



EBC

Annual Report

2022-2023

Fernando Sigchos Jiménez
EBC Secretary General
The Hague, 05 July 2023



INTERNAL MILESTONES

TEAM CHANGES



**Fernando
Sigchos Jiménez**

Secretary General



**Spyros
Mathioudakis**

Policy Officer



**Evangelia
Tsiala**

Technical Officer



**Elena Maria
Petrich**

Projects &
Communication Officer



**Jordi
Calatayud**

EU Projects Officer



**Fernando
Vespa**

Projects &
Communication Manager





INTERNAL MILESTONES

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

- **Fernando Sigchos Jiménez:** Secretary General
January 2022
- First physical EBC meeting in Paris since COVID
25 March 2022
- **Philip van Nieuwenhuizen:** President
28 April 2022



VISIT TO MEMBERS



Visit to **CAPEB**
in Paris



Visit to **CNA**
in Rome



Visit to **ANAEP**
in Lecco



Visit to **CNC**
in Madrid



INTERNAL MEETINGS

- **French Policy Working Group (22/10/2021)**
- **Italian Policy Working Group (29/10/2021)**
- **French Policy Working Group (04/02)**
- **Working group on political vision for EBC (25/03)**
- **EBC Training day at CAPEB in Paris (6/04)**
- **French Policy Working Group (27/09)**
- **English Policy Working Group (28/09)**
- **EBC Working Groups on membership fees (May & September)**





POLICIES

INCREASING PRICES

- **Construction materials rising prices:** list of EBC members actions and press release (12/07 and 31/08/2021)
- **EBC responds to EC urgent query on value chain impacts following Ukraine invasion** (March)
- **Letter to EC President and VP on fuel & materials prices increases** (12/05)
- **EBC receives written responses to EC letter on rising prices by F. Timmermans & by G. Cozigou** (01/06 and 23/08)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **EPBD position paper** (20/10/2021)
- **Welcoming EC proposal for EPBD** (16/12)
- **Contribution to SMEunited position on EED**
- **EBC to responds to EC feedback on published EPBD proposal with updated position** (31/03)
- **Outreach to European Parliament on the EPBD recast – meetings with MEPs and assistants**



POLICIES

DIGITALIZATION

- EBC co-chairs the European Commission’s High-Level Construction Forum session on “Expanding and reinforcing digital tools to serve the green transition” (18/05)
- EBC attends plenary of CEN TC 442 on BIM in Tromso, Norway (14/06)
- EBC joins the European Commission’s Digital Building Logbooks community (15/06)
- Contribution to the European Commission website on the digitalisation of construction SMEs (28/09)

HEALTH&SAFETY

- FIEC/EBC common call on asbestos (22/10/2021)
- FIEC & EBC meeting on asbestos with EC (28/01)
- Response to EC consultation on Asbestos (22/03)
- EBC responds to EC public consultation on REACH on extension of the generic approach to risk management (11/04)
- EBC gets interviewed by [Politico](#) on asbestos
- Collaboration with Eurowindow on propiconazole



POLICIES

SKILLS

- **Launch of Pact for Skills (08/02)**
- **EBC exchanges with European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights Nicolas Schmit at SMEUnited event on apprenticeships (19/05)**
- **Participation to Large-Skills partnership meetings**
- **Sectorial social dialogue meeting on skills**

RENEWABLE ENERGIES

- **Contribution to SMEUnited position on RED**
- **Ongoing discussions on an EU Solar Rooftops Mandate**



POLICIES

WASTE

- **EBC response to the TRIS procedure, regarding Notification 2022/149/I (Italy) on end-of-waste status of inert construction and demolition waste (20/05)**
- **EBC response to public consultation on Waste Framework Directive (02/08)**

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- **ECESP Circular talk on secondary materials (01/10/2021)**
- **EBC intervenes in the 2022 Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference (02/03)**
- **EBC response to Stakeholder consultation on the ERA Industrial Technology Roadmap on Circular Industrial Technologies and Business Models for Energy-intensive industries, Textile and Construction (30/09)**



POLICIES

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- **EBC responds to EC survey on Challenges for Public Procurement in construction (15/06)**
- **EBC President meets Ms Katharina KNAPTON-VIERLICH and DG GROW Unit C2 on Public Procurement (31/08)**

LATE PAYMENT

- **Late payment in SMEAssembly 2021 (25/11/2021)**
- **EBC calls for ambitious reform of Late Payment Directive at EU Industry Days (10/02)**
- **Commission President announces revision of Late Payment Directive (14/09)**



POLICIES

STANDARDISATION

- **SBS statement on timely delivery of EU standards (25/11/2021)**
- **FSJ as SBS Board member (25/01)**
- **EBC intervenes at SBS annual event on Sustainable Products (17/06)**
- **EBC contributes to SBS and SMEunited position papers on the Ecodesign Directive**

CONSTRUCTION PRODUCT REGULATION

- **EBC welcomes the new CPR proposal (30/03)**
- **Joint response to the European Commission's consultation on the CPR with SBS (13/07)**
- **EBC, SBS, FIEC, CPE common amendment proposals to IMCO and ENVI rapporteurs on critical elements (27/09)**



POLICIES

FUNDING & FINANCING

- **1st Built4People Stakeholders Forum (25/05)**
- **LIFE Clean Energy Transition Call 2022 (16/06)**

INTERNAL MARKET

- **EBC participates in ELA Training Programme on EU Labour Mobility (4-6 July)**

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

- **EBC response to EFRAG consultation on CSRD reporting standard for large companies (01/08)**

INTERNAL MARKET

- **Frequent contact with Eurofound to monitor process**



EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



- **Launch of HLCF, moderation of cluster on digitalisation (27/10/2021)**
- **EBC and FIEC meeting with officials from DG GROW, DG ENER, DG CLIMA and DG ENV on the EPBD (11/2021)**
- **EBC and SMEunited meet with officials from DG FISMA on Sustainable Finance and SME Reporting (12/2021)**
- **EBC and FIEC meeting with officials from DG EMPL on Asbestos (12/2021)**
- **Resilience in Construction: EBC Secretary General speaks in EU Industry Days podcast (09/02)**
- **EBC President meets with Ms Katharina KNAPTON-VIERLICH & DG GROW Unit C2 on Public Procurement (31/08)**





EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND MEPs



EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

- **EPBD**
Radan Kaven – EPP, Bulgaria (ENVI rapporteur); Maria Spyraiki- EPP, Greece (ITRE/ENVI); Ladislav Ilčić - ECR, Croatia (ITRE shadow rapporteur); Isabella Tovaglieri - ID, Italy (ITRE shadow rapporteur); Morten Petersen - RE, Denmark (ITRE shadow rapporteur)
- **CPR**
Christian Döleschal – EPP, Germany (ITRE rapporteur); Sara Matthieu - Greens/Belgium (ENVI rapporteur)
- **ASBESTOS**
Nikolaj Villumsen - the Left, Denmark (own-initiative report)
- **EESC Study on SMEs: “Crisis costs for SMEs – How Covid-19 Changed The Playing Field For European SMEs” (29/06)**
- **CCMI Report on the CPR (13/09)**



PARTNERSHIPS



- EBC/SMEUnited leaflet on green construction (01/10/2021)
- EBC exchanges with European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights Nicolas Schmit at SMEUnited event on apprenticeships (19/05)
- Contribution to SMEUnited positions on EPBD, EED, RED, asbestos
- SMEUnited participates at final B4R EUSEW event dedicated to skills (26/09)

- President PVN intervenes in SBS Annual event on sustainable products (17/06)
- Joint response to the European Commission's consultation on the CPR with SBS (13/07)





PARTNERSHIPS



- **ECCREDI Open Forum and Council Meeting (08/06)**

- **C2050 event on skills (01/07/2021)**
- **C2050 event on primary & secondary raw materials (29/03)**
- **Preparation of C2050 event on Sustainable Finance**



PARTNERSHIPS



OTHER STAKE-HOLDERS

- **FIEC/EBC common call on asbestos (22/10/2021)**
- **Joint FIEC/EBC call on EPBD (01/12/2021)**
- **FIEC & EBC meeting on asbestos with EC (28/01)**
- **EBC participates in EU Social Dialogue meetings on skills (01/06)**
- **EBC, SBS, FIEC, CPE common amendment proposals to IMCO and ENVI rapporteurs on critical elements (27/09)**
- **Collaboration in BIM-SPEED and Construction Blueprint for skills**

- **EBC contributes to the Coalition on Sustainable Buildings & Neighbourhoods activities on One-stop shops (2021)**
- **EU Housing Sector call on Fit-for55 and EPBD (2021)**
- **Support to EuropeON letter on installers' skills (08/03)**
- **Collaboration with EHI on skills for heating installers report and event with MEP Petersen (21/09)**



EBC PARTICIPATION/ CO-ORGANISATION



EVENTS



21/09/2021
EBC speaking at REBUILD Congress 2021 in Madrid

15-17/11/2021
EBC speaks at SME Assembly 2021



8-11/02/2022
EBC speaks at EU Industry Days 2022 on Late payment

14/09/2021
EBC speaking at IPOSZ digital conference

30/09/2021
EBC speaking at #EUCircularTalks

8-11/02/2022
EBC speaks in EU Industry days podcast on resilience in construction

02/03/2022
EBC speaks at 2022 Circular Economy Stakeholders Conference





EBC PARTICIPATION/ CO-ORGANISATION



EVENTS



18/05/2022

EBC co-chairs HLCF session on digital tools in the EU green transition



01/06/2022

EBC talks about inclusivity & innovation in construction at the 1st Built4People Stakeholder Forum



21/09/2022

EBC speaks at EHI event

22/03/2022

EBC speaks at EU closing hybrid Craft & SMEs stakeholders' Roundtable by Foundation ECIPA CAN

19/05/2022

EBC exchanges with Commissioner Schmit at SMEunited event on youth and skills



15/06/2022

EBC intervenes at SBS annual event on Sustainable Products





EUROPEAN FUNDED INITIATIVES



HORIZON 2020

- **BIM4Ren**

- Easy-to-use digital tools for building renovation
- Training material freely available in 4 languages (EN, FR, IT, ES)
- Training days for EBC members in Rome, Lecco, Paris and Bilbao
- Final EUSEW event focused on SMEs, with European Commission & SMEUnited



- **BIM-SPEED**

- Easy-to-access BIM cloud platform to improve deep renovation
- Collaboration with FIEC, ACE and REHVA
- Training material available in different media formats
- BIM-SPEED national training workshops in EN & FR





EUROPEAN FUNDED INITIATIVES

HORIZON EUROPE

- **HumanTech**

- Human-centered technologies for a safer and greener construction industry (safety wearables, extended reality glasses, intelligent robotic support, etc.)
- Impact assessment on construction SMEs
- Training material to upskill the current and future workforce

- **Beeyonders**

- Worker-friendly technologies for the construction sector (exoskeletons, autonomous vehicles, 3D printing, digital twins, etc.)
- Technological collaboration with Japan, beyond Europe's boundaries
- Training material addressing green and digital skills needs of construction companies

- **BIO4EEB**

- Bio-based insulation materials (seagrass panels, sprayable foams, etc.) for enhancing the energy performance of buildings
- Demonstration in 5 real pilot cases (including France and Spain)
- SME-friendly training material and organisation of 3 national information days



BEEYONDERS





EUROPEAN FUNDED INITIATIVES



ERASMUS+

- **Construction Blueprint**

- 36 free online training courses on energy efficiency, digitalisation and circular economy
- Survey on skills needed by European construction companies
- Creation of an Observatory to monitor skills shortages and anticipate future needs
- Comparative report on construction job profiles and qualifications in Europe
- Collaboration with FIEC and EFBWW in the coordination of the Sectorial Skills Alliance



LIFE

- **CondoReno**

- Creating and multiplying one-stop-shops for home renovation (IHRS) for condominiums in the Netherlands and Flanders
- Improving energy efficiency governance of Belgian and Dutch local authorities
- Replication of local workshops in other 5 EU countries, targeting local contractors and property owners

CondoReno





PROJECT HELPDESK

- The EBC Secretariat keeps informing members about **opportunities to join project proposals and tenders**, providing assistance during the proposal and consortium composition phase
- Monitoring of topics and project ideas of particular interest to EBC members, providing support in **identifying relevant calls for proposal** and partners at European level
- Consultation by members to **identify their needs at national level**
- Continuous **support during operational phases** of the project, if awarded



ARTICLES, VOICE AND MEDIA PRESENCE

EBC COMMUNICATIONS



15 Cvoice
(Monthly Newsletter)



+10
Press Releases



+20 articles
Presence in specialised media
(Build UP, Batiweb, Ingenio, EUbusiness.com, etc.)



ARTICLES, VOICE AND MEDIA PRESENCE



EBC COMMUNICATIONS

Media presence

Europe's renovation wave risks exposing workers to asbestos

Labor unions are clashing with construction companies over how to protect workers from the carcinogen.

Industry's reality check

Business owners in the construction sector are sounding the alarm at the push from labor groups and the Parliament could hamper the EU efforts to renovate its building stock.

The stricter proposed limits risk making renovations "an extremely expensive procedure," said Fernando Sigchos of the **European Builders Confederation**, which represents SMEs in the construction sector. The equipment required to take such measurements is prohibitively expensive, he added. Properly isolating and disposing of asbestos, too, comes at a cost.

Sigchos argued the increased costs could lead to dodgy construction companies offering to take on those jobs for "half the price" and without the proper protections, undermining campaigners' efforts.

Experts urge rethink of energy metrics to fully decarbonise buildings

By Fabrice J. Sarrasin | EURACTIV.com | May 12, 2022

Alternatives

Alternative metrics do exist, however.

For a "coherent assessment" of (near) zero-emissions buildings, the **European Builders Confederation** proposes a combination of several measurements:

- Indoor environmental conditions
- The thermal characteristics of the building
- An accounting of heating, air conditioning and ventilation installed as well as a broader optimisation of the energy use of technical systems in the building
- Active renewable systems, and
- District or block heating and cooling systems

For Hamels though, a more straightforward approach is to measure the associated CO2 emissions of buildings. "They are what we should care about," the researcher said.

CONSTRUCTION europe THE MAGAZINE FOR EUROPE'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

New initiative to increase skills in construction

By Carin Arnes | 16 February 2022

The European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) and the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW), in cooperation with **European Builders Confederation** (EBC), has launched a Pact for Skills in Construction initiative.

The initiative is promoted by the European Commission in the framework of the "EU Skills Agenda".

The pact calls for concrete commitments to be made by construction and education stakeholders at all levels.

It aims at mobilising a concerted effort among private and public partners for quality investment in vocational education and training, as well as in knowledge.

The EU construction industry represents 9.5% of EU GDP (€1,324 billion) and 6.1% of EU total employment (12.7 million workers active in about 3.2 million enterprises).

(Photo: Adobe Stock)

The Construction Voice (Newsletter)

THE CONSTRUCTION VOICE

The monthly newsletter of the European Builders Confederation that features EU trends impacting construction SMEs & craftsmen

April 2022

Philip van Nieuwenhuizen assumes the presidency of EBC

During an extraordinary General Assembly held last week in Brussels, Philip van Nieuwenhuizen (AFNL, the Netherlands) was elected as the new EBC President for 2022-2025. [Read more](#)

THE CONSTRUCTION VOICE

The monthly newsletter of the European Builders Confederation that features EU trends impacting construction SMEs & craftsmen

June 2022

Energy efficiency: EBC advances concrete proposals to improve the EPBD

EBC closely monitors the EPBD process in the ITRE committee, suggesting pragmatic actions to facilitate the activity of construction SMEs in the context of the Renovation Wave. [Read more](#)

THE CONSTRUCTION VOICE

The monthly newsletter of the European Builders Confederation that features EU trends impacting construction SMEs & craftsmen

July and August 2022

Construction Products Regulation: EBC and SBS call for a clear, stable, and SME-friendly CPR

Sharing the views of SMEs and crafts, EBC and SBS replied together to the consultation of the European Commission on the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) revision proposal. [Read more](#)



SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

EBC COMMUNICATIONS



2,739
678 followers
on Twitter

+2,3% from October 2022

Among the **most popular**
construction sector
representatives



1,918 subscribers
on Mailchimp

20% regularly click
on the material we send



1,827 followers
on LinkedIn

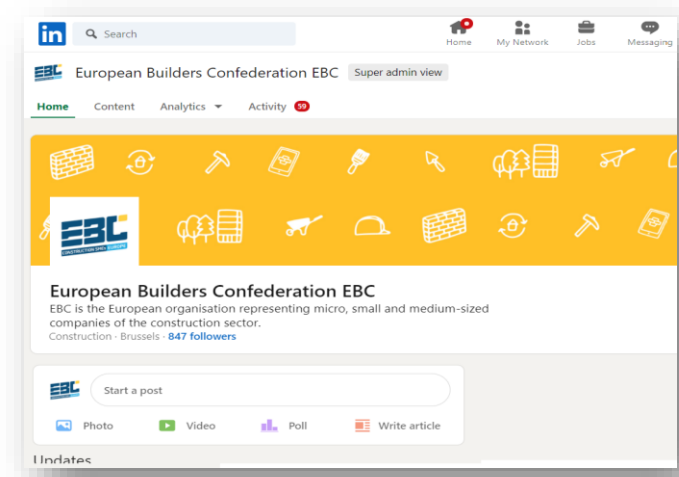
20% increase
in the last 8 months!

ARTICLES, CHOICE AND MEDIA PRESENCE



EBC COMMUNICATIONS

Twitter, Facebook & LinkedIn





Thank you for your attention!



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