

# EU Construction News

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## Editorial

*Last November 2014, the European Parliament Gypsum, I accepted an invitation to chair the forum during this parliamentary term. During the dinner debate, I said that a good trade-off between regulatory and non-regulatory approaches should be taken. Regulation can be the catalyst for change and over regulation could stop innovation. We should bear in mind that re-industrialization means giving the right incentives to make growth happen and this also means in some case regulation.*

*As part of my role, I wish to inform my colleagues accurately and concisely about the policies, research and development impacting the construction sector. The newsletter will be published twice a year. This is the first number of a series. I hope that you will enjoy it.*

*I take this opportunity to remind you of the next Forum date: 17 November 2015 from 9h15 to 13h00-theme: a circular economy for the construction sector-from Gypsum to Gypsum-from production to recycling- Paul Henri-Spaak-PHS 1A002*

*The invitation will be sent to you after summer.*

Julie Girling  
MEP  
President of the Forum



## Standardisation in Construction

### New Technical Committee of CEN on BIM

On 18 December 2014, CEN/BT took the Decision BT C125/2013 to create a CEN/BT/WG 215 'Building Information Modelling (BIM)' with duration of 12 months, to develop proposals for a scope, a work programme and a draft business plan for a future new technical committee in CEN. Standards Norway initially proposed this Working Group and assumed its secretariat.

The final proposal of CEN/BT/WG 215 is the creation of a new Technical Committee, CEN/TC xxx 'Building Information Modelling (BIM)'. The Secretariat of the group will be held by Standards Norway and the members are intended to develop a draft business plan for BT approval in the coming six months.

The draft programme is available on demand to Christine Marlet: [info@euroypsum.org](mailto:info@euroypsum.org).

### Vademecum on Standardisation

This Vademecum compiles some key documents from the Commission services on European standardisation policy and related practice. It provides guidance without having legal status.

The main aim of the Vademecum is to serve as a guide for Commission officials. It will enable them to use, as appropriate, European standardisation as a tool for the implementation of the European policies and legislation for which they are responsible.

For more details, please click on the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/europe-an-standards/documents/vademecum/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/europe-an-standards/documents/vademecum/index_en.htm)

### First EOTA Technical Advisory Group Meeting

An EOTA (European Organization for Technical Assessment) Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting focusing on technical issues under CPR took place in EOTA premises in Brussels on 13 March 2015. 18 months after the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation (EU) No 305/2011/EC Members of the EOTA Executive Board gave a comprehensive overview about the ETA process including the EAD development procedure and experiences made. Feedback from industry and SMEs in the construction sector was requested. The event gathered high interest and the wish for repetition was confirmed.

Please click on the below link for more details:

<http://www.eota.eu/en-GB/content/1st-eota-technical-stakeholder-advisory-group-meeting/37/267/>

### Construction Products Regulation (EU) Workshop

On 23 March 2015, Risk & Policy Analysts (RPA) and the European Commission's DG Grow held a one-day workshop to discuss the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 (the CPR) to date.

Although the CPR has only recently been implemented, recent legal, economic and structural/national developments have created new issues to be addressed and, as such, it is essential to assess the extent to which the CPR is meeting (or is likely to meet) its main objectives, based on the first implementation experiences. To this end, a consultation exercise was carried out from November 2014 until January 2015 to obtain the views of all stakeholders across the construction sector on how the implementation of the CPR has progressed to date.

Following the consultation exercise, RPA has developed a number of Topical Reports, focusing on the aspects of the CPR which stakeholders have encountered the most difficulties with, in particular: CE Marking,

Market Surveillance, National Marks and CPR Derogations.

For more details, please click on the link below:

[http://rpaltd.co.uk/cpr\\_workshop](http://rpaltd.co.uk/cpr_workshop)

## EU Policies in Construction

### High Level Forum on Construction



On 25 March 2015, the Commission held the last session of the High level Forum on construction which was set up two years ago to assess the competitiveness of the construction sector.

The Forum was chaired by Antti Peltomaki, Deputy Director General for internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs. The chair of the 5 thematic groups presented the work realized and the recommendations:

1. Internal market for construction
2. Investment condition on construction
3. Skills and training in construction
4. Resource efficiency in construction
5. International dimension

Daniel Crespo, Director General of DG Grow indicated during his welcome speech that construction is a priority sector for the Commission, aiming at:

1. Fostering demand for energy and resource efficient construction;
2. Promoting better products and processes in construction (including digital design-BIM and innovative technologies);
3. Enhancing market access (globally). According to him, globally it is foreseen

to have 4.3% grow in construction until 2025.

In relation to recycling, Daniel Crespo stated that the Commission will:

1. Launch a study on the audit of building prior to demolition;
2. Set a quality protocol for recycling as quality is an issue to use the recycled material;
3. Set up recycling infrastructure.

The way forward of the forum will be decided in the next months and will be embedded in the Commission initiatives on a circular economy.

### Resources Efficiency in Buildings

In July 2014, as the result of an initiative lead jointly by DG ENV and DG GROWTH, the European Commission released the Communication on Resource Efficiency Opportunities in the Building Sector – COM (2014) 445. This Communication identified the need for a common European approach to assess the environmental performance of buildings throughout their lifecycle, taking into account the use of resources such as energy, materials and water.

In response to the need identified in the Communication, a study to identify an EU **common framework of indicators to assess the environmental performance of buildings** will be carried out by the JRC, during 2015-2017. DG ENV and DG GROW will lead development of the framework with the technical support of the Joint Research Centre, its in-house science service, and in close co-operation with relevant stakeholders. For that purpose different sub-groups of stakeholders will be set up to guide the process at different stages.

The aim is to develop a common framework that is open source in the sense that it should be possible to use it: 1) directly by building professionals and their clients to prioritise their focus for making environmental improvements, as well as; 2) indirectly by assessment and

certification schemes to ensure that their criteria reflect priority areas of focus for resource efficiency at a European level and to assure the comparability of data and results.

#### Next steps

The JRC produced a document entitled Resources Efficiency in Buildings macro objectives that will be discussed and commented by the stakeholders on 26 June 2015.

For more details on this initiative, please see: [http://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Efficient\\_Buildings/](http://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Efficient_Buildings/)

### Developing a Common EU Construction & Demolition Waste Management Protocol - Kick-off meeting

On 26 June 2015, DG Grow launched the above-mentioned initiative. This project has been initiated by the European Commission under the framework of the "Construction 2020" Action Plan (part of "Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises" (COM (2012) 433 final), specifically relating to the activities of Thematic Group 3-sustainable use of natural resources.

A summary fiche of the project is available on demand at Chrctine Marlet: [info@eurogypsum.org](mailto:info@eurogypsum.org)

## EU Funded Projects

### HISER : "Selective demolition: current practices and innovation"



During the 2015 European Demolition Annual Convention, on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, members of HISER project presented preliminary conclusions and contrast with the first-hand experience of the participants in the activity.

HISER a H2020 Horizon project "Holistic Innovative Solutions for an Efficient Recycling and Recovery of Valuable Raw Materials from Complex Construction and Demolition Waste" project has foreseen the development of methodological solutions and tools facilitating the data gathering and processing on types, qualities and quantities of building waste materials coming from demolition and refurbishment works.

Namely, a smart BIM (Building Information Modelling) software tool, allowing the modelling of an existing building with no digital representation, will support the decision making in the planning of (onsite sorting, management of subsequent waste materials, etc.) activities, fostering efficient selective demolition and automatically generating relevant documents such as waste audits, equipment and personnel scheduling, etc.

Complementarily, an innovative supply chain tracking system will provide more accurate

information on waste materials coming from those works and following processes, allowing synergic quality assurance throughout the whole supply chain, from waste to recycled products.

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document provides a critical and comparative evaluation of best practice.

It also identifies gaps in regulation to ensure that European citizens live in highly efficient, healthy, comfortable and well lit buildings.

For more details, please click on the following link:

[http://bpie.eu/uploads/lib/document/attachment/121/BPIE\\_IndoorAirQuality2015.pdf](http://bpie.eu/uploads/lib/document/attachment/121/BPIE_IndoorAirQuality2015.pdf)

## Surveys

### **BUILD UPON Initiative**

Nearly all European countries are currently being taken to task by the European Commission for failing to implement the EU's key energy efficiency law, the Energy Efficiency Directive. When agreed back in 2012, the Directive was widely hoped to spark a boom in energy efficient building renovation, with all countries required to set out a long-term "national renovation strategy" for the deep renovation of their building stock. Sadly, most of the strategies established to date fall short of what is required.

"BUILD UPON" is a EUR 2.35m projected funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, which aims to bring a critical mass of key together to deliver stronger national renovation strategies across 13 European countries. A series of over 80 carefully crafted events will take place over the next two years, all aimed at empowering stakeholders to help public authorities meet the national renovation challenge.

For more details, please click on the following link:

[http://www.worldqbc.org/files/1514/2652/7002/150310\\_BUILD\\_UPON\\_Project\\_Summary\\_WGBC.pdf](http://www.worldqbc.org/files/1514/2652/7002/150310_BUILD_UPON_Project_Summary_WGBC.pdf)

### **BPIE study on indoor air quality, thermal comfort and daylight**

BPIE (Building Performance Institute Europe) has published an analysis of residential building regulations in Belgium (Brussels Region), Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden and the UK (England and Wales). The