

# The Europeans are Coming

Traditionally, the British do not travel well. Take us beyond UK shores and we complain about the weather being too hot or too cold, refuse to eat the local food, and our attempts at speaking the local language generally involve little more than speaking English....only LOUDER! In truth, the same can be said of our dealings with our demolition counterparts in Europe who we have long perceived as somewhat primitive and unprofessional by comparison.

Such insular perceptions are, at least in part, a subconscious defence mechanism; let's not forget that our nearest foreign rivals are but a short swim across the Channel. But they are also increasingly misplaced.

The latest European Demolition Association conference (see Pages 26 & 27) could be criticised on a number of levels: The EDA is still not fully representative of even half of Europe; the association's lobbying partners weren't present; and some of the organisation left much to be desired.

But the one positive thing that the conference highlighted was the incredible professionalism and quality of work demonstrated by several of the guest speakers, in particular those from Spain and Italy. Contrary to popular opinion, there were many elements of these Spanish and Italian contracts that would have challenged the UK's best demolition engineers and would have been well beyond the current capabilities of most. So what does that mean for UK demolition engineers?

Firstly, it means that we must keep on learning and improving if we are to retain our position as a global leader in the demolition engineering field.

Secondly, and equally positively, it means that the IDE's decision to throw open its doors to overseas members is both well-conceived and impeccably timed.

If ever there was a time when we and our European counterparts should be sharing information on methods and techniques, that time is surely now.

**Mark Anthony**  
Editor

**Institute of Demolition Engineers**  
National Secretary  
Mrs Valerie J Stroud BA DipRS  
69 Poplicans Road  
Rochester  
Kent ME2 1EJ  
T: 01634 294255  
F: 01634 294255  
info@ide.org.uk  
www.ide.org.uk

**Editor**  
Mark Anthony  
9 William Evans Road  
Manor Park · Epsom  
Surrey KT19 7DE  
T: 0871 223 0390  
F: 0870 161 2768  
M: 07973 465 166  
manthony@markanthonypublicity.co.uk

## DEMOLITION ENGINEER CONTENTS · AUTUMN 2007

### Competance carries the Day

IDE Autumn Seminar

Page 4/5

### On the Spot

Terry Quamby

Page 8/9

### Beattie Bridges the Gap

Page 15

### Erith gets it sorted

Page 16/17

### See it come down...before it comes down

Computer Generated demolition

Page 18/19

### Balancing Act

How the demolition of 122  
Leadenhall Hall London was  
achieved

Page 20/21

### Retaining the Best Bits

Page 22/23

### One Horse Race

Page 24

### Taxing Time for Thompson

Page 25

### EDA Fall Seminar

Page 26/27