

11 June 2025 - 10.00/13.00

Confartigianato Imprese

Via di San Giovanni in Laterano 152, Rome



## Contextual background

The EBC Annual Congress 2025 will shine a spotlight on an often-overlooked pillar of the construction sector: historic buildings and built heritage. Across Europe, these structures are more than architectural landmarks; they are integral to local identity, economic vitality, and sustainable urban development. Yet, policies and funding mechanisms often prioritize new construction over heritage renovation, limiting opportunities for skilled construction SMEs and craft trades. Maintaining, restoring and renovating historic buildings can strengthen local economies, enhance energy efficiency, and create skilled jobs.

This conference will examine how public procurement, energy policies and housing strategies can better support SMEs in unlocking the potential of heritage renovation. Bringing together policymakers, industry leaders and thematic experts, it will highlight best practices and policy solutions to remove financial, regulatory, and technical barriers.

The discussions align with the European Commission's 2024-2029 agenda, particularly its focus on housing, energy efficiency, and legislative simplification. The EU has signalled its commitment to addressing the housing crisis while advancing the Renovation Wave acquis. In this context, simplifying EU legislation and implementing the Fit-for-55 package are key to empowering SMEs in heritage renovation.

Celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, EBC brings these conversations to Rome — where history and innovation are intertwined. The city's legacy of integrating the past with the future makes it the perfect venue to discuss how Europe's built heritage can drive sustainable construction for generations to come.

## Full programme

**09.30**     **Arrival**

**10.00**     **Welcome messages**

**Marco GRANELLI** – President, Confartigianato Imprese

**Philip VAN NIEUWENHUIZEN** – President, European Builders Confederation EBC

**Stefano CRESTINI** – President, ANAEP-Confartigianato Edilizia / EBC Board member

**10.15**     **Keynote speeches / Institutional strategies for protecting and adapting Europe's built heritage**

Italian Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport **TBC**

**Roberto GUALTIERI** – Mayor of Rome **TBC**

### 10.35 **Keynote speeches / Perspectives from Brussels on construction, renovation and housing**

**Rosalinde VAN DER VLIES** – Director Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency & Innovation, DG Energy, European Commission

**MEP Irene TINAGLI (S&D, Italy)** – Chair of the Special Committee on the Housing crisis in the EU, European Parliament **TBC**

**MEP Antonella SBERNA (ECR, Italy)** – Vice-President, European Parliament

### 11.00 **Panel debate & Q&A session – Rethinking Public Procurement: Unlocking construction SMEs' participation**

Public procurement is a key driver for the local economy, but complex regulations and high administrative burdens often prevent SMEs from participating in public tenders. This session will explore how procurement can be reformed to facilitate the access of small contractors, artisans, and craft businesses, with a focus on renovation and historic buildings.

**Jean-Yves MUYLLE** – Head of Unit Public Procurement, DG Grow, European Commission **TBC**

**Sara FUNARO** – Mayor of Florence / Executive Committee Member, Eurocities **TBC**

**Piero PETRUCCO** – President, European Construction Industry Federation FIEC

**Philip VAN NIEUWENHUIZEN** – President, European Builders Confederation EBC

### 11.40 **Panel debate & Q&A session – Energy-Efficient Renovation: Challenges and opportunities for historic buildings**

Historic buildings require tailored solutions to improve energy performance while respecting cultural heritage. This session will examine policy incentives, innovative approaches and financial schemes that allow construction SMEs and specialised craft trades to implement energy efficiency upgrades without compromising architectural integrity.

**Cecilia BARTOLI** – President, EuropaNostra **TBC**

**Angeliki KONSTANTINOPOULOU** – Executive Director, Sustainable Energy Finance Association

**Elisa DE BERTI** – President, Istituto per l'Innovazione e Trasparenza degli Appalti e la Compatibilità ambientale ITACA

**Stefano CRESTINI** – EBC Board member / President, ANAEP-Confartigianato Edilizia

### 12.20 **Panel debate & Q&A session – Housing: Turning underutilized historic buildings into affordable homes**

Europe's housing crisis demands innovative solutions, and adaptive reuse of historic buildings presents an opportunity to increase housing supply while preserving cultural landmarks. This panel will explore successful transformation projects and regulatory frameworks that help unlock the housing potential of underutilized heritage buildings.

**MEP Irene TINAGLI (S&D, Italy)** – Chair of the Special Committee on the Housing crisis in the European Union, European Parliament **TBC**

**Diego ZOPPI** – Chair of the Heritage Work Group, Council of Architect's Europe

**Marco BUTTIERI** – President, Federcasa

**Jean-Christophe REPON** – President, Confédération de l'Artisanat et des Petites Entreprises du Bâtiment CAPEB / EBC Vice-President

### 13.00 **Closing remarks**

**Philip VAN NIEUWENHUIZEN** – President, European Builders Confederation EBC

**End of the conference - Followed by a networking lunch**