

## **Research in the Construction Industry and Current Developments About European Construction Technology Platform**

One of the most frequently mentioned problems of Turkey in terms of research in the construction sector is the absence of a public or private center for the coordination of these research activities. Although we know that there are some ongoing researches by public institutions, universities, construction firms or building material producers, it is not possible to share and develop this information through a common platform. Furthermore, there is no decision mechanism for determining periodical priorities of the construction sector through a common point of view. However, establishment of a platform, where all the partners of the construction sector come together to exchange their views and direct the research activity in the sector, can considerably help both for the efficient use of resources and for the development of the fields that are really in need of. As the research area grows in the European Union and as an increasing number of funds are allowed for research projects, this need for a common platform that coordinates research activities in the European construction sector become also evident both in the EU scale and also in the national scales. This is the main reason behind the establishment of the European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP) and its national platforms. As the EU has the target of becoming the most dynamic and competitive economy of the world by the year 2010, as decided at the Lisbon Summit of March 2000, it emphasized the need to reinforce its research and development capacity by the support of the private sector. The EU Framework Programmes for Research is mainly based on this idea and now, as the 7th Framework Programme takes its start by 2007, this activity is expected to get more focused and prominent on the EU agenda. The technology platforms that are established in various sectors are one of the new ideas brought by the 7th Framework Programme in order to gather all parties of the sector on a common platform to decide on research priorities and encourage research projects. As Turkey has the need to establish an active mechanism for research and development in the construction sector, the ECTP seems to be a good mechanism to take part in and to exchange experiences with various countries. The Chamber of Architects of Turkey, in collaboration with the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) and the ENABLE project that was operated at that time to grow the ECTP network, organized an informatory meeting on October 13, 2006 in Ankara, by gathering several partners of the Turkish construction sector especially including the Ministry of Public Affairs and Settlement, universities, non-governmental organizations and sector representatives. The idea to establish a similar platform in Turkey is quite positively welcomed by the partners and now there is an ongoing process to decide on the format, target and participants of such a national platform. The Chamber of Architects also participated in the ECTP Conference that was held in Versailles on November 20-21, 2006. This article aims to summarize all the actual developments regarding the subject in order to share the information with all relevant partners of the Turkish construction sector.