



## CONCRETE PERSPECTIVES

March 2015

### Construction sector

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- On 27 February 2015, the European Concrete Platform (ECP) provided its contribution to the questionnaire on the **green public procurement (GPP) criteria** for office buildings currently developing by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

[European Concrete Platform - Green Public Procurement Criteria Comments](#)

- On 3 March, Fire Safe Europe (FSEU) held a discussion with meeting of **MEPs Against Cancer (MAC)** in the European Parliament. FSEU called for the introduction of more stringent smoke toxicity regulations for construction materials.

[Fire Safe Europe - Press Release](#)

- On 5 March, a high level policy **conference** took place about the **Circular Economy**. The Concrete Initiative and CEMBUREAU were sponsors of the event and they equally provided a speaker as well in the person of CEMBUREAU Chief Executive Koen Coppenholle. Also, The Concrete Initiative published a new blog prior to the event.

For further information about the conference, please visit the organiser, [Forum Europe webpage](#) dedicated to the event.

For reading the blog and the interactions during the conference, please visit [The Concrete Initiative's webpage](#).

- **WAN Concrete in Architecture Award** is now open, with a new subcategory for Low-carbon concrete building sponsored by the World Concrete Forum. The competition is open until 30 April 2015.

For further information, please visit the award's [website](#).

- The **2015 PCI Design Awards Site** is now open, with two new international categories: Buildings and Bridges. Projects entered into these categories must be located in a country other than the U.S. or Canada. The PCI Certification requirement is temporarily waived for this category.

For further information, please visit the [PCI Design Award Site](#).

- On 24 March, **INGRESS, Industry Group on European Standardisation Strategy** was officially created, of which BIBM is a member. The purpose of setting up INGRESS is





to promote the common interests of industry in those areas of standardisation policy falling under Regulation 1025/2012; and to ensure that the principle driver of European standardisation should be market relevance.

[INGRESS Website](#)

- On 26 March, BUSINESSEUROPE hosted its second **BUSINESSEUROPE Day**. The conference drew the attention to the importance of viable business investments in the field of climate change, digitalisation and called for better regulation to unleash the single market. In his keynote speech, President Juncker emphasised the importance of businesses and published a list of 10 priorities to boost Investment, Growth and Employment.

[Speech President Juncker](#)

[BUSINESSEUROPE - event website](#)

- **European Responsible Housing Initiative (ERHIN)** launched its website, <http://www.responsiblehousing.eu/en/>. [Housing Europe](#) stands behind the initiative, and BIBM was informed about this new initiative thanks to the good relationship it has with the Secretariat. The initiative aims at promoting “fair and ethical housing production and management which improves the economic and social conditions of local communities”.

## Live from the European Union

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### European Environment - State and Outlook 2015 Report published

On 3 March, a new report was published by the European Environment Agency titled “European Environment – State and Outlook 2015 Report” (SOER). The report is an integrated assessment of Europe’s environment that includes data at global, regional and country levels. The paper calls for a new, broader package on the Circular Economy, a review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, an action plan on Ocean Governance and a modified Air Quality package.

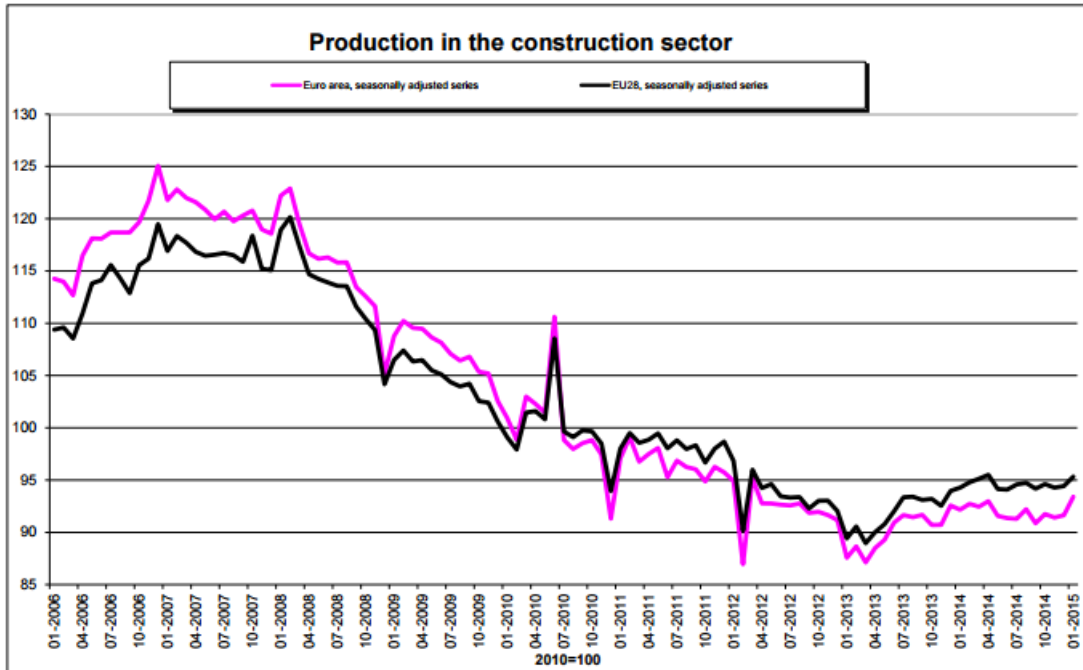
[European Commission - Press Release](#)

[European Environmental Agency - State and Outlook 2015 Report](#)



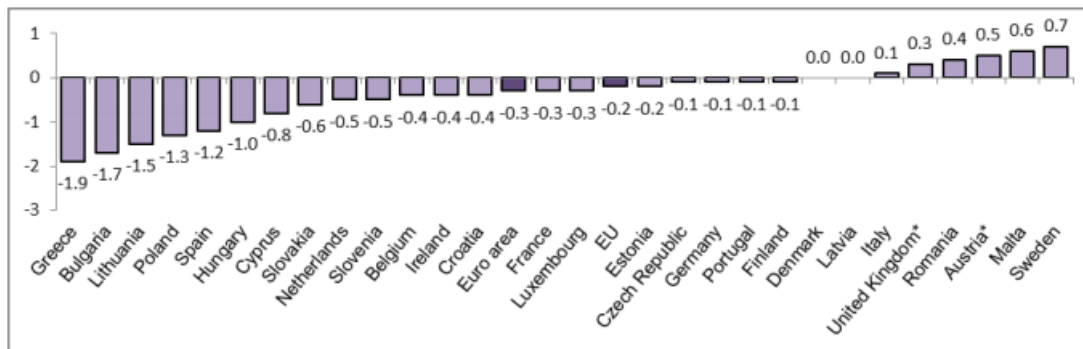


News in brief



**Graph 1- Production in Construction** (pink -Euro Area, Black EU28)

According to first estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in January 2015 compared with December 2014, the seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector grew by 1.9% in the euro area (EA19) and by 1.0% in the EU28.

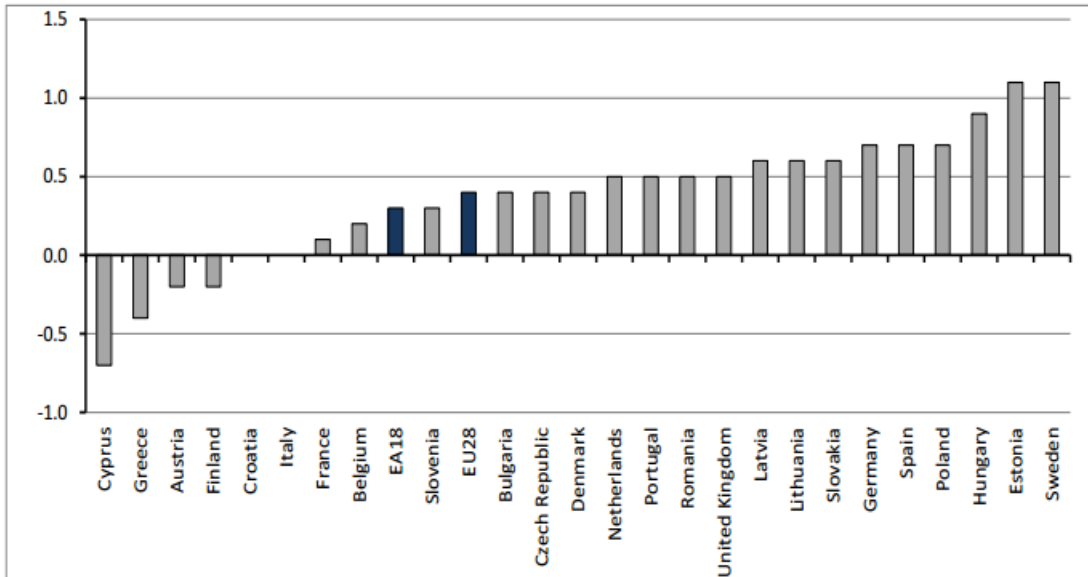


**Graph 2 - Annual inflation rates** (%) in February 2015, in ascending order

Annual inflation up to -0.3% in the euro area, while EU28 up to -0.2%.

\*Data for Austria is provisional

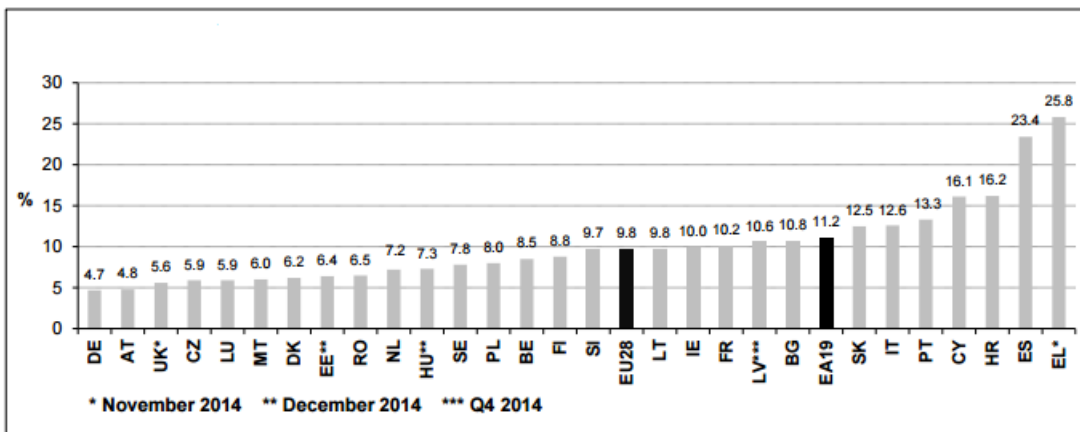




**Graph 3 - EU28, euro area and Member States' GDP growth rates** in the fourth quarter of 2014 (% change over the previous quarter)

Second estimate for the fourth quarter of 2014 shows that the GDP grew by 0.3% in the euro area and by 0.4% in the EU28; +0.9% and +1.3% respectively compared with the fourth quarter of 2013.

\* Ireland, Luxembourg and Malta: data not available for the fourth quarter of 2014.



**Graph 4 - Unemployment rates in January 2015 , seasonally adjusted**

The euro area (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 11.2% in January 2015, down from 11.3% in December 2014, and from 11.8% in January 2014.





## AGENDA

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### APRIL

14 April 2015  
**SAFECLADDING**  
Madrid, Spain

16-17 April 2015  
**CEN/TC 229**  
Berlin, Germany

20 April 2015  
**INGRESS meeting**  
Brussels, Belgium

22 April 2015  
**SG13 (Notified Bodies) meeting**  
Barcelona, Spain

23 April 2015  
**HOLCOFIRE Steering Group**  
Brussels, Belgium

23 April 2015  
**The Concrete Initiative Thematic Lunch**  
(\*attendance upon invitation only)  
Brussels, Belgium

28 April 2015  
**BIBM Board meeting**  
Brussels, Belgium

29 April 2015  
**Environment Commission**  
Brussels, Belgium

### MAY

5-6 May 2015  
**CEN/TC 104/SC 1**  
Brussels, Belgium

6-7 May 2015  
**CEN/TC 104**  
Brussels, Belgium

11 May 2015  
**ECP TF Fire and Eurocodes**  
(conffcall)

12 May 2015  
**ECP TF Sustainable Concrete**  
(conffcall)

18 May 2015  
**AhG Concrete Initiative**  
Brussels, Belgium

19 May 2015  
**BIBM Communication Commission**  
Brussels, Belgium

28 May 2015  
**NEPSI Campaign launch meeting**  
Brussels, Belgium

### JUNE

1-2 June 2015  
**ECP Board meeting & General Assembly**  
Brussels, Belgium

3 June 2015  
**CPE CPR working group**  
Brussels, Belgium

9 June 2015  
**CPE General Assembly**  
Brussels, Belgium

16 June 2015  
**BIBM General Assembly**  
Leiden, Netherlands

24 June 2015  
**NEPSI Council**  
Brussels, Belgium

25 June 2015  
**The Concrete Initiative Thematic Lunch**  
(\*attendance upon invitation only)  
Brussels, Belgium





To the Newsletter of Construction Products Europe (former CEPMC), please follow [this link](#).

To read the Newsletter of CEMBUREAU, please follow [this link](#). You can also subscribe directly following this link <http://www.cembureau.eu/newsletter/subscriptions>.

To read the Quarterly Newsletter of The Concrete Initiative, please follow [this link](#).

#### **List of Acronyms**

ACE - Architects' Council of Europe

CPE - Construction Product Europe

CPR - Construction Products Regulation

ECP - European Concrete Platform

EIB - European Investment Bank

LIFE Programme - is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action

TF - Task Force

AhG - Ad-hoc Group

