

## Will the Pandora box of the Construction Product Regulation be reopened?

**Brussels, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017** – Small and medium construction companies, represented by the European Builders Confederation (EBC), voiced their concerns about a possible revision of the Construction Products Regulation at the public hearing that MEP Cathrine Stihler organised today in the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament.

Riccardo Viaggi, Secretary General of the European Builders Confederation (EBC), said during the hearing: “We have been working hard to get simpler procedures for our small and medium construction companies to CE mark and use construction products. But so far, this special regime has not yet been fully implemented. We are worried that a revision would mean opening a Pandora box, with no assurance that SMEs’ needs would be better addressed. This is why we call on everyone to drop all dogmatic positions and engage in a fruitful open work to implement the current regulation through guidance and common interpretation. This can be done only through commitment by stakeholders, Member States and the Commission. In that spirit, we hope the impact assessment the Commission is about to launch will consider all political options and choose the most appropriate without any pre-conception.”

The Construction Products Regulation is a fundamental piece of legislation that sets up the rules to CE mark and therefore sell construction products in the European Internal Market. Many key articles entered into force only in June 2013. The most important articles for smaller enterprises relate to the so-called ‘simplified procedures’. These allow them to go through simpler mechanisms to declare the performance of their construction products and thus add the CE mark, which enables companies to place their products in the Internal Market.

With the Energy Package of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the European Commission announced a possible revision of the Construction Products Regulation. This follows the July 2016 report of the European Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council of the European Union on the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation. Since then, the Commission has opened up a dialogue with stakeholders on the main issues identified in the report.

*\*Ends\**

### Notes to editors

Established in 1990, the **European Builders Confederation (EBC)** is a European professional organisation representing national associations of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises working in the construction sector. EBC sits on the European Social Dialogue Committee of Construction and is a member of UEAPME (the European association of micro-enterprises and SMEs), on behalf of which it chairs the UEAPME Construction Forum.

The construction sector is of vital importance to the European economy. With 3 million enterprises and a total direct workforce of 18 million, the construction sector contributes at around 9% to the GDP of the European Union.

99.9% of the European construction sector is composed of small and medium-sized companies, which produce 80% of the construction industry's output. Small enterprises (less than 50 employees) are responsible for 60% of the production and employ 70% of the sector's working population.

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