

CPR REVISION

Revision of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

EUROGYPSUM's preliminary comments

12 JULY 2022

Eurogypsum, the European federation of national associations of producers of gypsum products (such as plaster and plasterboard), believes that the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) is a good instrument to regulate the trade of construction products within the European Union. We welcome the proposal presented by the European Commission on 30 March 2022¹ as an ambitious basis to strengthen and modernise the existing rules, as well as to speed up the uptake of sustainable and circular practices in the construction product manufacturing industry.

Eurogypsum supports the objective of making construction products more durable, repairable, recyclable and easier to re-manufacture. The gypsum industry has engaged for many years to facilitate and boost the actual recycling of gypsum-based products such as plasterboards.

Pending a more detailed examination of the proposal and its expected impact, in dialogue with the Commission and other stakeholders, we have identified the following elements as requiring specific attention:

- Level of ambition: We welcome the Commission's intention to clarify the CPR's contribution to sustainability and circularity in construction.
*Gypsum is an **eternally recyclable** mineral, and our industry is committed to promoting **close loop recycling** of gypsum waste. As a commitment to circularity and sustainability, Eurogypsum already provided input as to how sustainability requirements under the existing CPR's "**basic works requirement 7**" could be implemented pragmatically in our sector, and we remain strongly committed to this objective.*
- Regulatory power: Eurogypsum has always supported an EU standardisation system having CEN as the main pillar. The proposals made by the Commission would instead drastically increase the EU's regulatory power in the field of construction product manufacturing, particularly in the field of standardisation, and may probably entail the creation of a dedicated EU agency.
While we understand the Commission's reasoning, we keep supporting a CEN-driven system as the most effective approach. We think it is of utmost importance

¹ [COM\(2022\)144](#) - Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and repealing Regulation (EU) 305/2011

for the chosen system to ensure a **good level of legal certainty** to industrial actors. We would require more information about the **governance** of the whole system, and how the proposed new approach may ensure a smooth coordination with the traditional standardisation process remaining in parallel. We fail to understand at which stage and how **stakeholder input** would be considered in the development of the new requirements for individual products under Annex I parts B, C and D, in the new system and during the transition period. A good dialogue with all stakeholders, including national authorities, industry and laboratories, will be needed to implement these rules. We believe that clarifications would also be needed as to the **total costs** of such an endeavour, both for EU/national public authorities and for industry actors, bearing in mind the **European Standardisation Strategy's aim to reduce effort and costs in particular for SMEs**.

- Assessment of environmental performance of products: The deployment of digital solutions should be welcomed, but further clarity will be needed as to the database / system / software proposed to be developed by the Commission, its nature, the content of information, and its integration as a complement or replacement of existing systems, in particular as regards the works performed under EN15804. Furthermore, more clarity will be needed as to how the new system may allow the use of different indicators according to product categories.

*Our industry calls for the use of **Life-Cycle Assessments (LCA)** as the appropriate tool for a sustainability assessment of construction works and products, using the **EN 15804+A2 standard** as the single, harmonised, scientifically based European methodology to issue Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). We are convinced that this tool represents the best system and has a clear potential to be improved and developed further.*
- Market surveillance / verification of conformity: Measures to strengthen market surveillance are welcome, to ensure a fair competition between construction products. The verification of conformity is another important aspect, and we support the emphasis put on this aspect. However, we have some concerns with the practicality of certain assessment and verification systems (AVS).

*The absence of **tolerance ranges**, e.g. in AVS 3, would be unrealistic and needs to be addressed. Clarification is needed as to the exact application scope of **System 3+**, i.e. only to essential characteristics to be covered (Annex I, Part A.2) or also to inherent product environmental requirements (Annex I, Part C.2). A proper definition of "**sustainability assessment**" would be needed in Article 3.*
- Articulation with "CPR Acquis": The Commission has undertaken a parallel work stream to adapt the acquis (i.e. harmonised standards, European assessment documents and legal acts of the European Commission), which will be extended over several years, possibly beyond the expected entry into force of the new CPR.

*We require more clarity about the **articulation with the newly proposed CPR**, especially as regards products considered medium or low priority in the CPR acquis exercise. It is unclear whether for those products the acquis process will be pursued under the new CPR framework, while it may have been completed under the current CPR framework for other products.*
- Product labelling and information supply: We welcome the fact that the information requirements may be met by electronic means. However, the labelling "not for consumers" or "only for professional use" is problematic as many products can be used by professional users, non-professional users, and consumers. Providing this

information on paper, as well as what is required by the harmonised technical specifications, for products which are not labelled “not for consumers” or “only for professional use”, is unrealistic due to the excessive amount of information required.

*Providing information in **electronic format** and/or with the use of easy-to-understand **pictograms** should be the norm here. The new CPR should also enable the use of machine-readable declarations of performance. To enable a fair access to information for all consumers, it should be possible for any consumer to request a paper version if they require one. This approach would be more in line with an efficient use of resources. As a result, the labelling would not be relevant anymore.*

- Labelling on environmental information: Specific environmental sustainability labelling requirements are not relevant for construction products as intermediate products. The principle of benchmarking is inadequate at product level; it can indeed be misleading for the end user, due to the many parameters to take into account before making a fair, relevant and reliable comparison. It is in fact more about comparing functional units at the same performance level, rather than comparing products. In this sense, we consider that a “traffic-light labelling” system would be misleading and should therefore not be considered.

*We see **no need for additional labelling systems**, considering that information on performance is already available in the DoP/DoC.*

- Consistency: The new CPR proposal was presented simultaneously and in parallel with the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR). We are convinced that the CPR is the guiding regulation to support the Sustainable Products Initiative (SPI) for construction products, with the use of the Declaration of Performance (DoP).

*Given the wide scope of the ESPR, the similarities but also differences between ESPR and CPR, we believe that it is important to **maintain the consistency and convergence** between both initiatives, and to have a clear distinction in the scope of each act, especially in the course of the decision-making process.*

- Links with building level initiatives: Other legislation and initiatives are going on regarding buildings, including the preparation of Green Public Procurement criteria for office buildings.

*We find it particularly important to ensure **consistency and articulation** with the parallel initiatives affecting buildings.*

Eurogypsum is a European federation of national associations of producers of gypsum products (i.e. plaster and plasterboard). It is one of the few fully integrated industries (from cradle to cradle) within the construction products field. The companies which mine gypsum also process it and manufacture the value-added products and systems used extensively in construction and other industries. With a turnover of EUR 7 billion, the European gypsum and anhydrite industry operates some 160 factories and 154 quarries and generates employment directly to 28,000 persons and indirectly for 300,000 persons. The Gypsum industry provides jobs to 1,100,000 plasterers and plasterboard installers. It trains around 25,000 persons per year across Europe.

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