



Government of the Republic of Croatia
Mr. Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister
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Vienna, 9 October 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

A main focus of work of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineers is to enhance the quality and sustainability of the built environment in the EU and we regard the open architectural design competition (ADC) as a most effective tool in doing so.

Together with the Croatia Chamber of Architects and numerous other European and international partners we are currently conducting a European project. **Arch-E is about enhancing the use and quality of ADCs in Europe and overcoming the lack of information based on national, cultural and language-specific differences and peculiarities in terminologies, legal regulations, standards, aims and objectives of the ADCs in order to increase mobility and to fully exploit the potential of the internal market in the architectural sector.**

The Republic of Croatia with its 150-year long tradition of holding public architectural competitions for important interventions in space that have significantly influenced the quality of the built environment **is an important role model for other European countries in and outside of the Arch-E project. This longstanding Croatian approach towards ADCs has contributed greatly to the planned and balanced development of Croatian cities and regions as well as to the overall architectural quality of buildings over the last century.**

However, we have learned that the Ministry has now decided to adopt a narrow interpretation of a provision from the Spatial Planning Law, basically restricting public competitions to sites that are owned by cities or municipalities and designated exclusively for public use, while excluding critical national infrastructure and all new buildings and interventions that would be located on privately owned land.

We would therefore like to stress again that we are convinced that **ADCs are among the most effective ways of achieving excellence in building and community design throughout Europe.** They lead to optimized concepts and plans for a given



building programme, planning or landscape design task and allow a broad participation of different stakeholders. Based on the quality of proposed solutions and focused on the specific needs of a carefully defined project they provide high-value solutions of great benefit to end-users and the society as a whole.

The action taken by the Croatian Ministry for Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets is likely to reduce significantly the number of open architectural competitions in Croatia, leading to the danger negative impacts on the architectural quality of the built environment, quality and transparency of procedures and public involvement.

Based on all this and with reference to the Davos Declaration and the Davos Quality Principles or the [European Union's "Towards a shared culture of Architecture" report](#) – **we would like to appeal to the Croatian Ministry to reconsider its new approach towards ADCs and keep its leading role in regard to quality procurement of architectural services.**

Yours sincerely,

Architect DI Daniel Fügenschuh
President

cc: Mr. Branko Bačić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Planning,
Construction and State Assets
Ms. Rajka Bunjevac, Croatian Chamber of Architects, President Predsjednica
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