



Annual Activity Report 2004

ECED – European Confederation of Equipment Distributors

Since 1999 SIGMA, the Belgian trade federation, acts as secretariat of ECED, the European umbrella federation of importers and hirers of equipment for civil engineering and goods handling.

ECED, with registered office in Brussels, unites the national organizations of the following countries: Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Austria, the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic, which was added this year. Mister L. Lubbers from the Netherlands (BMWT) is ECED's chairman.

Because of these members ECED is to be considered a representative European professional federation. ECED will expand this representativeness even further in the future, more specifically towards the new Member States of the European Union. Moreover, ECED, together with its American counterpart A.E.D, constitutes ILC. The latter promotes the sector's interests on the international level.

On the European level ECED represents and promotes the interests of its members and every year some new topics and projects are advanced by these members at the general assemblies (in 2004 these took place in Munich and Lisbon).

At the moment ECED takes e.g. an active part in the following projects:

- The development of a Database for Stolen Machinery (www.eced-register.nl/eced/public/), into which all members of the national federations can feed their stolen machinery, so that all possible interested parties can look this up later on;
- The development of a common policy concerning the rental activities in the affiliated countries, more specifically the further development and

analysis of a specific questionnaire, organised by the “Hiring Room”, a separate committee within ECED;

- Drawing up of a “Code of Good Conduct” on the European level, with some agreements concerning the relations between manufacturers and importers/distributors/hirers, to avoid unnecessary vagueness about mutual contractual obligations;
- Keeping a close track of the proposal for a European directive leading to a liberalisation of the provision of services in the Internal Market (the so-called “Bolkestein Directive”), and informing the European institutions of comments and suggestions from its members.

In need of extra information, please take a look at www.eced-association.org .

Chairman: Leo Lubbers (NL)

Secretary General: Tom Antonissen (B)