

EU Highlights

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Editorial

Since the start of my presidency, the European agenda was quite demanding. The revision of the ETS meant effort and exchanges with MEPS to amend the Directive in the direction of the Commission proposal. The Gypsum Industry wishes to maintain the possibility to carry out a qualitative assessment at a threshold of 0.15.

Amendments have been tabled both in the Industry Committee and in the Environment Committee. Eurogypsum will study them carefully in the next weeks.

Eurogypsum met Mr. Cozigou, Director of DG GROW for raw materials, construction and circular economy. He encourages us to continue working as we are doing now and we rely on his full support on our side.

The raw material commitment on the creation of a European network for sustainable quarrying and mining (ENSQM) was approved by the European Commission. Our first activities is the organisation of a workshop in Spain in October 2016 on the contribution of the extractive industry to the Natura 2000 network-a chance for biodiversity. Our Spanish member is much involved in the organisation of this seminar.

*Bernard Lekien
President*



EU and Eurogypsum General Policies

New President and New Board

During its General Assembly held in Brussel on 9 May 2016, Eurogypsum elected Bernard Lekien as President of Eurogypsum for the 2016-2018 period. Bernard Lekien succeeds the CEO of Saint Gobain Gypsum, Claude-Alain Tardy at the expiry of his statutory term of office.

In 2010, he became Senior Vice-President Western Europe of Lafarge's Gypsum division. When Etex acquired the European and Latin American activities of Lafarge in 2011, he became Head of the new Siniat division in Europe. Since September 2014, Bernard is Honorary President of Siniat International and Senior Advisor to the CEO of Etex.

The Board members elected are:

- Emmanuel Normant, representing the French association SNIP, Vice-President
- Thomas Bremer representing the German association BVgips, treasurer
- Eric Bertrand, representing the Belgian association ABLG
- Rini Quirijns, representing the Belgian association ABLG
- Krystof Baranowski representing the Polish association Polski
- Ian Stokes representing the UK & Ireland association GPDA
- Enrique Ramirez representing the Spanish association ATEDY

The President meets Mr. Cozigou

On 29 June 2016, the President had a meeting with Mr. Gwenole Cozigou, Director of DG GROW in charge of raw material, construction and circular economy.

Referring to the revision of the EU ETS, He highlighted the fact that we need to lobby the European Parliament and the National ministries so that they can take over our concern. He stated that some Member States

support our position. For the time being the revision of the Directive is blocked as it is difficult to find a solution between keeping industry in Europe and maintain our Paris commitment without diminishing the allocations.

In relation to access to resources, he understands the need for having gypsum assessed as critical raw material. He also told that the unit raw material and resource efficiency is working towards defining criteria according to which mineral will be declared as mineral of importance.

The raw material commitment on a European sustainable network for quarrying and mining is important and could be a tool to disseminate the guidance documents developed by the Commission for non-energy mineral extraction in Natura 2000 area. He highlighted the fact that this guidance document is not sufficiently known in Member States and that there is a need for in depth communication of the document. The network could be a tool for that.

For the guidance document, please click on the following link:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/neeii_n2000_guidance.pdf

In relation to recycling and the GtoG project, we mentioned that there is a need for diverting waste from landfill. We told that better enforcement of the Council decision 2002 on the acceptance on plasterboard in mono cells could be an incentive to recycle as mono cells are expensive. The GtoG project is finalized but the Gypsum Industry will continue to extend the best practices of the project in other plants and help to set up the value chain in countries where the legal and political context enables it.

Finally, the President of Eurogypsum spoke about the European Parliament Gypsum Forum which will take place in June 2017 around innovative constructive solutions which would enable growth and jobs. In that sense, vertical extension of existing buildings (adding 2 to three floors to existing buildings)

with lightweight material is a field to explore. Eurogypsum will organize this forum with the European Boulders Confederation.

Slovak Presidency from 1st July to 31st December 2016

From July to December 2016, Slovakia will hold the Presidency of the EU Council for the first time, following the Dutch and preceding the Maltese Presidency.

Parliamentary elections took place in Slovakia in March, and the new coalition government is formed by Prime Minister Robert Fico including the S&D-affiliated SMER-SD, the EFDD-affiliated Slovak National party, EPP-affiliated MOST-HÍD representing the country's Hungarian minority and the centre-right Network party, which together hold 85 of the 150 seats in the Parliament.

Among other priorities, the Slovak Presidency should deliver on Energy Union measures (including the climate policies). The circular economy package should also be advanced, in particular on the waste parts of the European Commission proposal.

Raw Material and Environment

Revision of the EU ETS Directive

Based on recent meetings with MEP offices and new data from some industrial sectors (e.g. the cement industry), it seems that the tiered approach to carbon leakage is being considered by some.

Even though most energy intensive industries oppose this approach, a solid group of Member States and MEPs like the rapporteur of the ENVI Committee and the rapporteur of the ITRE Committee, have propose this approach in their report and that can be summarized as below

	Federley		Duncan	
	% free allowances	Threshold	% free allowances	Threshold
High Risk	100	2.4	100	1.6
Medium Risk	80	1.0	75	0.9
Low risk	60	0.2	50	0.15
Lowest risk	0	<0.2	30	<0.15

From our meetings with different stakeholders, the tiered approach is under heavy debate as a concrete way to delete the CSCF cross sectorial factor. The Tiered approach represents still a plausible option for carbon leakage (CL) assessment and protection.

Eurogypsum met several MEPs and political advisors to push the possibility to make a qualitative assessment if we are at the threshold of 0.15. The commission proposal is a good proposal that we wish to maintain until credible and feasible alternatives develop.

On 16 June 2016, The President met Julie Girling, MEP, UK, ECR. He presented our amendment that she will duly consider after the brexist.

On 21st June 2016, the President and the Energy WG Leader presented our issues at an event organized by Cefic on data gathering for the EU ETS. A factsheet was realized by the Energy WG and is available upon request.

On 22 June 2016, The President and experts of the energy WG met the Commission to highlight the need to use sector specific data for the qualitative assessment as Eurostat data give systems data but not data for gypsum only. We feel however that the Commission is not inclined to follow that path; therefore actions at national level is needed.

Next steps will be to:

1. Analyse the ITRE and ENVI amendment

2. During summer, the European Parliament will make compromise amendment
3. Those will be discussed after summer with a vote in committee around October/November 2016
4. And a plenary vote on the Directive in February 2017.

Revision of the Waste Framework Directive

Simona Bonafé published her report on the revision of the Waste Framework Directive. Amendment are possible until 30 June 2016.

Some MEPs took over the tabling of our amendments on the differentiation between backfilling, reuse and recycling after 2020 (for more details on the amendments please see EU Highlights number 62).

The report will be voted in the Environment committee in autumn 2016 with a plenary vote early 2017.

European Network for Sustainable Quarrying and Mining (ENSQM)

The European Network for Sustainable Mining and Quarrying has been Raw Materials Commitment (RMC) by the High Level Steering Group of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP).

Commitments are **joint undertakings** by several partners, who commit to activities aimed at achieving the EIP's objectives. They aim to deliver innovative products, processes, services, technologies, business models or ideas that can be brought to the market or that would bring wider societal benefits.

Mission of the network

The European Network for sustainable quarrying and mining is a neutral network aiming at boosting sustainable mining and quarrying at national level by creating a culture of cooperation among all the stakeholders in the mining and quarrying

sector at national level to open and manage mines and quarries in a sustainable way.

At national level, the commitment could materialise in a national/local/regional forum within the framework of jointly agreed objectives and procedure between the stakeholders of the mining and quarrying sector.

The ultimate goal would be that the European Network for Sustainable Quarrying and Mining becomes a reference for the sector because it takes into account economic, social and environmental values

The Raw Material Commitment is coordinated by Eurogypsum.

The network is open to any new stakeholders bringing values to the European network and encourage national stakeholders in France, Poland, and the UK to join the network and the commitment.

The current partners are:

European association	National associations	National authorities
Eurogypsum (coordinator)	Cominroc (Spanish Confederation of Extractive Industries of Rocks and Industrial Minerals)	Centro para le desarrollo tecnologico industrial (CDTI)
UEPG (aggregates)	Bundesverband Baustoffe - Steine und Erden e.V.	Direcção-General de Energia e Geologia (DGEG)- Portugal
Cembureau (cement)		
EU Salt (salt)		
IMA Europe		

Scientific and Technical Issues

Smart CE marking concept

One of the greatest achievements of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) is the European common language and formats for the exchange of information of construction products. The regulation guarantees transparency, availability and credibility of the information adding value to the products and services provided to users.

Construction Products Europe believes it is now the time to capitalise this success by making it accessible using digital means, maximising the benefits for a broader spectrum of users. Smart CE marking and electronic tools will enable the users to exploit the data manufacturers provide to the fullest potential and will allow them to develop new uses for this information in B2B and B2C communication in accordance with their needs.

Obedying to the principle of the CPR that information on essential characteristics shall not be expressed in other formats unless it is contained in the declaration of performance¹, the European Commission has the key role in ensuring that the achievements of the common language are translated into digital communication formats.

For detailed information, please click on the below link

http://www.construction-products.eu/Documents/Document/20160602_090551-Smart_CE_marking_2016_05_02_Final.pdf

CEN/TC 351 is now focusing in the process to transform technical specifications to standards. In particular the robustness validation of the already Publisher documents.

TC 351 plenary meeting

WG 1 Release into soil and water

- The situation of the projects is the following: prCEN/TS 16637-3 was approved and will be published and used for the robustness validations tests.
- CEN/TS 16637-1, the specification will be revised, taking the approved CEN/TS 16637-3 into account
- CEN/TS 16637-2, the document is ready for the 2nd validation. The text will be revised to keep coherence with the new TS 3.

The group also created a subgroup to develop a technical report ecotoxicological evaluation and biodegradability.

WG 2 Emission to indoor air

The test method standard (EN 16516) will be submitted to formal vote soon. The group is also working on the test method for ammonia emission under REACH mandate.

WG 3 Radiation

The group is working on the robustness validation of their technical specifications. The final goal is the publication of the document as European standards.

WG 5 Content and eluate analysis

Experts are working in the development of standards both on inorganic and organic content including robustness validation

Marketing and Communication

1.5 million new apartment through vertical extension in Germany

A major opportunity for more apartments in Germany can be found on the roofs: More than 1.5 million additional apartments can be created by vertical extension. And right there where they are needed and where living space is scarce and expensive: In large cities, congested metropolitan areas and university towns. This is the conclusion of a study published today in Berlin undertaken by the Technische Universität Darmstadt and the Pestel-Institut in Hanover. To quickly utilize this potential, the federal government should also offer incentives and extraordinary write-downs for vertical extensions, stated the scientists. The study has identified an average living space of around 85 square metres for apartments that can be constructed as "On-Top" stories on the roofs of existing apartment buildings.

The study focuses on the reserves of living-space available to apartment buildings constructed between 1950 and 1990. A vertical extension of the roof to around 580,000 of these post-war buildings offers potential for about 1.12 million additional apartments in regions with an overstretched housing market, according to the study.

Benefits of vertical extension: There is no need for supplementary building land. There is thus no need to pave over new green areas. The need for new infrastructure is avoided as it is unnecessary to build new roads or install new sewerage or utilities. The cost of land and development are two important areas where there are potential savings. With a vertical extension, the energy requirement of the storey located below it could be reduced by up to half.

Financial incentives are urgently required to kick off an "On the roof offensive" across Germany. These impulses must be attractive

for private, municipal and housing association owners of residential property to deliver the maximum benefit to the housing market

More on the study: www.impulse-fuer-den-wohnungsbau.de

For more details, please contact Dipl.-Ing. Holger Ortleb at BVgips: ortleb@gips.de

European Parliament Gypsum Forum

On 22 June 2016, Eurogypsum held a brainstorming session on the theme of our next forum which will take place in June 2017. The forum will be organized with the European Builders Confederation (EBC).

The objectives are:

- Create a market for growth and job through the implementation of innovative lightweight construction in big cities (i.e. vertical extension).
- Provide modern solution to the housing sector. This means Training of the architects/specifiers (universities). Training of the installers (schools-producers).

This forum will also:

- Help the small contractor to overcome the downturn in construction by training in innovative technologies creating market;
- Implement an action plan to modernize the construction sector (BIM along others);
- Implement the Commission urban agenda

The concept of vertical extension will also include BIM for SMEs.

The title we agreed during this session is innovative construction for better living in European cities.

European Construction Sector Observatory

Fact sheets for ten countries are already available in the ECSO website. Each Fact Sheet provides a detailed analysis of a nation's construction sector, covering key figures, macro-economic indicators, economic drivers, issues and barriers, innovation, the national and regional policy and regulatory framework, and the current status and national strategy to meet Construction 2020 objectives.

For more details, please click on the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/construction/observatory/index_en.htm

Eurogypsum Forthcoming Events

Acoustic WG

15 July 2016 from 10h00 to 16h00 at Eurogypsum offices

Task Force Raw Materials

19 July 2016 from 10h00 to 13h00
Nera offices in Paris

CPR WG

23 August 2016 from 10h30 to 13h30
Eurogypsum offices

Fire WG

8 September 2016 from 10h30 to 14h30
Eurogypsum offices

Coordination Committee

20 September 2016 from 16h00 to 18h30
Eurogypsum Offices

Dinner with the Secretary General Network

20 September 2016 at 19h00
Stanhope Hotel

Secretary General Network Meeting

21 September 2016 from 09h00 to 13h30
Stanhope Hotel

Coordination Committee

29 November 2016 from 11h00 to 13h00
Stanhope Hotel

Board Meeting and EGM

29 November 2016 from 14h00 to 17h00
Stanhope Hotel, Brussels