

EU Highlights

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Editorial

During 2016, the European Gypsum Industry is keen to support the EU institutions by:

- 1. Promoting recycling of C&D waste in the revision of the Waste Framework Directive;*
- 2. Promoting the same level-playing field for all Energy Intensive Industries Sectors by maintaining the qualitative assessment for the sector being deemed to exposure to carbon leakage.*
- 3. Promoting access to resources for natural gypsum at national and EU Level. Our responsibility for the planet includes sustainable quarrying. The European Gypsum Industry has thus achieved significant results benefiting the environment and the Society as a whole in extracting in a sustainable way, in rehabilitating quarries, in enhancing biodiversity by providing habitats for rare species.*

Those three subjects are at the core of the sustainability and competitiveness of the European Gypsum Industry.

Claude-Alain Tardy
President



EU and Eurogypsum General Policies

Dutch Presidency Priorities

The Dutch Presidency of the Council started on 1st January 2016 and will finish on 30 June 2016.

For the next six months, the Dutch will be leading the Council's meetings. The Dutch presidency has defined core priorities:

- **A forward looking policy on climate and energy.** The Netherlands will emphasize the close cohesion among the issues of climate change, energy, the environment and sustainability. Economic goals and the responsible use of natural resources and energy can be brought together in a *future-proof model for sustainable growth*. The EU can boost this approach by stimulating innovative sectors that contribute to a transition to a circular economy that uses natural resources sustainably.
- **Europe as innovator and job creator:** The Netherlands intends to put a large focus on implementing existing agreements in all member states, stimulating innovative entrepreneurship, jointly investing in research, and fleshing out the Single Market Strategy for goods and services to promote innovation in all sectors. It further aims to work towards modernizing, simplifying and reducing legislation to ensure that EU laws work,
- **Sound, future-proof European finances and a robust Eurozone**

Raw Material and Environment

GtoG Final Report- 31st March 2016

The GtoG project was finalised on 31st December 2015.

By 31st March 2016, the final technical, administrative and financial report will be provided to the Life unit. The latter will scrutinize it before the release of the last payment.

The December 2015 Life Board is available at: <http://gypsumtogypsum.org/documents/2015-life-information-board.pdf>

The Layman report produced by Eurogypsum, presenting the project, its objectives, its actions and its results to a general public is available: <http://gypsumtogypsum.org/documents/dd5-laymans-report.pdf>

Hard copies are available upon request to the secretariat.

Revision of the Waste Framework Directive

During its meeting on 11 February 2016, the recycling WG decided to push an amendment for including a revision clause aiming at setting such a specific target in the future for the following reasons:

- Among all targets listed under Article 11 entitled "Re-use and recycling", the 70% target for construction and demolition waste (paragraph 2, point [b]) is the only one to include backfilling, while backfilling is neither re-use, nor recycling;
- Latest figures¹ published by the European Commission clearly show that backfilling is unfortunately the

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<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/studies/pdf/CDW%20Statistics%202011.pdf>

- dominant recovery operation for most construction and demolition waste;
- Backfilling does not belong to the circular economy since it is a permanent placement of the material on particular sites and is not intended to be returned to the economic material cycle (see Eurostat guidance on the interpretation of the term backfilling);
 - It creates a confusion on the market between construction materials that are truly recycled like gypsum, and the ones who present themselves as “recyclable” while being mostly backfilled in practice.

Indeed, backfilling of suitable waste for recycling should be prohibited.

Revision of the EU ETS Directive

The Plaster and plasterboard industry was specifically included in Annex I of the ETS Directive in 2008 as follows: *“Drying or calcination of gypsum or production of plasterboards and other gypsum products where combustion units with a total rated thermal input exceeding 20MW are operated.”*

The manufacture of plaster and plaster products for construction purposes were included in the carbon leakage (CL) list from 2014 after an extensive qualitative assessment. This led to the plaster and plasterboard industry inclusion via Commission Decisions c(2013) 9186 and c(2014) 7809.

The position of the Gypsum industry for the revision of the EU ETS is as follows:

Lowering the index for a qualitative assessment by a small margin to 0.15, allows a limited number of sectors like plaster and plasterboard (which have so far been included in the list), to make a qualitative case for carbon leakage. In addition, it is important to allow the use of sector specific data for the quantitative and qualitative assessments to ensure that issues of data quality and/or representativeness do not act to exclude

sectors that may otherwise qualify. This opportunity is essential to help preserve the competitive position of sustainable materials, upon which thousands of jobs depend. The gypsum industry provide 28,000 direct jobs, 300,000 indirect jobs and work to 1.1M plasterboard installers.

Procedural steps for the adoption of the Directive:

	Provisional Timeline
ENVI Committee	
Public Hearing in ENVI	18 February 2016
Presentation of draft report in ENVI	15 June 2016
Deadline for AMDs (12:00)	21 June 2016
Consideration of AMDs	8 Sept. 2016
Vote in ENVI	8 Dec. 2016
ITRE Committee	
First exchange of views	7 April 2016
Consideration of draft opinion	23 May 2016
Deadline for AMDs (12:00)	31 May 2016
Consideration of AMDs	12 July 2016
Vote in ITRE	13 Oct. 2016
Vote in plenary	February 2017 (tbc)

Scientific and Technical Issues

Event-Towards Smart CE Marking

On 22nd March MEP **Catherine Stihler** will host a debate in the European Parliament to discuss the future of CE marking for construction products, in particular the challenges of using IT technologies.

For more details on the event, please click on the below link:

<http://www.construction-products.eu/news-events/events/events/towards-smart-ce-marking.aspx>

Revision of ETAG 003

The European organization for technical assessment will review the ETAG 003-guidelines for European Technical Approval for internal partition kits for use as non-loadbearing walls.

A working group has been set up and Eurogypsum invited to appoint experts as observers to this WG. Eurogypsum appointed 3 experts.

Macro Objectives for Resource Efficiency in Buildings

Upon the Commission request, the Joint research center (JRC) identified the following macro-objectives:

Life cycle environmental performance' macro-objectives for buildings

- Greenhouse gas emissions from building life cycle energy use: Minimise the total GHG emissions along a buildings lifecycle, with a focus on building operational energy use emissions and embodied emissions.
- Resource efficient material life cycles: Optimise building design, engineering and form in order to support lean and

circular flows, extend long-term material utility and reduce significant environmental impacts.

- Efficient use of water resources: Make efficient use of water resources, particularly in areas of identified long-term or projected water stress.

Quality, performance and value' macro-objectives for buildings

- Healthy and comfortable spaces: Design, construction and renovation of buildings that protect human health by minimizing the potential for occupier and worker exposure to health risks.
- Resilience to climate change: The futureproofing of building thermal performance to projected changes in the urban microclimate, in order to protect occupier health and comfort.
- Optimised life cycle cost and value: Optimisation of the life cycle cost and value of buildings, inclusive of acquisition, operation, maintenance and disposal

Link to the document:

http://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Efficient_Buildings/docs/151222%20Resource%20Efficient%20Buildings_Macro%20objectives%20WP_Final%20version.pdf

Marketing and Communication

NEW - H2020-BAMB Project

Integrating Materials Passports with Reversible Building Design to Optimise Circular Industrial Value Chains

The aims of BAMB (Buildings as Material Banks) are the prevention of construction and demolition waste, the reduction of virgin resource consumption and the development towards a circular economy through industrial symbiosis, addressing the challenges mentioned in the Work Programme on Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials. The focus of the project is on building construction and process industries (from architects to raw material suppliers).

A launch event will take place on 3rd May at the IBGE Brussels offices.

Please click on the following link for more details: <http://www.vub.ac.be/ARCH/ae-lab/projects/bamb>

Build up-promote yourself

[BUILD UP](#), the European portal for energy efficiency in buildings, has recently launched its new website. The current site offers improved navigation, a new layout and mobile-friendly design.

BUILD UP, an initiative of the European Commission, is a comprehensive database of information. It covers news, events, case studies, webinars, links to publications, and other resources on energy efficiency in buildings.

BUILD UP has recently launched its website with a [live webcast](#) on the latest findings of [Concerted Action EPBD](#).

You can post your organisation's news, events, publications, case studies, and the like. To submit content, please [create a profile](#).

Find can BUILD UP at www.buildup.eu and on Twitter at [@EU_BUILDUP](https://twitter.com/EU_BUILDUP). You can contact BUILD UP at pr@buildup.eu.

Eurogypsum is a partner to Build up and has created a community called inside insulation.

Eurogypsum Forthcoming Events

PCR Rules Taskforce

14 and 15 January 2016, Berlin, BV Gips Offices

FGD Gypsum and Recycling WG

11 February 2016 from 10h30 to 14h30 Eurogypsum offices

Acoustic WG

19 February 2016 from 10h00 to 16h00 Eurogypsum offices

Sustainability WG

23 February 2016, from 10h30 to 13h30 Eurogypsum Offices

ERMC Committee

14 March 2015 from 13h00 to 16h30 Eurogypsum offices

MCC Committee

15 March 2016 from 09h00 to 12h30 Eurogypsum offices

STC Committee

15 March 2016 from 13h30 to 16h00 Eurogypsum offices

Board Meeting and AGM

9 May 2016 from 1400 to 18h00 at the Stanhope Hotel, Brussels