

# March 2018



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- International competitiveness of the construction sector - Brussels 8 March
- E2VENT public workshop - Brussels 19 April
- PEF final conference - Brussels 23-25 April
- Smart CE marking - official signature - Brussels 7 May

## TWEET OF THE MONTH



Fulvia Raffaelli HoU DG GROW informs about their initiatives for #construction

#competitiveness. There is a lot to do, let us do it together!

The European Construction Industry stands ready. @FIEC\_Brussels @CECE\_Europe @EBC\_SMEs @ConstructionEU  
pic.twitter.com/VTG3uRNcwN



— FIEC (@FIEC\_Brussels) February 22, 2018

## PUBLICATION OF THE MONTH



## Towards an inclusive Digital Strategy

Our European Commission EU Industry Day joint event with CECE, FIEC and EBC was successful. Our digital construction seminar was opened by Emil Karanikolov, Bulgarian Minister of Economy, the country currently holding the EU presidency.

As always, we were extremely pleased to have the support of Ms Fulvia Raffaelli, Head of Unit at DG GROW in charge of Clean Technologies and Products. She underlined all those initiatives that her unit has initiated in support of our sector's competitiveness and we were very grateful for her use of our Smart CE CEN Workshop Agreement initiative as an example of great collaboration in support of the construction industry.

Mr Max Lemke, Head of Unit DG CONNECT, Technologies and Systems for Digitising Industry, announced the publication of a 2018 EU Artificial Intelligence strategy and, more importantly, he invited us to respond to a call to tender aimed at the development of an EU data platform for digital construction. [Read more...](#)

## EU Industry Day

The programme of the European Commission for the European Industry Day was full of events addressing the strategic approach of the industry to industrial policy and the actions to develop competitiveness in Europe. EC also



Every year the EU INDUSTRY DAY is convened to discuss with industry, policy-makers, investors and others the future of European industry in 2025. A pillar will be the construction sector. The European Commission strongly supports the sector by bringing different interest groups together to share their vision and take action for the sector to become more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. In the EU industry Day participants will discuss possible steps to drive innovation in the sector, move towards a clean and circular economy and support smart and sustainable neighbourhoods in EU cities. The outcomes of this discussion will feed back into ongoing and future initiatives.

**WHY DO WE ACT?**



The EU construction sector provides about 1.8 million direct jobs in 3 million enterprises, 55% of which are SMEs.



Construction contributes to about 9% of the EU's GDP and generates a turnover of around €1600 billion a year. It also creates activity elsewhere: sectors related to construction generate about €700 billion a year.

**WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?**

- Save energy: buildings consume more energy than any other sector in the EU – close to 40% of EU's energy consumption
- Reduce the EU's environmental footprint: improve resource efficiency: more than 70% of all extracted materials are used in construction while 30-40% of all waste generated in the EU comes from construction
- Unlock the full potential of public procurement to ensure that the €2 trillion spent yearly in public services and products create more jobs, spur innovation and help meet sustainability goals
- Improve the uptake of research and innovation results to they can be used in construction processes, products and services



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published a fact sheet focused on the Construction sector. [Read more...](#)

## Smart CE marking

Representatives from the organisations and CEN Technical Committees discussed last 22nd of February the comments received to the draft document on Smart CE marking of construction products. In the coming weeks experts will discuss some pending issues. The next draft will be available in early April. If your organisation did not register, do not miss the opportunity and [join us!](#) [Read more...](#)

## Harmonised consultants open call

On 19 February 2018, a call for expression of interest for consultants with expertise in harmonised standards (HAS Consultants) was opened. The HAS Consultants will replace the current 'New Approach consultants'. They will assess to what extent documents, or parts thereof, drafted by the European standardisation organisations comply with the European Commission's standardisation requests, and to what extent they deal with and support relevant essential characteristics.

The call is being organised by Ernst & Young (EY) in the context of a service contract with the Commission and it is open to experts in a range of technical sectors and applicants may express their interest in one or several legislations. [Read more...](#)

## EN 15804 amendment

The amendment of EN 15804, the reference standard for the development of Environmental Product Declarations (EPD), will be under enquiry for CEN Standardisation Bodies from late March to mid June. The text was developed to follow the revision Mandate M/350 by the EC sent to CEN last year.

## Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference

More than two years after the adoption of EU Circular Economy Package, half of the initiatives included in the Action Plan have been delivered. The Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee organised this conference last 20 and 21 of February to discuss upcoming deliverables, explore new areas of action, and share the first achievements of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform. [Read more...](#)

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## European Parliament Public procurement strategy package

The workshop organised last 19th of February by the European Parliament was the first milestone for the development of the European Parliament Public procurement strategy package. The draft report will be presented 21/22 March, the vote in Committee will take place 18/19 June and in Plenary by July 2018 [Read more...](#)

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