



## CONCRETE PERSPECTIVES

September 2015

### Construction sector

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#### **Fitness Check for the Construction Sector**

The second mirror group meeting took place on 21 September and a study commissioned by the European Commission identified eight EU legislations on Internal Market and Energy efficiency (2004-2014) for further analysis:

- Construction Product Regulation
- Professional Qualifications Directive
- Services Directive
- Late Payment Directive
- Energy Efficiency Directive
- Energy Performance of Building Directive
- Ecodesign Directive
- Energy Labelling Directive

The next, second fitness check study will focus on environmental and health & safety legislations.

The fitness check of the construction sector was launched in 2012 by the REFIT programme of the European Commission and it aims at reducing regulatory burden in order to support the recovery of the construction sector.

#### **Thermal mass: The smart approach to energy performance**

The finalised Thermal Mass factsheet was published by The Concrete Initiative.

[The Concrete Initiative - Publications](#)

[The Concrete Initiative - Thermal Mass Factsheet](#)

#### **NEPSI**

The aim of the [NEPSI project](#) (acronym for the European Network for Silica) is to increase the safety of workers in contact with respirable crystalline silica whilst ensuring its use at industrial level.

[NEPSI project - BIBM one pager](#)





## Hungarian Concrete Festival

On 30 September 2015, the Hungarian Precast Concrete Association (MABESZ) and the Hungarian Cement, Concrete and Masonry Association (CeMBeton) organised the first Concrete Festival in Budapest with an impressive conference and workshop programme. The conference had several presentations about the latest developments of architectural concrete and latest technological developments. BIBM gave a presentation about The Concrete Initiative and the daily work behind BIBM advocacy.

Among the presentations were the Szövetség '39 (S'39), a hybrid design manufacture creative team whose primary focus is artistic design of large scale projects. The S'39 presented their very successful educational project for design and applied arts students, called 'BETON Workshop'. At the conference, a small exhibition was also held where the attendees could have a look at the several creative projects prepared by the students for the "love of concrete".

### [BETON Workshop project](#) [Hungarian Concrete Festival](#)





## Live from the European Union

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### **European Environmental Agency issues new report on green infrastructure**

On 21 September 2015, the European Environmental Agency published a new report entitled “Exploring nature-based solutions - The role of green infrastructure in mitigating the impacts of weather- and climate change-related natural hazards”.

Weather- and climate-related hazards, including extreme precipitation, floods, wet mass movement and storm surges are among the most serious climate related hazards. The new report tries to find out how the green infrastructure can help to get prepared for such extreme events.

[European Environmental Agency - Press Release](#)

[European Environmental Agency - the Report](#)

### **European Parliament’s resolution on the European Commission’s Work Programme 2016**

On 16 September, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the European Commission Work Programme for 2016.

In its resolution, the Parliament pushes for a new proposal for circular economy package, for the revision of the energy efficiency policy including the energy performance of buildings.

Currently, the public consultation on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) is open and the European Concrete Platform is developing a common answer of the concrete sector.

The revision of the EPBD is due by the end of 2016, as required under Article 19 of the directive.

The European Commission will present its Work Programme for 2016 in Strasbourg on 29 October.

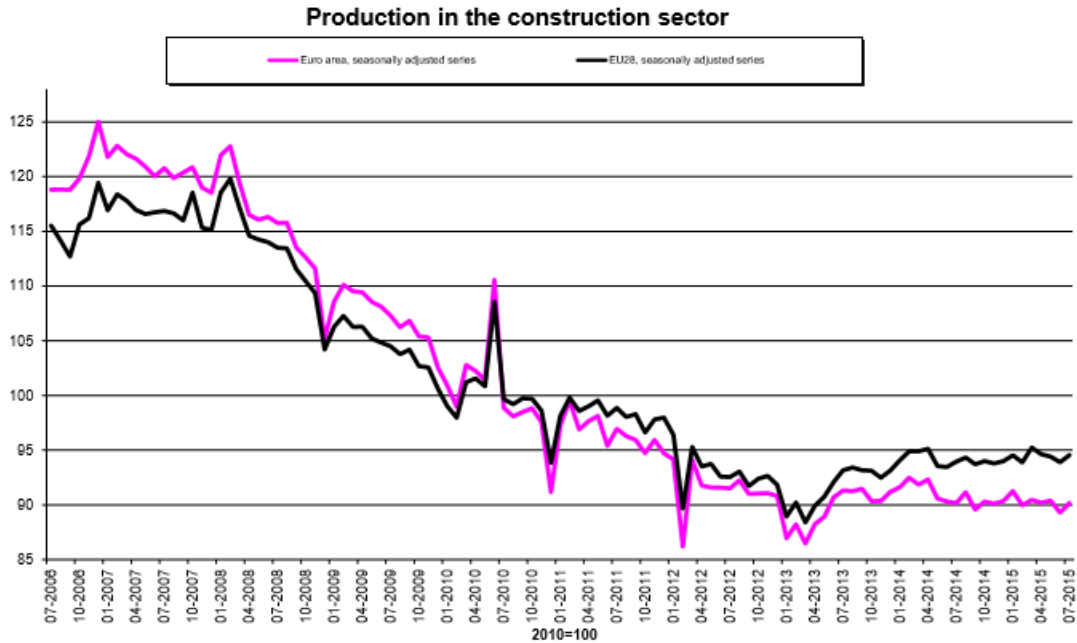
[European Parliament’s resolution](#)

[Press Release](#)



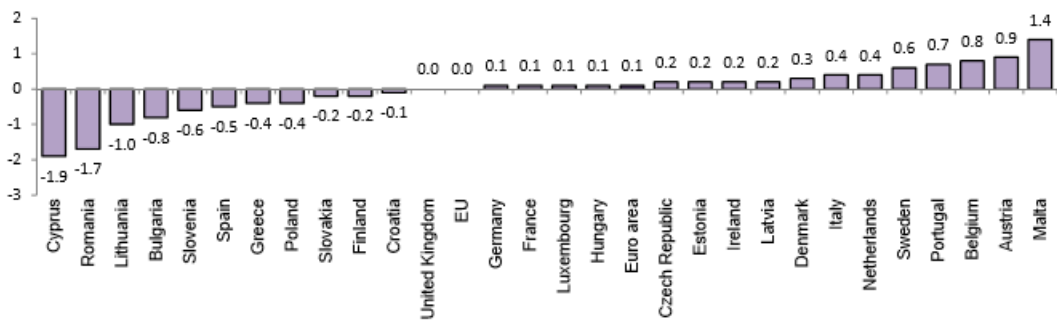


News in brief



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

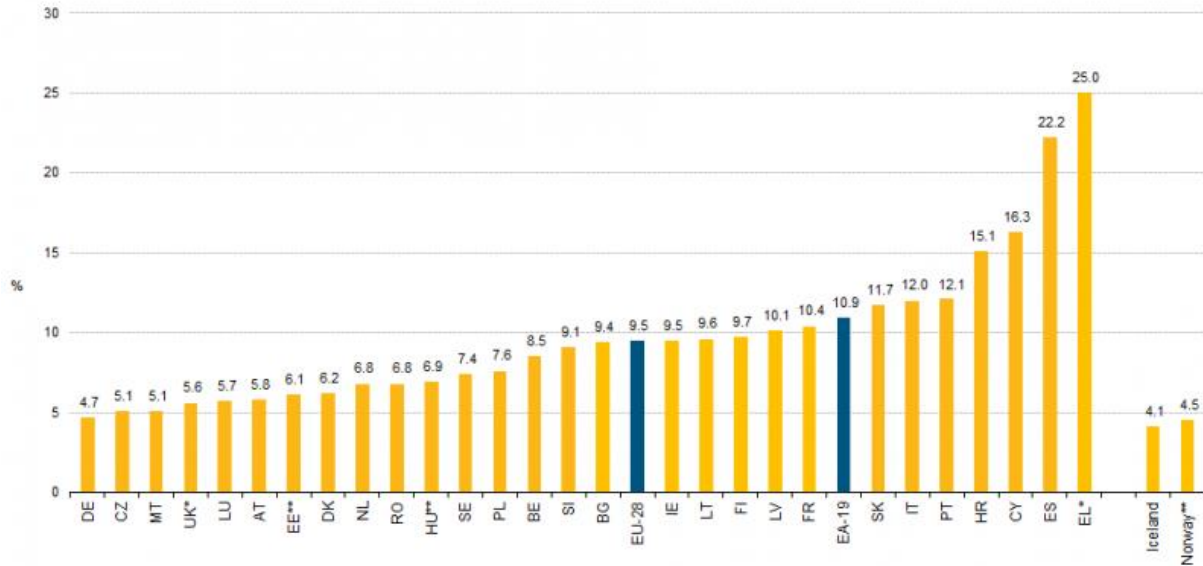
According to first estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in July 2015 compared with June 2015, the seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector rose by 1.0 % in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.7% in the EU28.



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

Annual inflation was 0.1% in August 2015 in the Euro area and 0.0% in EU 28





Graph 3 - [Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates](#) July 2015

The euro area seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.9 % in July 2015, down from 11.1% in June 2015. The EU-28 unemployment rate was 9.5 % in July 2015, down from 9.6 % in June 2015.





## AGENDA

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### OCTOBER

2 October 2015

**INGRESS meeting**

Brussels, Belgium

6 October 2015

**ECP TF Sustainable Concrete**

Brussels, Belgium

7 October 2015

**Environmental Commission**

Brussels, Belgium

14 October 2015

**CPE TG CPR implementation**

Brussels, Belgium

15 October 2015

**COHERENO final conference**

Brussels, Belgium

20 October 2015

**Communication Commission**

Brussels, Belgium

28 October 2015

**CEN/TC 229/WG 5 meeting (tbc)**

Brussels, Belgium

### NOVEMBER

10 November 2015

**CEN/TC 229/WG 4 meeting**

Brussels, Belgium

17 November 2015

**BIBM General Assembly**

Brussels, Belgium

19 November 2015 (upon invitations only)

**The Concrete Initiative: Citizens at the heart of sustainably-built environment**

Brussels, Belgium

19 November 2015

**ECP TF Fire & Eurocodes**

Brussels, Belgium

20 November 2015

**ECP Board**

Brussels, Belgium

23 November 2015

**CPE CPR meeting**

Brussels, Belgium

25 November 2015

**BIBM Technical Commission (tbc)**

Brussels, Belgium

26-27 November 2015

**JRC SafeSust workshop**

Ispra, Italy

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

CPE - Construction Product Europe

CPR - Construction Products Regulation

C&D waste - construction and demolition waste

ECP - European Concrete Platform

EMA - European Masonry Alliance

JRC - Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

PCR - Product Category Rules

TF - Task Force

AhG - Ad-hoc Group

