



Construction sector

European Commission proposes anti-subsidy investigation on Chinese steel products

On 13 May, the European Commission launched an anti-subsidy investigation on imports of Chinese hot-rolled flat steel, on which an anti-dumping investigation is already ongoing since February.

The Commission believes that imports under current conditions might cause economic damage to the EU industry. The Commission is committed to make full use of the available trade defence instruments to restore fair trading conditions for the European steel sector, affected by the global production overcapacity.

The Commission has nine months to establish whether conditions to impose provisional countervailing duties are met.

European Commission's Workshop: Improving the management of construction and demolition waste

On 25 May, the European Commission held a workshop entitled Improving the management of construction and demolition waste. '[Resource Efficient Use of Mixed Waste](#)' is a new project of the European Commission, led by BIO by Deloitte in partnership with BRE, ICEDD, VTT, RPS and FCT of NOVA University of Lisbon on the subject. The aim of the workshop was to consult stakeholders and Member States before the final report is prepared.

The workshop discussed the following issues:

1. EU targets (backfilling)
2. Prevention
3. Demolition practices
4. Reuse
5. Supporting the recycled materials market
6. Data quality/ statistics



Pictured speaking: Julio García Burgués (EC, Head of Unit DG Environment)

As for backfilling, the Commission wants to clarify the definition in order to get data and statistics right. Stakeholders' discussion (UEPG, BIBM, CEMBUREAU) confirmed that even though the definition of backfilling is not clear as it is stated in the Waste Framework Directive, construction related works using recycled aggregates (inert waste) should be excluded from the term backfilling and cited as recovery or recycling; and of course, accounted for the 70% recycling target.

Backfilling could mean potentially the quarry rehabilitation operations (to avoid landfill tax).

Furthermore, the Commission also confirmed that there is more to do about waste prevention, because Member States do not concentrate much about it, however it is very important.

The finalised report will be prepared by the end of summer 2016.



Live from the European Union

Study Energy Union: Key Decisions for the Realisation of a Fully Integrated Energy Market

The European Parliament's Industry, Research and Energy Committee initiated a [study on the Energy Union](#). The aim of the study is to assess whether, and to what extent, the EU's internal energy market objectives can effectively and efficiently be reached with the current policies and instruments.

In February 2015 the European Commission introduced the Energy Union package with the aim "to give EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy". One of the most important pillars of the Energy Union is that the electricity and gas markets should function properly and be integrated at the European level.

European Commission presents proposal on Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive

On 13 May 2016 the European Commission proposes changes to the [Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive \(2004/37/EC\)](#) to limit exposure to 13 cancer-causing chemicals at the workplace.

Concretely, the Commission proposes to address exposure to 13 cancer-causing chemicals by including new or amended limit values in the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive. These limit values set a maximum concentration for the presence of a chemical carcinogen in the workplace air.

Includes in Annex I to the Directive a new entry for "*work involving exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust generated by a work process*" and set corresponding limit values in Annex III an exposure limit value at 0.1 mg/m³ for respirable fraction.

The Commission states this amendment will protect workers from occupational lung disease particularly those in the construction sector which represents almost 70 % of workers exposed to this chemical.

[European Commission - Press Release](#)

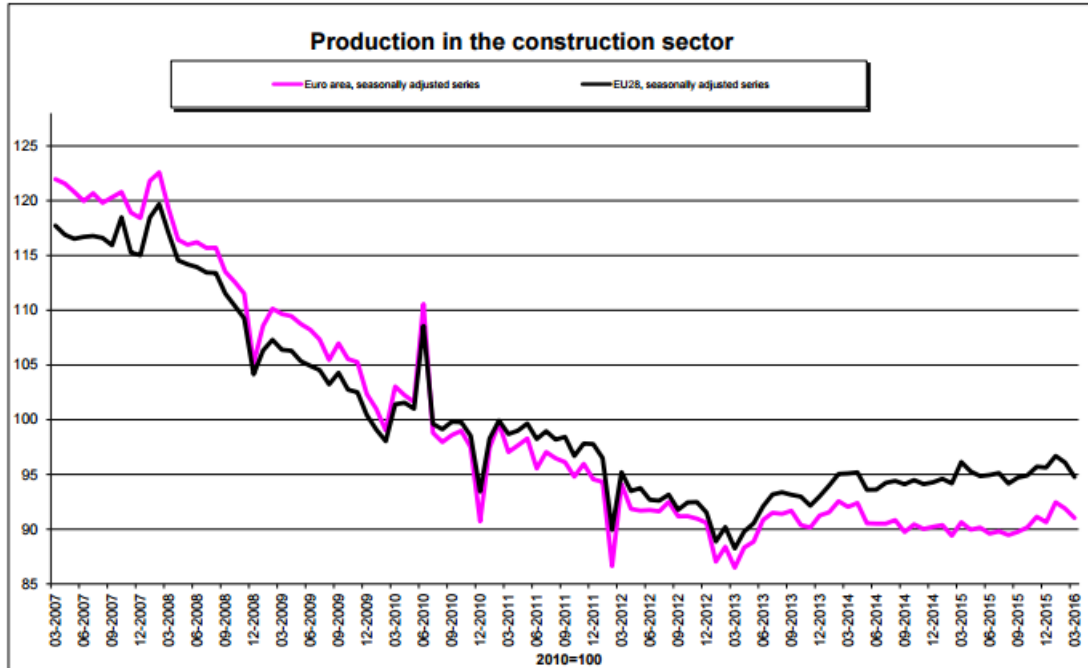
European Commission launches Innovation Deals

On 26 May, the European Commission launched [Innovation Deals](#), a new pilot scheme aim to help innovators with promising solutions to environmental issues overcome what they perceive as regulatory challenges to bringing their ideas to market.

The Commission published an open invitation in which it is looking for projects with strong potential to contribute to the EU's [Circular Economy](#) Action Plan.

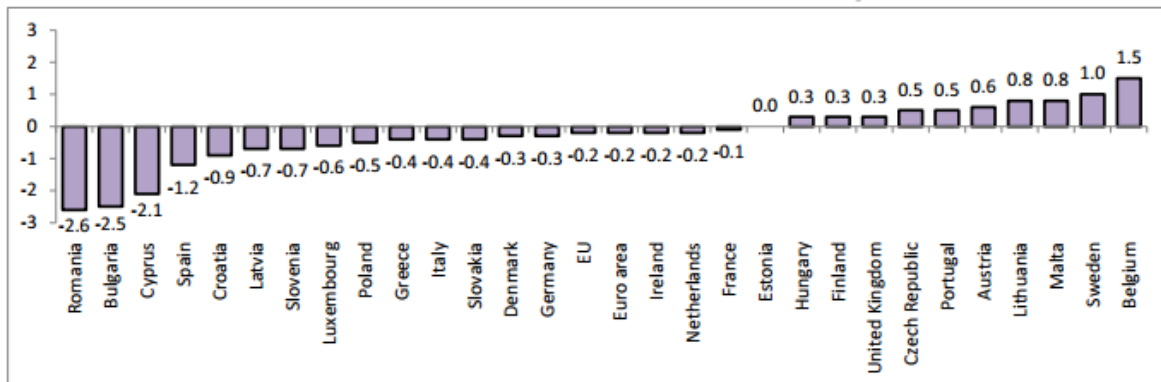


News in brief



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

According to first estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in March 2016 compared with February 2016, the seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector fell by 0.9 % in the euro area (EA19) and by 1.4% in EU28.



Graph 2 - Annual inflation rates (%) in April 2016, in ascending order

Annual inflation was -0.2% both in the Euro area and in EU 28. The lowest annual rate was registered in Romania (-2.6%), while the highest annual rate was recorded in Belgium (1.5%).



Agenda

JUNE

6-7 June 2016
BIBM General Assembly
Birmingham, UK

8 June 2016
CPE General Assembly
Brussels, Belgium

10 June 2016
C2CA demonstration
Hoorn, The Netherlands

15 June 2016
NEPSI Council meeting
Brussels, Belgium

16 June 2016
NEPSI 10th anniversary conference
Brussels, Belgium

23 June 2016
CPE - CPR working group
Brussels, Belgium

24 June
BIM for SMEs
Brussels, Belgium

29 June
CPE Seminar - LCA information and CE-marking
Brussels, Belgium

JULY

5 July 2016
EMA meeting
Brussels, Belgium

6 July 2016
CPE - Sustainability working group
Brussels, Belgium

AUGUST

30 August 2016
BIBM Wastewater engineering group
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:

AhG - Ad-hoc Group

CPE - Construction Product Europe

DG GROW - Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

ECP - European Concrete Platform

EMA - European Masonry Alliance

IPHA - International Pre-stressed Hollowcore Association

TF - Task Force