

EUROPEAN BUILDERS CONFEDERATION

ANNUAL REPORT

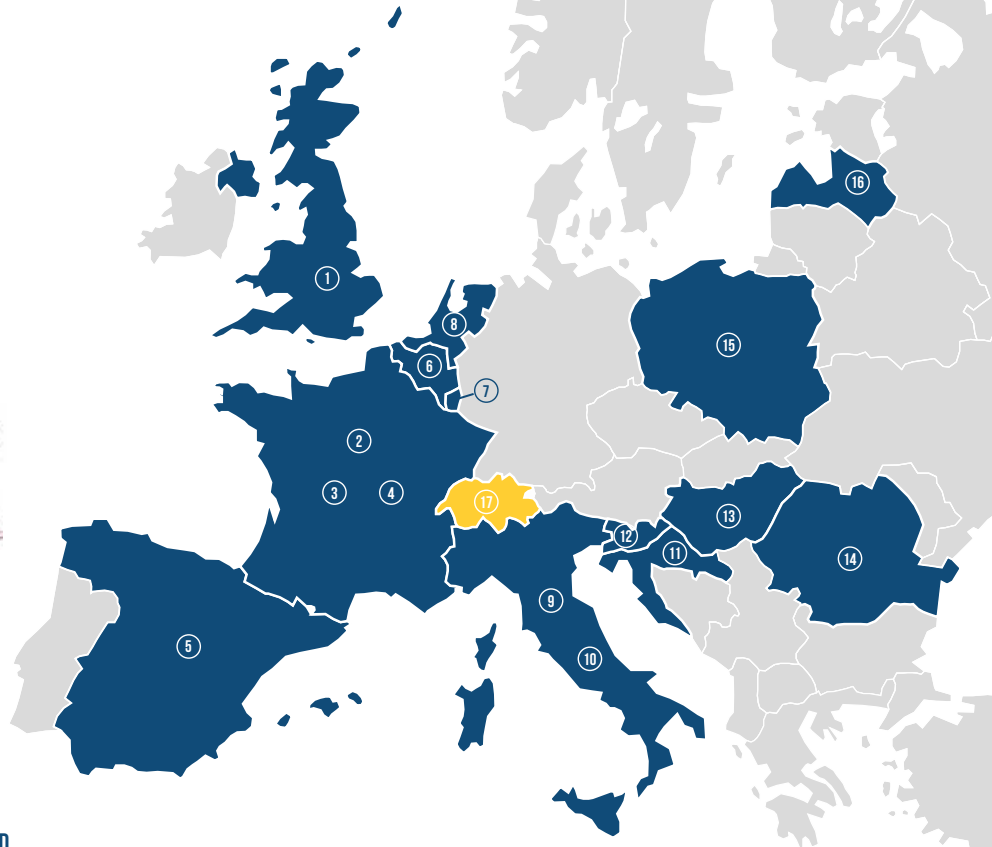
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EBC
CONSTRUCTION SMES EUROPE

The Voice of Construction SMEs in Europe

FULL MEMBERS
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- ①  **FMB**
The quality of building quality
- ②  **CAPEB**
Chambre Royale Belge des Architectes
- ③  **chnap**
Confédération Nationale des Constructeurs de Bâtiments
- ④  **SNSO**
- ⑤  **Związek Inżynierów Budowlanych**
- ⑥  **BOUWUNIE**
- ⑦  **FEDERATION DES ARCHITECTES**
- ⑧  **AFA**
ARCHITECTEN FEDERATIE NEDERLAND
- ⑨  **CNA**
Contractors
- ⑩  **ANZIEK**
Architectenvereniging van België
- ⑪  **CONFERENCA ARHITECTONIKA**
- ⑫  **Odbor Inženýrů Stavebního Inženýrství**
- ⑬  **IPOSZ**
- ⑭  **INPR**
- ⑮  **Polish Craft Association**
- ⑯  **LBA**
LATVIJAS BŪVNIERU ASOCIĀCIJA
- ⑰  **fmb**



EBC IS A MEMBER OF UEAPME AND A FOUNDING MEMBER OF SBS

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EBC'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016
IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE EBC WEBSITE
www.ebc-construction.eu

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**FOREWORD BY
THE PRESIDENT**

After celebrating the actions and successes of its first 25 years in 2015, the European Builders Confederation intends now to focus on the future and the prosperity of the construction sector in Europe, with the ultimate aim to **overcome the crisis we are still facing**. Being fully conscious of the innovation taking place in the industry and the need to attract new talents, EBC will strengthen the presence of construction SMEs to promote the economic, social and environmental progress in the sector.

Approaching the mid-term of my mandate, I am very pleased to see that **EBC is recognised as a key player by the European institutions** in Brussels, but also across Europe. It has indeed been formally acknowledged by the European Commission that EBC gathers half of the construction enterprises in Europe. EBC should finally become a full social partner of the European social dialogue for the construction sector, one of the priorities of my presidency.

I am therefore all the more proud because EBC was invited for the first time to an **informal EPSCO** Council in Amsterdam, with all the Employment and Social affairs Ministers of the European Union, to present its position on the posting of workers.

The fact that our recommendations are taken into account at the highest European level is very satisfactory. EBC is indeed deeply involved in the issue of posted workers, which mostly impacts the construction sector. It is a sensitive topic that needs our involvement in the decisions taken at the European level. Our enterprises now expect concrete, quick and efficient decisions from Brussels in order to **fight against unfair competition and social dumping**, which are scourges deeply harming our economy. After encouraging exchanges with the Commission, we will now alert the European Parliament on this topic.

Furthermore, we pursue our work to foment the adoption of **environmental and energy legislation taking into account the needs and limits of our small companies**. Construction SMEs play a key role regarding energy efficiency and the circular economy; we want to give our contribution on these matters of particular importance for us.

Finally, it is today clear that **modelling and digitalisation of construction data**, better known as BIM, will play a preponderant role in our sector. This revolution in the way buildings are designed will be at the centre of the debates during the EBC 26th Annual

Congress. In this framework, we have to keep in mind that any new process must be adapted to the necessities of the small and medium enterprise, the overwhelming majority of the construction enterprises in Europe.

To conclude, I would like to emphasize **the pressing need to train** entrepreneurs, workers and apprentices in our sector. Informing and raising awareness among women and young people about the careers paths construction offers, developing intergenerational exchanges, adapting to new forms of work by encouraging clustering and the pooling of skills, all these initiatives should be the at the heart of the actions of EBC and its members for the years to come.

PATRICK LIÉBUS
EBC PRESIDENT



PRESENTATION OF EBC

A VOICE FOR CONSTRUCTION SMEs IN BRUSSELS!

An increasing number of national regulations are little more than national adaptations of **European legislation** in the energy, social, fiscal and standardisation domains, usually implemented without properly assessing their impact on SMEs.

Six national associations representing **construction microenterprises** in different European countries therefore joined forces in 1990 to establish the European Builders Confederation EBC - the voice of construction SMEs in Europe.

Through its 17 member organisations EBC represents micro, small and medium-sized companies at European level. Via its Secretariat in Brussels, EBC works in close collaboration with the European Union of Craft and SMEs (UEAPME), organisation of which EBC is a member. EBC is also a founding member and project partner of Small Business Standards (SBS), the association representing SMEs in the standard making system.

WHAT IS THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR?

The construction industry ranges from **general contractors**, house-builders and bricklayers to **specialised trades** such as carpenters and joiners, plasterers, plumbers, heating & cooling and renewable energy installers, electricians, painters and interior decorators, tile-fixers, including entrepreneurs dealing with the production and processing of construction products.

Depending on the national context, EBC national members affiliate SMEs from all these sub-sectors of the construction industry.

THE MISSION

ANTICIPATE, EXCHANGE, POSITION AND THEN ACT

We represent, defend and promote the interests of the construction micro, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs, in close co-ordination with our national member organisations.

Our mission is:

- ▶ To ensure construction microenterprises and SMEs' specific needs are taken into consideration during the European legislative process in order to create an **SME-friendly business environment** and to make it possible for construction SMEs to be the driver of **sustainable economic growth** in Europe
- ▶ To put forward construction **SMEs' contribution to the European decision-making** in the field of sustainability, Health & Safety at Work, entrepreneurship, SME access to markets, standardisation, fair competition in the Internal Market, among others
- ▶ To increase **understanding of small and medium construction businesses' role** - which represent the vast majority of the sector - for employment and sustainable development, and make them heard vis-à-vis the European Institutions, the European Standardisation Organisations and other international organisations
- ▶ To enable representatives of small and medium construction enterprises to participate in the **European sectoral social dialogue**, thus increasing its relevance and reinforcing its impact. Social dialogue is crucial for a healthy functioning of our economy. However, it has to be representative in order to work well. This is why EBC is asking to be included as a full member in the European Social Dialogue Committee for Construction and give the input of builders on its important subjects.



EBC PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ Booklet on involving women and young people in construction
- ▶ EBC Manifesto for the 2014-2019 European legislative term
- ▶ A quarterly information newsletter
- ▶ The Construction Voice, a monthly newsletter for the press and the EU decision-makers
- ▶ An annual report
- ▶ Press releases
- ▶ Position papers
- ▶ Publications on the projects managed by EBC

All these publications are available on the EBC website: WWW.EBC-CONSTRUCTION.EU



EBC IS ALSO ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Find out more about EBC's activities on Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Flickr!



STRUCTURE OF EBC



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Rinaldo INCERPI
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AUDITOR

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Daan STUIT
(AFNL, Netherlands)



EBC representative in the European Social Dialogue Committee for Construction

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TEAM

THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR



91.9%

European construction enterprises with less than 10 employees



96.9%

European construction enterprises with less than 20 employees



98.9%

European construction enterprises with less than 50 employees



99.9%

European construction enterprises with less than 250 employees



0.1%

European construction enterprises with more than 250 employees



9%

of the GDP of the European Union



3 MILLION

enterprises in the sector



18 MILLION

workers in the sector

SMALL & MEDIUM CONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISES



80%

Produce 80% of the construction industry's OUTPUT



83%

Employ 83% of the total WORKFORCE of the sector



Create LOCAL JOBS



Have a huge potential to increase YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

YOUNG PEOPLE & WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

90% MALE

10% FEMALE

8% YOUNGER THAN 25

PERFORMANCE & TRENDS OF THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

European construction on the way to recovery

As from 2015 the construction industry seems on the path to recovery, according to data from Eurostat and from Euroconstruct, a network of research centres specialised in construction economics.

Production of the European construction sector

Eurostat registers an increase of 2.3% in production in construction in the 28 Member States in February 2016, compared with February 2015. This is due to building construction rising by 2.9%. Among Member States for which data are available, the **highest increases** in production in construction were recorded in **Slovakia** (+18.8%), **Spain** (+13.0%) and **Sweden** (+11.3%). The largest **decreases** were found in **Slovenia** (-30.8%), **Hungary** (-19.3%) and **Poland** (-10.1%). In **France** construction SMEs activity grew by 1% in the first quarter of 2016, breaking with a continuous downwards cycle since 2012.

After a very moderate growth in 2014, the growth rate of total construction output foreseen for 2015 was revised to 1.6% in December 2015, according to Euroconstruct. All **Central and Eastern European countries experienced significant growth** as they tried to absorb all available EU funds from the previous programming period.

Forecasts

Construction output in 2016 will be more positive than predicted with also a positive trend for 2017. Euroconstruct foresees a record growth rate of 3% for 2016 (as opposed to 2.4% in 2015) and 2.7% for 2017.

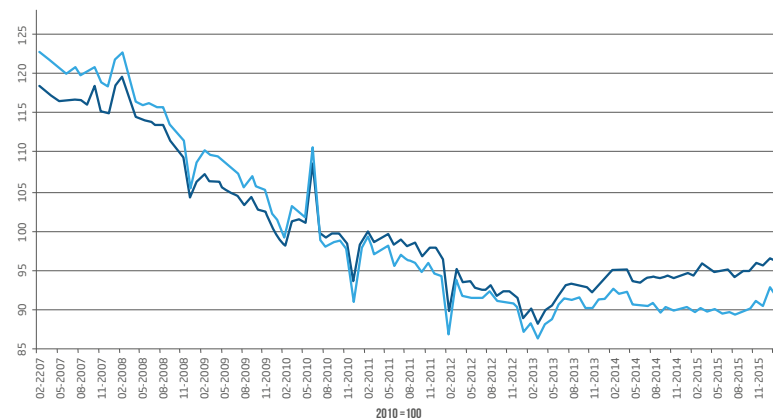
The European construction market has entered a phase of recovery but there is **no guarantee of long-lasting effects** as long as confidence from households and businesses is not back: the labour market is still weak in several countries, the credit market remains limited and public accounts corrections are still ongoing.

Around ten years ago, the total construction output of the Euroconstruct countries was **1,532 billion** Euros; today, the estimated value of the construction output is **1,450 billion Euros in 2017**.

PRODUCTION IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

— Euro area, seasonally adjusted series

— EU28, seasonally adjusted series



source : Eurostat 2016

EBC WELCOMES **THREE NEW MEMBERS** IN 2016

EBC is pleased to have welcomed three new member associations in 2016. They are the **Hungarian** Association of Crafts **IPOSZ**, the **Croatian** Chamber of Trades and Crafts **HOK** and the **French** national chamber of micro-enterprises in public works and landscape **CNATP**.

With these three new members, EBC has strengthened its geographical and sectoral representativeness. So in 2016 more construction SMEs have their voice heard in Europe.

INVOLVING **WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE** FOR MORE INCLUSIVE CONSTRUCTION SMEs

EBC dedicated the celebration of its 25 years in 2015 to a specific topic: how to involve more women and young people in construction trades. The construction sector is the EU's largest industrial employer with 18 million workers. However, it only has a **very small percentage of women and young people**. 1.5 million construction workers in the EU are female, while 92% of the sector's working population is over 25 years old.

There are **several reasons** for this situation, ranging from the stigma associated with skilled trades and the misperception that there are fewer career opportunities in construction, to the fact that the sector is perceived as being predominantly for men.

EBC has been working in 2015 and 2016 **to raise awareness** about this situation to improve the image of and drive a change in the sector.



“

The construction sector is the EU's largest industrial employer with 18 million workers. However, it only has a very small percentage of women and young people. EBC is committed to improving this situation.

”



**European Economic and Social Committee
Employers' Group**



PHOTO EXHIBITION IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE ORGANISED BY EBC

"Portraits of women and young people in construction" - Brussels, February 2016

The photos depicted the passions, the efforts and the stories of young people and women working in construction trades. The same pictures were exposed in October 2015 in the European Parliament.



EBC ANNUAL CONGRESS 2015

“25 years after the creation of EBC: which challenges for the future of construction SMEs in Europe?” - Geneva, June 2015

One of the main topics was the inclusion of women and young people in construction trades. The conference resulted in some conclusions and an engagement from EBC’s members to make the sector more inclusive

25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

“Involving women and young people for more inclusive construction SMEs”

- Brussels, October 2015

EBC organised a dinner debate and a photo exhibition in the European Parliament, inviting MEPs, representatives from the European Commission, national governments and other European associations.





EBC
CONSTRUCTION SPES EUROPE

Sofia Ribeiro (MEP)
Stihler (S&D) and MEP Silvia C
With the support of

ENGIE VELUX

**THE 25 YEARS ANNIVERSARY EVENTS
WERE CO-HOSTED BY MEP ANNE
SANDER, MEP SOFIA RIBEIRO, MEP
CATHERINE STIHLER AND MEP SILVIA
COSTA.**

The Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union supported the events for the 25 years of EBC

GRAND DUCHY OF
Presidency of
the Council of the
European Union **luxembourg**

The events for the 25 years were sponsored by

VELUX  **TOTAL**  **ENGIE**

ECONOMY & MARKETS

Getting the award criteria right in **public procurement**: EBC presents concrete examples at the Single Market Forum

Public procurement is estimated at more than **14% of the European Union's GDP**. Public procurement contracts are therefore a huge segment of the available work in the construction sector, where SMEs need to be included.

The European Commission organised a public conference in May 2016 in Tallinn, as a part of the Single Market Forum, on the use of the **right award criteria for the selection of offers** in public procurement.

In February 2014 the European Union adopted the new Public Procurement Directives. The Member States had until April 2016 to enact the new rules in their national law.

The new directives have introduced the most economically advantageous offer, next to the lowest price, as the two criteria to select the offer. EBC presented **best practices and bad concrete examples** from its members on the application of these criteria.

EUROPEAN
POLICIES &
EBC ACTIONS



©European Commission

Construction 2020 High Level Forum - Brussels, April 2016

The European Commission invites our UK's member Federation of Master Builders (FMB) to talk about how to improve the image of the sector.

INNOVATION IN CONSTRUCTION: **BIM** FOR SMEs

The change that Building Information Modelling (BIM) offers to the construction sector is of great impact, especially for SMEs. EBC considers of strategic relevance the participation in the debate around the implementation of BIM and how to make BIM an SME-friendly tool.

EBC contributed to the standardisation activities on BIM through the appointment of **an expert in the CEN Technical Committee on BIM**. It also presented its key messages at several events (e.g. the IV European Standardisation Summit, GeoBIM 2015, European BIM Summit):

- Ensuring a smooth **shift in public procurement** from traditional methods to BIM-based ones
- Promoting the adoption of BIM to foster **energy efficiency** and reduce **life-cycle costs** of buildings
- Promoting **BIM training programmes** that are not based on the use of a specific software, but are rather targeted to guide all construction professionals towards the digital transition of the construction sector
- Addressing the needs of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in how to design a **European standardised approach to BIM**

EBC monitors the activities of the newly created **European BIM Task Group** to ensure that the development of BIM-related guidance will be applicable by the widest possible segments of the construction market. EBC intends to contribute to the design of a favourable European approach in standardisation to Building Information Modelling for SMEs.

IN JUNE 2016

the EBC Annual Congress debated **how to make sure small and medium enterprises can tap into the potential of Building Information Modelling (BIM)**. Several aspects of BIM have been presented: its latest developments, the issues related to the training needs of construction entrepreneurs, its application to public procurement, small buildings renovation and retrofitting projects.



EBC speaks at GeoBIM Europe 2015 - Amsterdam, December 2015



EBC speaks at the European BIM Summit - Barcelona, February 2016



EBC WELCOMES THE REVISION OF THE **POSTED WORKERS** LEGISLATION

The European Commission released a proposal in March 2016 for a directive amending the current European rules on the posting of workers for the provision of services.

EBC sent a letter to Commissioner for Social Affairs Marianne Thyssen back in October 2015 to share its concerns and suggestions on posted workers in the discussion on the Labour Mobility Package. We are therefore very pleased to see that the European Commission took on board **our request of revision**.



After 20 years, it was time for a revision of the rules. Competition should be based on innovation and specialisation, not just on downwards salary divergence!



The situation in the Internal Market now is very different from 20 years ago, when the first directive was approved. At that time the average salaries in some Member States were up to 3 times higher than in other Member States. Today that gap has increased to ten times higher. This is important when such a **large disparity in workers' salaries** occurs in the same country - as it is the case of posted workers.

More than 40% of all posted workers in the European Union are in construction. This is putting many

small construction companies at risk. It creates unfair competition among companies that work in the same country but **do not play by the same rules**. Local jobs in companies respecting social security and labour legislation are under high pressure. In some cases, such as Belgium, they are already disappearing.

Competition should be based on innovation and specialisation, not just on downwards salary divergence!



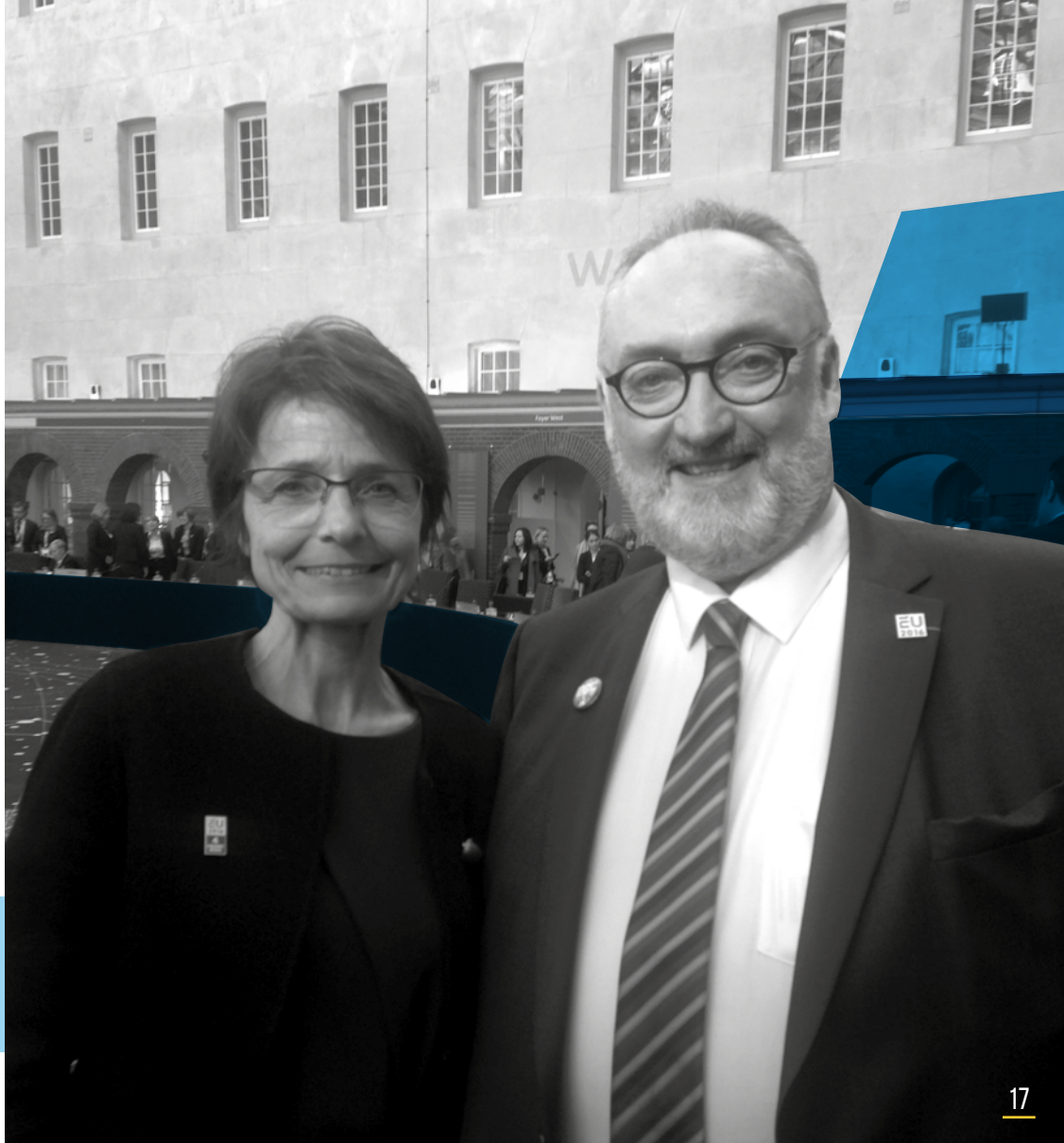
Croatian Chamber of Craftsmen (HOK) Annual Meeting - Zagreb, April 2016 - EBC talks about the benefits of reduced VAT rates for the construction sector at the Annual Meeting of its member HOK.

**SOCIAL
AFFAIRS**

EBC PRESIDENT ADDRESSES THE INFORMAL EPSCO COUNCIL ON POSTING OF WORKERS

The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council invited the European Social Partners of the construction sector for the first time in April 2016 to an informal meeting in Amsterdam. EBC President Patrick Liébus called on European and national decision-makers during the plenary session to tackle unfair competition and abuse of workers' rights arising from the current rules on posting.

EBC President Patrick Liébus and Commissioner for Social Affairs Marianne Thyssen





EBC is a significant industrial relations actor that brings a specific sectional supplement of representativeness on the employers' side.



EBC REPRESENTATIVENESS AS A EUROPEAN **SOCIAL PARTNER** IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

EBC welcomes the publication in September 2015 of the European study on the representativeness of the European social partner organisations in construction. Carried out by Eurofound - the EU agency specialised in social dialogue and work-related policies - the study was the long-awaited outcome of a request EBC made four years earlier to the European Commission.

Main findings of the study

The study describes EBC as "a significant industrial relations actor [that] brings a specific sectional supplement of representativeness on the employers' side". Half of all the European construction companies affiliated to an employers' organisation are members of EBC, according to Eurofound. The study therefore confirms that the European Social Dialogue Committee for Construction lacks a fundamental representation on the employers' side. Without EBC in its full rights of

European sectoral social partner, the employers' delegation represents only 29% of the construction enterprises.

Construction social partners

The Eurofound study constitutes the trigger to a needed reshuffle of the European Social Dialogue Committee for Construction. EBC asks to be fully integrated in the employers' delegation with the right to contribute to the debates, co-sign agreements and joint papers that can shape the future of the construction sector.

THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIP

The European Alliance for Apprenticeship (Eafa) is a platform to improve the quality and supply of apprenticeships across the EU and to change mind-sets towards apprenticeship-type learning. EBC supported this initiative by the European Commission since its launch in 2013. Its support was even strengthened in June 2015 when EBC signed an apprenticeship pledge for the construction sector.

Apprenticeship has a very high value for construction SMEs, especially to face the **European demographic challenge** and the skills mismatch. For this reason, EBC believes that the work of the Alliance in 2016 should be more focused on SMEs.

The Alliance should help companies, notably micro and small companies that make up 96.9% of the construction industry, overcome existing obstacles that prevent them from engaging in apprenticeship.

To this end, EBC supports three UEAPME proposals:

- **deepening business-education partnerships** with a clear role for social partners;
- **rationalising existing stakeholders' platforms** to share initiatives and information concerning apprenticeships;
- organising a **high-level event** on national commitments.

In this context, EBC is pleased to be part of the winning consortium of the DG GROW tender "**Monitoring of the learning commitment in the campaign on the construction sector**".



The Alliance should help micro and small companies overcome existing obstacles that prevent them from engaging in apprenticeship





MEP Guillaume Balas and EBC President Patrick Liébus



EBC President Patrick Liébus with MEP Jean Arthuis



EBC speaks at the Cedefop conference on *"Engaging SMEs in apprenticeships: Turning ideas into reality"* - Thessaloniki, November 2015

EBC WELCOMES THE ADOPTION OF THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM AGAINST **UNDECLARED WORK**

In February 2016 the European Parliament voted in favour of the establishment of a European platform to enhance cooperation in combating undeclared work. The purpose is to improve cooperation among EU member states' labour ministries, trade unions and employers' associations to tackle a problem that is damaging the EU economy and distorting the labour market. The **undeclared economy accounts for 18% of EU GDP.**

Functioning of the Platform

The main objectives are to encourage **practical, effective and efficient cross-border actions** and to develop a reliable system of rapid information exchange, especially between national inspection bodies. The platform will meet at least twice a year and specific working groups will be established to deal with different aspects of undeclared work.

The platform will be composed of senior representatives nominated by all member states, the European Commission and a maximum of four representatives of EU-level cross-industry social partners, split equally between workers and employers organisations.

EBC's contribution to the Platform

EBC welcomes this needed tool as SMEs, especially in the construction sector, are direct victims of undeclared work practices, such as bogus self-employment, leading to **unfair competition**. EBC will contribute to the action of this platform in order to find solutions to abusive situations affecting construction SMEs.





ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENT

©Photographer: Jasper Bosman

THE JUNCKER PLAN: A PROMISING INSTRUMENT TO RETROFIT THE PRIVATE HOUSING STOCK

The European Builders Confederation (EBC) and the International Union of Property Owners (UIPI) co-organised a workshop in March 2016 to learn how the Juncker Plan could be used to **boost private investment in small scale energy efficiency renovation.**

The event demonstrated that even though the Juncker Plan is not the silver bullet, it has great added-value

to finance energy efficiency. The French pilot project **“Picardie Pass Renovation”** was put forward as an approach to using the Investment Plan. It is a good example of how the European fund can benefit both property owners and construction SMEs. The project supports innovative business models such as the **aggregation of construction companies.**



Even though the Juncker Plan is not the silver bullet, it has great added-value to finance energy efficiency



EBC and UIPI joint seminar
“Retrofitting the private housing stock: is the Juncker Plan a solution?” - Brussels, March 2016



EBC speaks at the EuPC Annual Meeting on *“Innovation meets the requirements of the circular economy”* - Lyon, June 2016

CIRCULAR ECONOMY: THE CONTRIBUTION OF CONSTRUCTION SMEs

Representing a sector with a major environmental impact, EBC welcomed the publication of the Circular Economy Package by the European Commission in December 2015. To make sure legislation takes into account the needs of construction SMEs, EBC published a position paper. Construction SMEs support actions **that reduce the production of waste** and encourage sorting, re-use and recycling where this is technically and environmentally feasible but also cost-effective.

EBC also supports a **progressive ban on landfilling** as long as **suitable alternatives** are accessible and companies do not have to drive too far to access them, especially for toxic or hazardous waste.

It is essential for companies to easily find alternative systems in order not to degrade the proximity criterion. These systems can take the shape of **temporary and mobile platforms**, and must allow the concentration of small quantities of waste that will

end up in recycling or recovery sites. These platforms must constitute a homogeneous network, so businesses can deposit their waste in the respect of the proximity principle. The costs must be adapted to the type and quantity of waste.

On top of this, if the EU wants to seriously reduce waste in landfills, **recycled products** must be better promoted. The aim of recycling, reusing or recovering 70% of non-hazardous construction and

demolition waste by 2020 will only be achieved if the market for recycled materials evolves. Nowadays, mistrust towards recycled construction products is still very important, the offer for this kind of products is insufficient and prices are too high. Therefore, **fiscal incentives** for recycled construction products should be established.



Construction SMEs support actions that reduce the production of waste and encourage sorting, re-use and recycling where this is technically, environmentally and economically feasible.



TEPPFA FORUM 2016 – BRUSSELS, APRIL 2016

EBC was a media partner of the Teppfa Forum 2016. The Forum focused on the need for constant environmental improvement. EBC also spoke at the Forum.

REVIEWING **THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY** DIRECTIVE AND THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS DIRECTIVE: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE AMBITION!

2016 is the implementation year for the Energy Union. The European Commission has promised to deliver high ambition on energy efficiency, notably with the review of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) expected for the second half of 2016.

EBC believes that some aspects of the directives can be improved, but recalls that both texts are still young. The **legislative framework should stabilise** to avoid uncertainties and fragmentation. Both the industry and the consumers need long term measures to gain confidence in the market and have time to adapt.

What is needed?

- More **synergies between the EED and the EPBD** to increase the retrofitting rate of existing buildings.
- A **stable long-term financial framework**. Upfront costs are a real obstacle for clients, especially since return on investment requires a fairly long time. To overcome this issue, EBC asked for incentive mechanisms to be strengthened.
- The **recognition of informal training schemes**. In some cases these trainings are considered as important as formal qualification requirements. Through continuous vocational trainings, qualification and certification of professionals, the construction sector can comply with the EPBD.

A **better and more systematic use of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)** under the EPBD. However, EPCs must remain an information tool on the current energy performance of the building by using clear and understandable classes of performance.

The **continuity of white certificate mechanisms** under the EED. They contribute to upskilling workers involved in energy efficiency. They can also be a source of private funding for the renovation of residential and commercial buildings. However, the evolution of the white certificates market and the decreasing price of these certificates are making them less interesting for the obligated parties. In our opinion, these mechanisms should be further promoted, as they demonstrated to work.

Construction SMEs are ready and willing to take up the challenge of energy efficiency!

EBC IN FAVOUR OF ENERGY LABELLING OF WINDOWS UNDER STRICT CONDITIONS

Consumers should be better informed on the windows they buy. An energy label for windows is a good way to convey information, since the current information reported on CE marking on window products is not easily understandable for consumers. This is why EBC is in favour of an energy labelling for windows.

However, for EBC to support any European energy labelling for windows, the scheme must meet certain conditions of fundamental importance to construction micro-companies and SMEs. In particular, it is essential that the labelling process **does not require any additional testing**. Energy labelling should also entail **support & accompanying measures** for small companies for the transition phase.

Breakfast debate: The Human Dimension of Energy Efficiency in Buildings

How to bring people on board towards purchasing energy efficient products



EBC speaks at the breakfast debate organised by EHPA titled *"The human dimension of energy efficiency in buildings"* - Brussels, June 2016



EBC speaks at the IEPPEC Conference *"Make the Paris Agreement a reality with effective evaluation for energy efficiency"* - Amsterdam, June 2016



EBC organises a conference on *"Towards a successful energy efficiency policy in Europe"* with the French utility EDF and the French association of electricity UFE - Brussels, June 2016

EBC'S ROLE TO REPRESENT CONSTRUCTION SMES IN STANDARDISATION

Small Business Standards (SBS) is a European non-profit association established in October 2013 with the support of the European Commission. Its mission is to represent and defend **SME interests in the standardisation process** at European and international level. EBC, together with UEAPME, is a founding member and project partner of SBS.

EBC coordinates the construction-related activities within SBS to improve the input of construction SMEs in the standardisation process. EBC represents SBS in the main construction-related advisory groups and technical committees. In this way, EBC aims at facilitating the implementation of the Construction Product Regulation (CPR), which

is the main piece of legislation for standardisation in the construction sector.

EBC chairs the SBS Construction Forum since 2015. This yearly event engages the SME community in discussions and elaborates positions on SME relevant issues for standardisation in construction.

EBC experts in construction

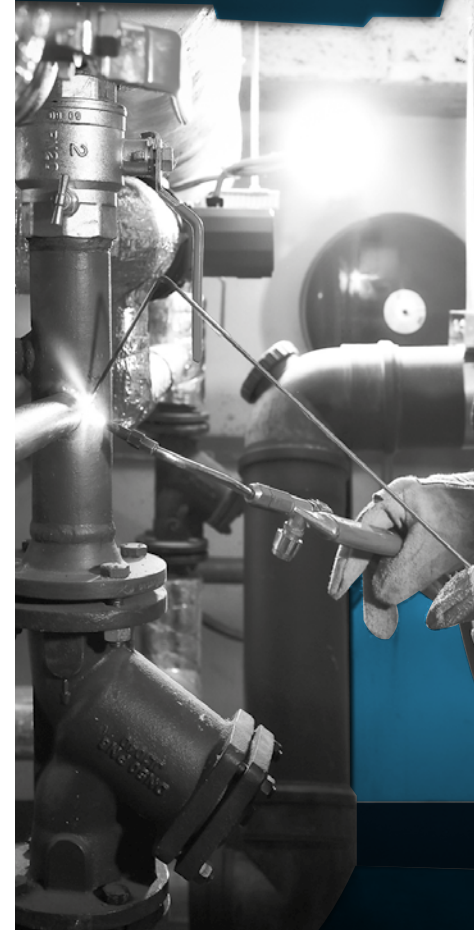
SBS has appointed 12 new experts for 2016. As a result, 17 experts (out of 51) will follow construction-related standardisation activities and represent SMEs' needs - which are often neglected in this field.

Two of the 17 SBS construction experts are from EBC. As from 2016 construction SMEs will therefore have more voice in the standard making

system. Expert Riccardo Viaggi will follow standardisation on **energy performance of buildings** (CEN TC 371), whereas expert Guido Sabatini will follow **Building Information Modelling** (CEN TC 442).

The experts can directly contribute to the creation of standards, monitor that standards are SME-friendly and therefore promote a better adaptation of standards to fit SME needs. In this field, building on the work already done in 2015, major activities are related to the **promotion of CEN-CENELEC Guide 17**, the guidance document for writing standards that takes into account SME needs and improve their quality and usability.

STANDARDISATION



EBC coordinates the construction-related activities within SBS to improve the input of construction SMEs in the standardisation process.





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SUPPORTING CONTRACTORS IN STANDARDISATION: THE SBS **QUALITY INITIATIVE ON CONSTRUCTION** STANDARDISATION

EBC contributed to launching the SBS “Quality Initiative on Construction Standardisation” at the end of 2015. This initiative is fully inscribed in the framework of the European Joint Initiative on Standardisation, as part of the **Single Market Strategy** published by the European Commission in October 2015. The aim of the SBS initiative is to strengthen the **competitiveness of construction companies** as well as ensure legal certainty and consumer protection through improving regulations. The initiative intends to trigger deeper discussions on topics that have an impact on construction contractors:

■ The integration of different **national requirements** into standards under the Construction Product Regulation

■ The **coherence of European standardisation** in the construction sector

■ The applicability of **CE Marking** for construction companies

■ The interplay between **Annex ZA** (a kind of “check list” that manufacturers use to CE mark) and the other part of the standard.

EBC also supports SBS in bringing committed partners (the European Commission, national & European Standardisation bodies, construction products manufacturers and users) around the table. The objective is to identify issues concerning the European standardisation system that directly affect construction product users and commit to concrete actions for the successful implementation of the initiative.



The initiative intends to trigger deeper discussions on topics that have an impact on construction contractors



EBC presents Guide 17 at a **CEN-CENELEC seminar** - Brussels, December 2015



SME-FRIENDLY MEASURES FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE **CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS REGULATION**

The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) is the most important piece of legislation for standardisation in the construction sector, since it sets the conditions for the CE marking of construction products. EBC constantly monitors and tries to influence positively the implementation of this regulation.

In this process, EBC successfully proposed the drafting of a new template for Annex ZA (a kind of “check list” that manufacturers use to CE mark).

The new template makes now reference to those provisions of the CPR (known as “simplified procedures”) that allow micro-enterprises to assess internally the performance of their products without recurring to the Notified Bodies.



WHAT IS THE CONSTRUCTION PRODUCT REGULATION?

The Construction Product Regulation (CPR) defines, by means of a “common technical language”, reliable information on construction products in relation to their performances, offering uniform assessment methods of the performance of construction products. The CPR makes the CE marking mandatory for construction products covered by harmonised European Standards (hENs).

For products not covered, or not fully covered, by a hEN, the CE marking may be applied on voluntary basis through a European Technical Assessment issued by a Technical Assessment Body. In both cases, it is required to draft a Declaration of Performance, a document informing about the essential characteristics of the product.

PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEES WORKING GROUPS

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

EBC President Patrick Liébus joined the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in October 2015 for a five-year mandate. He is a full member of the EESC Single Market and Social Affairs Sections. He represents the French Confederation of the micro and small construction businesses (CAPEB) and the Professional Union of micro-companies (UPA). EBC Secretary General Riccardo Viaggi was appointed as his alternate member.



European Economic and Social Committee



SBS

Considering the fundamental interest in standardisation for construction SMEs, EBC contributed to the preparation of the winning project proposal to create Small Business Standards SBS. SBS represents SMEs in the standard making process at European and international level. In addition to being a founding member, EBC sits on the SBS Board of Directors. EBC is the coordinator of the construction-related activities in standardisation for SBS. EBC is also the organiser of the SBS Construction Forum, where experts meet to discuss the latest hot topics in standardisation.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSTRUCTION

EBC has held the status of observer in the Standing Committee on Construction since 2004. This Committee has been created by the Construction Products Directive (89/106/CEE) with the task of examining any issue related to the implementation of the directive. The Committee is chaired by the Head of the Construction Unit (DG GROW) and is formed by representatives of the Member States.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR CONSTRUCTION

The European Social Dialogue Committee for Construction was created in 1999 by FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation) and EFBWW (European Federation of Building and Wood Workers). In 2007 EBC was integrated as an observer within the employers' delegation for this committee. The EBC Board of Directors mandated Andrea Marconi (ANAEP, Italy) and Riccardo Viaggi (EBC Secretary General) to represent EBC at the committee meetings.



CEN TECHNICAL COMMITTEES ON ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS AND BIM

Two of the SBS construction experts are from EBC. Expert Riccardo Viaggi follows standardisation activities on energy performance of buildings (CEN TC 371), whereas expert Guido Sabatini follows standardisation developments of Building Information Modelling (CEN TC 442).



EBC CHAIRS THE UEAPME CONSTRUCTION FORUM

As of 2008, EBC - represented by Daan Stuit (from AFNL, the Netherlands) - has been chairing the UEAPME Construction Forum, a sectoral committee within UEAPME. The Forum meets twice a year (usually in April and October) with a full agenda to discuss the most important policy developments regarding construction micro companies and SMEs. Several European sectoral associations and national horizontal associations from UEAPME members take part in the Forum.



The Voice of Construction SMEs in Europe

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