast EU market of architectural services. We must first strive to improve our current know-how before assuming the obligations presented before us by the new legal acts, to cope with the challenges of science and increasingly demanding market.

The magnitude of climate change and the ever dwindling energy sources and resources, as well as their negative impact on economy and the quality of life give us no choice at either the global or national level – we are forced to change not only our methods of thinking, planning, designing and construction, but our personal lives as well, in a manner which will ensure social development not only today, but in the future as well.

What is important for future action?

The Luxembourg Minister for the Environment, Carole Dieschbourg, having signed the *Paris Agreement*, stated:

...let us not forget that the Paris Agreement is but the beginning of a long journey. We have taken the responsibility to translate the Agreement into action, in cooperation with all stakeholders – non-governmental organizations, the business community and individual citizens.

What is required is a comprehensive, integral and significantly different approach to the profession and life in general – personal **change of awareness, morality, continuous education and quality assurance.**

What is the Croatian Chamber of Architects doing in this respect?

The Croatian Chamber of Architects initiated the adoption of the *Architectural Policies of the Republic of Croatia 2013-2020 – National Guidelines for the Quality and Culture of Building*, adopted by the *Croatian government* in November 2012. To contribute to the concrete and rapid implementation of the principles of *Architectural Policies*, the Chamber brought [lok-ap] *Guidelines for the Implementation of Local Community Architectural Policies* on 20 October 2016, modelled after successful European examples.

This professional conference attempted to raise awareness that the struggle for sustainable development is the struggle for quality, change of habits and carefully thought-out implementation of innovations, methods and technologies adapted to the particularities of concrete climates and social situations, and a key strategic goal for the realization of sustainable development to be strived for not only by the architectural profession, but by the society as a whole.

In our opinion,

- the rare unanimous decision of the *Croatian parliament* to adopt the *Paris Agreement*,
 - the appeal of the Luxembourg Minister for the Environment, Carole Dieschbourg, for dedicated action of each individual citizen towards achieving the conditions of sustainable development, and
 - [lok-ap] *Guidelines for the Implementation of Local Community Architectural Policies in the Republic of Croatia*,
- say volumes about the mood, methods and concrete tools for the immediate implementation of the provisions of the *Paris Agreement* in Croatia.

To this end, we invite all representatives of the profession, aware of the social function of the architectural profession as defined in the *Manifesto for Responsible Architecture* https://www.arhitekti-hka.hr/files/file/web/Manifesto_fin.pdf to actively work on the improvement of their know-how and education of the wider social community, in a joint effort to build a sustainable society.