

**Establishment of Innovation Commission for the Construction and Public Works Sector –
Tuesday 26 February, 4 pm
Rainier III Auditorium**

Introductory remarks by Marie-Pierre Gramaglia, Minister of Public Works, the Environment and Urban Development

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would first like to thank you for attending this first meeting of the Innovation Commission, clearly demonstrating your interest in the work we plan to do here.

Last December, two ministerial decrees on construction site noise and work schedules were published in the Journal de Monaco. The aims of these decrees were:

- To simplify and harmonise legislation
- To establish or strengthen the rules governing the operation of construction sites
- To turn the Principality's construction sites into models of excellence

First and foremost, they were a response to very strong expectations on the part of the Principality's residents that we maintain quality of life in our districts.

Those working in the construction industry were consulted on these decrees and I am grateful to the Board of the Association of Architects, the Union of Property Developers and the Monegasque Building Council for their contributions to this reform.

However, while regulation is an essential tool, it is not sufficient if we want to develop best practices together. In addition to oversight, we also need to implement the best available measures for tackling disruption.

Today, we are all aware of the importance of minimising the inconveniences caused by construction sites, and of identifying effective solutions and introducing innovative approaches.

It is evident that some measures have already been put in place at sites on public roads, such as noise protection fencing and soundproofing of tipper trucks.

But this is not enough. It is also our duty to be at the cutting edge of what technological developments and processes can offer.

This is why we are establishing the Innovation Commission today. Its remit will be:

- To review noise pollution caused by construction sites in the Principality
- To monitor technical and technological developments in order to identify changes in international best practice
- To assess the feasibility of implementing the solutions identified in the Principality
- To draft recommendations relating to these developments and their implementation

In order to ensure that its work is as effective as possible, the Commission will bring together,

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alongside state officials, all public and private stakeholders in the construction industry and some concession holders (telecoms, water and electricity) in the Principality. We will also be receiving support from two engineering consultancy firms: SETEC Énergie Environnement and Bureau Veritas.

This approach should enable us to research the leading techniques and practices in order to apply them within Monaco. For example, the market for electrical construction machinery is now starting to grow and this kind of machinery is set to gradually replace that which is in use today.

It is vital that this Commission provides companies with a vision for the medium and long terms, helping them to understand the developments that we expect to see in terms of resources and organisation.

All of this has the potential to create real opportunities for Monegasque companies who are able to offer the solutions that the State needs through the award of public contracts to the best bids.

The government has confidence in the professionals now involved in this research, which should lead to continued improvements in the way construction sites operate.

The aim of this Commission is to improve our practices. Our intent is that it should not only put forward proposals, but also make decisions and take action.

I would like to thank all of those who have agreed to contribute. The Commission will be coordinated by the Department of Public Works and will meet on a regular basis.

I would now like to hand over to Jean-Luc Nguyen, who will talk about some of the operational aspects of the Innovation Commission.

Thank you.

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Concluding remarks

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for this discussion, which has confirmed our shared determination to improve practices and reduce the inconvenience caused by our construction sites.

For this reason, I believe that it is important to emphasise that the Innovation Commission, which brings together private stakeholders and state officials, has real power to make decisions.

We must all work together to maintain and even enhance the Principality's image as a good place to live, as a dynamic and prosperous nation.

The developments which are underway reflect our dynamic economy. They also help to meet the needs of Monegasques for housing, public facilities, infrastructure and private enterprise.

But we must acknowledge that while there is a purpose behind everything we do, our actions must always be carried out with the aim of maintaining Monaco's exceptional character, blending quality of life and attractiveness. The Innovation Commission must help us to achieve this aim.

Today, we have come together to lay the foundations for a process that will endure.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you in the summer for our second plenary meeting.

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