

# RICS Europe

Issue 4, Autumn 2009

An update from RICS Europe and the National Groups

## From the Chairman



Dear Members,

It's the time of year again to send you our annual report of activities ...

RICS Europe has again seen lots of activity during business year ending July 2009... Continuing membership growth in most countries as a result of more candidates presenting themselves for the Final Assessment... More activities organised at local level... The implementation of a new governance structure... New countries opening up to RICS...

In my letter last year I mentioned the credit crunch and its impact on our economies, our firms, our work and our lives. It is all too clear that we are not out of the woods yet. At the same time we have seen proof that many professionals are even more aware of the importance of joining RICS in difficult times when clients and investors will only trust the best of the best.

Enclosed with this newsletter is your 2010 subscription renewal notice. **Please settle your subscription fees promptly by no later than 1 January 2010.** This will help us deploy our limited staff resources on more valuable activities for you, our members, rather than chasing late payments. Please note that late payments will attract an additional fee or even result in the loss of your RICS membership! To make your life easy please pay online by going to [www.rics.org/renew](http://www.rics.org/renew).

RICS Europe and the National Groups will continue to develop new activities in the coming business year to raise the profile of the chartered surveyor in Europe, and add benefit to your membership.

Please do not hesitate to contact Liliane Van Cauwenbergh, Managing Director RICS Europe on [Lvancauwenbergh@rics.org](mailto:Lvancauwenbergh@rics.org), or myself on [Luciano.capaldo@googlemail.com](mailto:Luciano.capaldo@googlemail.com) should you have any questions or comments to make.

Best wishes,

Luciano Capaldo FRICS  
Chairman RICS Europe



## Progress report

2008-09 was a challenging year for RICS in many of its markets – as it was for the property sector in general. Worldwide our membership numbers grew by 1,996 qualified members, 788 trainees and 5,259 students.

In continental Europe, RICS had a record year. We gained 658 qualified members (22% growth) and 401 trainees (+34%).

To achieve this we held 60 Final Assessments for between 5 and 124 candidates in 20 countries in 7 languages. The average pass rate was 76%. Some of these assessments took place in new RICS countries: Stockholm (Sweden) and Istanbul (Turkey).

**(RICS in figures, see on p. 4)**



RICS CEO Louis Armstrong and Ekaterina Thain MRICS at Moscow Diploma Ceremony (9 February 2009)

## New global RICS governance

Based upon the decision made by the RICS global membership in July 2008, RICS Europe has started implementing the new governance system, and to date we have made good progress including:

- winding down existing local legal entities and replacing them with common RICS structures, to ensure optimum compliance with tax, financial and employment requirements and to protect members serving on Boards from potential liability. All members are subject to the common RICS Charter, Bye-Laws and Regulations within the RICS legal and operational structure

- working with each country to review the terms of reference and composition of the National Boards to create a smooth transition to the new governance system in a way which will ensure the consistency of the RICS brand across the globe.

The key objective and benefit of the new governance is to ensure that RICS is a truly single brand the world over – with the same high standards, and the same entry processes and procedures, no matter where it operates in the world.

## RICS Europe Annual Meeting

On 15 and 16 October 2009 the RICS Europe Board, the Chairs and representatives of the National Groups in continental Europe, an HQ delegation from the key areas of activity and the European staff, met in Brussels for the 2009 Annual Meeting of RICS Europe.

On 15 October a plenary session was held including presentations by RICS President Max Crofts FRICS, by Jim Carter FRICS, Chairman Management Board and Sean Tompkins, COO, and by Luciano Capaldo FRICS, Chairman RICS Europe and Liliane Van Cauwenbergh, Managing Director RICS Europe. Also, the Country

Managers shared lessons learned in 2008-09.

On 16 October, a series of workshops took place with the objective of agreeing a plan to implement some projects starting in 2009-10 concerning the following subjects:

- Sustainability
- Valuation
- Construction/QS guidance
- Real Estate Agency guidance
- Firms regulation
- EU/National Public Affairs
- Dispute Resolution Services (DRS)
- Building Cost Information Service (BCIS).

Putting effective plans into place for these different projects will allow us to raise the profile of the chartered surveyor in continental Europe thus adding significant value to our members' designation.



Kristin Bammel

Education Development Manager

## RICS accredited courses

As has been communicated previously, RICS Europe has changed its course accreditation policy in the past few years:

- in addition to having to be in line with our quality requirements, courses will only be re-accredited if they show satisfactory conversion results. To achieve this we have intensified our collaboration with the universities as well as our active presence at the accredited courses

**(continued on p. 4)**




 Laura  
Lindberg

 Media Relations  
Manager

## RICS in the press

Also as far the press is concerned, 2008-09 has been a record year, not just in terms of the number of articles, but also the quality of these articles (expressed in terms of relevance, contribution, message delivered, type of media, etc.). Between August 2008 and July 2009 we counted 2,324 articles versus 1,351 during the previous year (and 511 the year before that).

This is due in the first place to the good collaboration between the different parties involved – our global HQ in London supplying the content and the media agencies, members, and staff in the countries - all of this facilitated by Laura Lindberg, the Media Relations Manager in Brussels. For any media opportunity you would like to propose, do not hesitate to contact Laura on [LLindberg@rics.org](mailto:LLindberg@rics.org).



## Valuation in Europe

On 30 September 2009, the RICS Valuation Professional Group hosted a European Valuation Assembly in Paris under the Chairmanship of Mark Gerold FRICS and attended by member and staff representatives from across Europe, the President Max Crofts FRICS, and the Chairman and Managing Director of RICS Europe.

The key discussion points included:

- establishment of a European Valuation Professional Group
- valuer registration scheme that will be proposed based upon the consultation held with members worldwide
- further Red Book and related guidance development in Europe
- end-user valuation promotion activities to be initiated/continued at European level (these were initiated in France and Netherlands in 2008-09).

This Assembly offered an effective opportunity for RICS members and staff to discuss valuation matters and plans, and laid the basis for the continental European valuation strategy for 2009-10.

On 14 January 2010, RICS will hold the first of a European series of European Valuation conferences in Paris. The conference (conducted in the French language) will deliver high level strategic and technical information to ensure that members remain competitive in a challenging market, whilst preserving the best standards in valuation. This is an ideal opportunity to hear from leading experts in valuation, learn from specialists across the board and network with others from the profession. More on [www.rics.org/evaluation2010](http://www.rics.org/evaluation2010).



Assembly of the Valuation Professional Group in Paris (30 September 2009)

## New markets for RICS

In 2008-09 we have built on our 'new country' development efforts of the previous years. This has allowed us to continue to develop fast in countries such as Russia, the Ukraine, Romania and the Baltics.

In 2008-09 we hired a Regional Manager to develop RICS in the Nordic region. Mikael Wadsten, based in Stockholm, has actively started developing this region which is rather mature in terms of the property market. We have had some activity in Denmark for several years, but had been inactive in Sweden and Finland. Getting a staff member on board actively working with all the key stakeholders, we have managed to start developing our membership in the Nordic countries.

Also, we have become active in Turkey, a country offering significant potential for the future. Working with some high-level local members, we have managed to significantly raise the profile of RICS and increase the qualified membership.


 Mikael  
Wadsten

 Regional Manager  
RICS Nordic

## European Remuneration Survey 2009-10



For the third time, RICS and Macdonald & Company will organise a survey to portray how the real estate profession is rewarded across continental Europe. This time the survey will tackle some more topical and qualitative issues such as job security and career priorities.

Property professionals will be invited to briefly share their views on the current economic activity in their respective sector. We also expect more responses from professionals based in Central and Eastern Europe, the Nordics and the Baltics.

We have adapted the timing of the survey, avoiding the summer season. You can access it on [www.joinricsineurope.eu/remunerationssurvey](http://www.joinricsineurope.eu/remunerationssurvey). The results will be published in March at MIPIM 2010 in Cannes.

## Renew your membership!

In the past few years RICS has managed on a worldwide basis to improve the collection of annual subscription fees. Nevertheless our staff in Brussels and individual countries continue to spend a lot of time on this exercise.

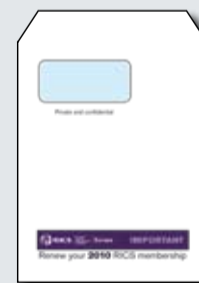
To make the process easier for all, we continuously aim to make improvements:

- instead of just receiving the renewal notice only by postal mail all our members who have informed us of their email address will receive the renewal notice by email – this improves deliverability significantly
- also, since last year the renewal notice you receive will include any outstanding debts – this ensures that all old and new debts can be settled in one go
- and in addition, to make your life easier, this year we will add for the first time an invoice to the renewal pack.

KEY information:

- please pay before 1 January 2010 to allow our staff to spend their time on activities which add value to your membership of RICS

- note that you can now very easily pay online by going to [www.rics.org/renew](http://www.rics.org/renew).



**IMPORTANT** - Please do not forget to mention your invoice number when paying - otherwise we will not be able to link your payment to your name, and will unfortunately continue chasing you even if you have paid – as waste of time for you and for us.

Any question?

Check out our Renewal FAQ section on [www.ricseurope.eu/renewals](http://www.ricseurope.eu/renewals).

Contact: Please direct ALL your renewal queries to [renewalsineurope@rics.org](mailto:renewalsineurope@rics.org) so they can be dealt with by the multi-lingual staff close to you in Europe (Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish).

# Public Affairs in Europe

During the 2009-10 RICS business year, the EU Policy & Public Affairs team will continue to work on a number of key issues for RICS:

• **Valuation:** The EU is currently very active in regulating the financial sector and is looking closely at how assets are valued. We believe that, over the next year, the European Commission may start looking at property valuation once more. At the end of 2008, a draft recommendation on valuation was published but later withdrawn. However, current work of the EU on responsible lending and borrowing may include mortgage credit and therefore may include a valuation aspect.

• **Energy:** Discussions on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive are well under way in the European Parliament and should be finalised in the coming months, after which Member States will have to incorporate the changes into their national legislation. Other topics in this field include renewable energy, energy efficiency of energy-using products (e.g. boilers, office lighting, AC systems).

• **Housing and Urban Development:** RICS has become co-chair of the European Housing Forum and we are reinforcing our commitment in this area. Together with RICS Europe, EU Policy & Public Affairs will launch the 2010 RICS European Housing Review in Brussels on 2 March 2010. A RICS event series on policy implications and housing at EU level is planned for the first half of 2010.

• **Construction:** This is a key monitoring issue for RICS. Although currently relatively inactive at EU level, it is gaining importance in Europe as the provider of buildings and infrastructure on which the whole economy depends. Key issues include proposed regulation on harmonised conditions for the marketing of building materials, development of a common EU methodology on life cycle

costing and lead market initiatives for sustainable construction.

• **Sustainability:** our work will continue to embed sustainability where possible (see also the article on sustainability in this issue).

Needless to say, we will continue to monitor EU activities on issues which affect the work of RICS members in the fields of EU Funding, recognition of qualifications, planning, regulatory, land and environment.

As an RICS Europe member, you should automatically receive our monthly e-newsletter "EU Connect". If you don't, then please contact us and we'll make sure to add you to the list.

For those of you who would like more information on a particular range of topics, we produce 2-monthly Issue Monitoring Documents. Currently we have **Monitoring Documents** on 5 issue fields:

- Valuation & Finance
- Construction
- Energy
- Urban Development & Housing
- Environment.

A 6th monitoring document on EU Funding is being drafted.

If you would like to receive any of these monitoring documents, just let us know. We are also there for any question you may have on the work of the EU and how it may impact on your work.

The RICS EU Policy & Public Affairs team consists of:

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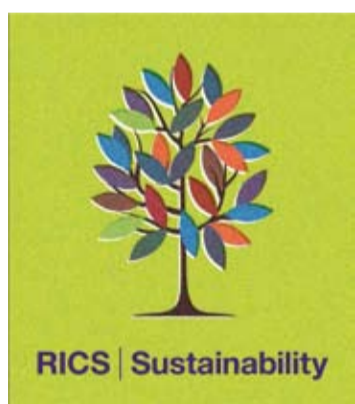
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RICS President Max Crofts FRICS, Gillian Charlesworth, Ursula Hartenberger and the speakers at "The Contribution of Europe's Heritage Buildings to Energy Savings"



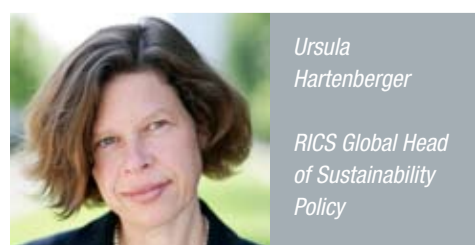
# Sustainability: why care?



One of her first objectives is to facilitate a best practice cross-border dialogue by giving the sustainability web site section [www.rics.org/sustainability](http://www.rics.org/sustainability) a complete makeover by the beginning of November 2009 as well as launching "Global Balance", the new global sustainability newsletter in December 2009.

At policy level, Ursula is currently working on the organisation's Global Climate Change Strategy which will be unveiled at an event in New York ahead of the Copenhagen Climate Summit (7-18 December 2009).

For further information, contact Ursula Hartenberger on [uhartenberger@rics.org](mailto:uhartenberger@rics.org)



The introduction of sustainable business practices can make a huge difference to your economic bottom line and being an early adopter can give businesses a competitive edge whilst ensuring that today's society is passing on a healthy planet to future generations. Sustainability is a critical business issue in companies today and is increasingly becoming part of companies' CSR strategies.

At an organisational level, RICS's commitment to sustainability has been further strengthened through the appointment of a dedicated member of staff. Ursula Hartenberger, the new RICS Global Head of Sustainability Policy, is responsible for overseeing the global strategic alignment of activities across the organisation as well as developing RICS thought leadership in this field.



## MyFellowship

RICS Europe continues to improve its presence on the web. Check out [www.ricseurope.eu](http://www.ricseurope.eu) for more details – this also includes National Group-specific information both in English and the local language.

Also, after launching MyAPC in 2008 - a user-friendly online platform for all RICS Trainees in continental Europe, from their enrolment as a trainee until their Final Assessment and qualification as an RICS member – we launched MyFellowship in continental Europe in February 2009. This new application makes it much easier administratively for continental European members to upgrade to Fellow, after having made a significant contribution to the profession in general or RICS specifically.

Check it out on [www.joinmyfellowship.eu](http://www.joinmyfellowship.eu).

## 2009 Membership Survey

The member survey is a key indicator of whether RICS is delivering on the things that members think are important. The results of the 2009 survey were presented to Governing Council in July and have been key to shaping the business plan developed by Member Boards.

The key focus of the 2009 survey was the delivery of four key corporate objectives: building influence and credibility, delivering professional knowledge, with particular interest in the Professional Groups; developing local services; and effective operations. Just over 8,900 members took part in this year's survey, now in its 7th year, among which overall 342 members from Europe.

Some 80% of the European respondents are particularly satisfied with the professional knowledge, technical information and service provided by their respective National Groups.



# RICS in figures

(continued from p. 1)

RICS Europe qualified membership

## World overview

RICS as at 31 July 2009	Qualified	Qualified growth 2008-09	Trainees	Trainee growth 2008-09	Students	Student growth 2008-09
UK	73,368	104	12,742	-144	28,401	2,109
Asia Pacific	6,244	414	1,328	287	5,937	1,350
Continental Europe	3,637	658	1,592	401	3,071	691
MENEA	2,053	292	643	189	3,806	869
Americas	2,045	202	216	30	1,047	146
Ireland	1,804	75	39	-10	424	11
Oceania	1,678	87	191	34	4,105	6
India	185	164	9	1	195	77
Total	91,014	1,996	16,760	788	46,986	5,259

Ranking 31/7/09	Qualified members 31/7/04	Qualified members 31/7/08	Qualified members 31/7/09
Germany	401	704	853
France	330	583	688
Netherlands	120	219	269
Spain	134	202	237
Italy	43	188	224
Cyprus	164	186	190
Poland	62	115	155
Russia&Ukraine	14	73	145
Switzerland	34	106	142
Belux	41	95	124
Hungary	48	100	119
Czech Rep	39	78	86
Austria	19	62	71
Greece	18	42	69
Denmark	36	57	67
Portugal	31	49	64
Nordic excl. DK		30	55
Romania		17	48
Baltics		11	31
Turkey		9	26
Total	1,619	2,979	3,637

## RICS Europe Boards

Based upon the new global governance, a new **RICS Europe Board** was set up as from December 2008

Dr Ing Luciano Capaldo FRICS, Chairman

- Pedro Abella Langa FRICS
- Diederik Bakker MRICS
- Alain Béchade FRICS
- Reno Cardiff MRICS
- Pierre-René Gervasi MRICS
- Adam Grabski MRICS
- Chris Grzesik FRICS, CESB Observer
- David Lawrence FRICS
- Robert Mayhew MRICS
- Theo Overbeeke FRICS
- Jörg Schwagenscheidt FRICS
- Liliane Van Cauwenbergh, Managing Director RICS Europe
- Jana Vlkova MRICS

### Continental Europe Standards Board

Also, we are in the process of setting up a new CESB in line with the new governance. This new CESB will be in place before end 2009.

(continued from p. 1)

## RICS accredited courses

• to use our limited resources effectively, the RICS Europe Board has put a freeze on the accreditation of new courses. Only if a new course is exceptional and critical to the development of RICS in a country or region will the Europe Board allow the accreditation process to commence.

## Graduate conversion results RICS Europe

	New trainees from accredited courses	New students
2004-05	161	127
2005-06	259	386
2006-07	304	457
2007-08	489	1,007
2008-09	468	747

In view of Anna Galiano's maternity leave and career break until November 2010, and Kerstin Hötzel's departure to pursue a career in law, Kristin Bammel has now joined RICS as Education Development Manager. Kristin can be reached on [kbammel@rics.org](mailto:kbammel@rics.org).

In June 2009, the RICS Europe Board approved proposals for a new course accreditation approach. This has been forwarded to our global HQ for approval. The proposals seek to maintain a stringent accreditation system from a standards viewpoint whilst easing the administration both for RICS and the course leaders. This should allow us to respond to the rapidly increasing demand for more accredited courses in continental Europe.

## Quarterly European e-news

To receive the quarterly European e-news giving you an update on European progress, activities, events, etc. send an email to [vescarmelle@rics.org](mailto:vescarmelle@rics.org) with the message 'Send me your e-news'.



## Continue to make your mark

Over 300 members in Europe have now purchased the RICS stamp. You can still order the exclusive RICS stamp – customised with your name, designation and membership number – which you can use to personalise your valuations, reports and correspondence (still at only 75 EUR, incl. packaging and postal delivery, excl. VAT).

To order go to [www.ricseurope.eu/ricsstamp](http://www.ricseurope.eu/ricsstamp)



the mark of property professionalism worldwide

**Europe**

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