

EU Highlights

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Editorial

On 9 May 2016, Eurogypsum will hold its general assembly to appoint the Directors of the Board and elect a president for the year 2016-2018.

During my presidency, we finalized successfully the GtoG project which is at the core of the sustainability of the European gypsum industry making us the front runner for effective recycling in construction materials.

The ETS and the maintenance of the gypsum sector in the carbon leakage list after 2020 is also key to our competitiveness. We encouraged strong actions in this field.

Finally, we pushed for facilitating access to natural gypsum resources in Europe as FGD gypsum availability is decreasing. We are currently carrying out a study in this field.

I wish to thank the committee chairs and the working groups for their commitment and for delivering results.

I wish success to my successor.



Claude-Alain Tardy
President

EU and Eurogypsum General Policies

The Revision of the Transparency Register for lobbyists

As the European Commission (EC) has launched a public consultation on the EU Transparency Register that list interest groups active at EU level. The aim is to ensure balanced representation and avoid illegitimate or privileged access to decision-makers. The EC's ultimate objective is to make registration mandatory.

The Society of European Affairs Professionals (SEAP), of which Eurogypsum is a member, has elaborated its position in favour of 'a mandatory Transparency Register that will help create a level-playing field across the profession and will put transparency at the heart of EU decision-making. This cannot come at the cost of the freedom to access policy makers and should not impose additional administrative burdens on registrants', however.

In this respect, the register should be reformed to include:

- An effective system to motivate all organisations influencing EU decision-making to sign up to the EU Transparency Register,
- Coverage of all EU institutions involved in the political decision-making, including the Council, and .
- A robust system with better official definitions, monitoring procedures and sanctions that encourages registrants to provide accurate information.

Project Manager-Luigi Della Sala leaving

After two years hard work on the GtoG project, the contract of Luigi come to an end.

He will become a free-lance project manager. In the next months, he will work on MobilISME (<http://mobilisesme.eu/index.php/en/home/>) and on "A Change of Direction: fostering whistleblowing in Europe in the fight against corruption".

We thank him for the excellent job he did and wish him good luck for his future career.

Raw Material and Environment

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 Eurogypsum Board approved the position paper amending the proposal on article 10-qualitative assessment.

We advocate for the possibility of carrying out a **qualitative assessment** at the threshold 0.15 emission intensity or above, based on public and sector specific data.

We justify this approach as follows:
Gypsum products are sustainable and typically have a lower carbon footprint than competing products. Therefore, they currently help the construction sector to lower its carbon footprint. As the 2012 and 2014 carbon leakage assessments show, if competing products are granted carbon leakage status, whilst gypsum products are excluded – this distorts the level playing field. This, in turn, potentially disincentives low carbon solutions

within the construction sector. Lowering the index by a small margin to 0.16, 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 job and work to 1.100.000 plasterboard installers.

On 24 February 2016, Eurogypsum met 5 MEPs to exchange views on this amendment which was acceptable to them.

Revision of the Waste Framework Directive

The Eurogypsum Board approved the position paper amending art 11 of the Waste Framework Directive. We added a paragraph concerning the possibility of having separate targets for re-use, recycling and backfilling.

The amendment proposed is as follows:
By 2020, in order to harmonise re-use and recycling targets stated in the article 11, paragraph 2, point b, and in view of promoting the circular economy for construction and demolition waste, the Commission shall evaluate Members States' implementation reports and the amount of construction and demolition waste used for backfilling operations, including reprocessing of waste into materials that are to be used for backfilling, and propose a separate re-use and recycling target for Construction and Demolition Waste which excludes backfilling operations. For recyclable waste, recycling should be the preferred option over backfilling according to article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive (Waste hierarchy).

Indeed, there are no provisions to secure a specific re-use and recycling target for construction and demolition waste. It thus

creates a confusion on the market between construction materials that are truly recycled like gypsum, and the ones who present themselves as "recyclable" for recycling while being mostly backfilled in practice

The following Shadow Rapporteurs have been nominated on Waste legislative proposals: Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP, DE), Mark Demesmaeker (ECR, BE), Josu Juaristi Abaunz (GUE, NGL, ES), Davor Škrlec (Greens/EFA, HR) and Piernicola Pedicini (EFDD, IT). The lead Rapporteur is Simona Bonafé (S&D, IT).

Scientific and Technical Issues

High Level Forum on Construction

On 14 April 2016, this forum was held in Brussels. Key recommendations for buildings and infrastructure were drawn for the ministerial meeting on construction:

- Buildings and infrastructure are taken for granted – they should not as buildings do not last forever and as there is a building mismatch (health and safety, energy efficiency in existing buildings)
- A need for a life cycle approach and apply circular economy principles – a large share of building costs relate to operation and maintenance
- A need to look at costs and benefits of measures across the whole value chain; much information is lost and much scope for spectacular gains (BIM)
- Cooperation can pay off: e.g. shared equipment, inter-trade set-up
- Digital technologies can help to improve productivity along the value chain: but roll-out of BIM requires compatibility of software, standardisation and training
- A need to see how the sector can better contribute to broader policy goals (e.g. energy efficiency – a need

for full use of tools and instruments
e.g. public procurement)

Key conclusions pertinent to the Ministerial meeting on Construction

- A holistic approach helps the construction sector itself but also to contribute to economic and society ('to do good')
- Construction sector a major ally for building the circular economy (life cycle costing)

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.

Eurogypsum was duly accepted in the new ETAG WG 003 in the capacity of observer. The Respective decision was made in EOTA Technical Board meeting TB 16/11.

The RTAB (responsible TAB) will convene and coordinate the EAD development project. The communication in the working group is mainly in writing with copy to all new ETAG WG members.

EOTA Technical Board has accepted the experts nominated by Eurogypsum. Eurogypsum will coordinate common positions with the three experts during the development of the EAD.

Commission Publication on the Construction Sector

On 11 March 2016, the European Commission published a brochure entitled "The European construction sector - A global partner". The brochure outlines the important role of the construction sector for European Union economies. According to the publication, the sector generates about 9% of gross domestic product (GDP) and provides 18 million direct jobs (source: Cembureau newsletter).

For more information, please click on the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=8753&lang=en&tpa_id=0&title=The-European-construction-sector%3A-a-global-partner

Marketing and Communication

PIMBIS 2016



International Mining business and investment which took place in Lisbon on 11 and 12 April 2016

PIMBIS is a Global Initiative which provides an excellent networking platform for the mining sector and enable fostering investment in Europe.

Eurogypsum made a presentation on its work on Biodiversity management in gypsum quarries: performance indicators framework



NEEIP Forum



On 20 April 2016, NEEIP organized its annual forum around the theme “keeping the Circular Economy Rolling”. We had an interesting panel debate around closing the loop.

The main message of the Commission is that a circular economy will never happen without primary raw materials. An economy only relying on secondary raw materials is impossible. This is the first time that we hear both DG Environment and DG GROW stating this message so clearly. However and in any case, we need to address resource efficient extraction.



Circular Economy in the Dutch Construction Sector

The Dutch Ministry of infrastructure and environment published recently a report discussing the role of construction in circular economy. The document includes some general ideas, the results of a stakeholder consultation and policy advice.

For the report, please click on the link: http://www.rivm.nl/dsresource?objectid=rivm_p:303858&type=org&disposition=inline&ns_nc=1

Launch of the European Energy Efficiency Platform (E3P)

On 5 April 2016, the European Commission has launched the European Energy Efficiency Platform (E3P), with the aim to provide robust data and analysis to support those in charge of the development, implementation and monitoring of energy efficiency policy, industry, consumers' organizations, standardization bodies, research institutes, the scientific community and NGOs at the EU, national, regional and local level.

E3P will be organized around the six thematic areas of energy efficiency in products, cities, buildings, transport, industry and distribution (heating, cooling and electricity). A dedicated IT based platform will be at the center of the platform with interactive and collaborative features.

For more details, please click on the following link: <http://e3p-beta.jrc.nl/>

Eurogypsum Forthcoming Events

PCR rules workshop

24 May 2016 from 10h30 to 13h30 at Eurogypsum offices

ERMC Committee

20 September 2016 from 13h00 to 16h30 Eurogypsum offices

MCC Committee

21 September 2016 from 09h00 to 12h30 Eurogypsum offices

STC Committee

21 September 2016 from 13h30 to 16h00 Eurogypsum offices

Board Meeting and AGM

29 November 2016 from 1030 to 13h00 at Eurogypsum Offices