



CONCRETE PERSPECTIVES

June 2016

Please note that the next edition of the BIBM Newsletter will be out at the end of August (July-August edition).

Internal News

On 6-7 June BIBM held its **General Assembly** in Birmingham, UK. The British Precast Concrete Federation kindly hosted the meeting and organised a one day social programme for the BIBM Members.





Construction sector

- CEMBUREAU's 2015 Activity Report can be downloaded [here](#).
- Construction Products Europe's Annual Activity Report can be downloaded from [here](#).

European Investment Bank's Lunch Dialogue event on EU Urban Agenda

On 15 June, the European Investment Bank (EIB) held a lunch event on the EU Urban Agenda. The EIB is engaged in project for a better EU Urban Agenda and aims at providing better urban financing and supporting urban investments.



The EU Urban Agenda consists of several issues such as:

- Inclusive cities (urban poverty, housing, inclusion of migrants and refugees etc.)
- Green Cities (circular economy, energy transition etc.)
- Smart cities (urban mobility, air quality etc.)

There are various financial tools to find the best supportive action for specific investment projects for small or big cities, infrastructure or urban development projects.



The so-called Ginkgo fund (EUR 120m) was presented which invests in contaminated former industrial sites and remediate sites and sells the upgraded property for further real estate development.

Some interesting EIB projects for urban agenda partnerships were also presented such as Affordable Housing in Poland, Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees, Urban Poverty (Royal Liverpool Hospital) and Air Quality in Milan.

NEPSI 10 year Anniversary

On 16 June 2016, NEPSI Conference took place in Brussels to mark the achievements of the NEPSI Agreement ten years after its signature.

At the end of the Conference, the NEPSI signatories signed a [Joint Declaration](#) confirming their desire to continue working together for enhanced workers' health protection.

For more details please visit: <http://www.nepsi.eu/news/nepsi-10th-anniversary-conference>

European Builders Confederation's position paper on SME-friendly BIM¹

On 23 June, the European Builders Confederation approved its position paper on SME-friendly BIM.

EBC acknowledges that the development of BIM is advancing rapidly and highlights concrete and specific needs for its favourable implementation in Europe:

- Addressing the needs and expectations of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in how to design a European standardised approach to BIM
- Promoting the adoption of BIM to facilitate higher energy efficiency and lower 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
- Ensuring the soft-landing of public procurements changes with regard to the transition from traditional methods to BIM-based ones

Read the [position paper of EBC on BIM](#).

¹ Source: http://www.ebc-construction.eu/index.php?id=48&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=419&cHash=2c41f30abc6a90b2fdcf86a84f60c0e5



Live from the European Union

European Commission to modernise EU's Standardisation Policy

On 1 June 2016, the European Commission presented its package on how to modernise EU's standardisation policy. The Commission aimed at creating a single and coherent EU standardisation policy where the priorities are regularly discussed with the European Parliament and the Member States.



Picture: @ConstructionEU

The package includes a Commission decision providing the framework for the Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS), which was formally launched by all partners on 13 June.



Picture: @ConstructionEU

Christophe Sykes - CPE, Riccardo Viaggi-EBC, Commissioner Elżbieta Bienkowska and Ulrich Paetzold - FIEC

The JIS bring together European and national standardisation organisations and bodies, industry, SMEs, consumer associations, trade unions, environmental organisations, Member



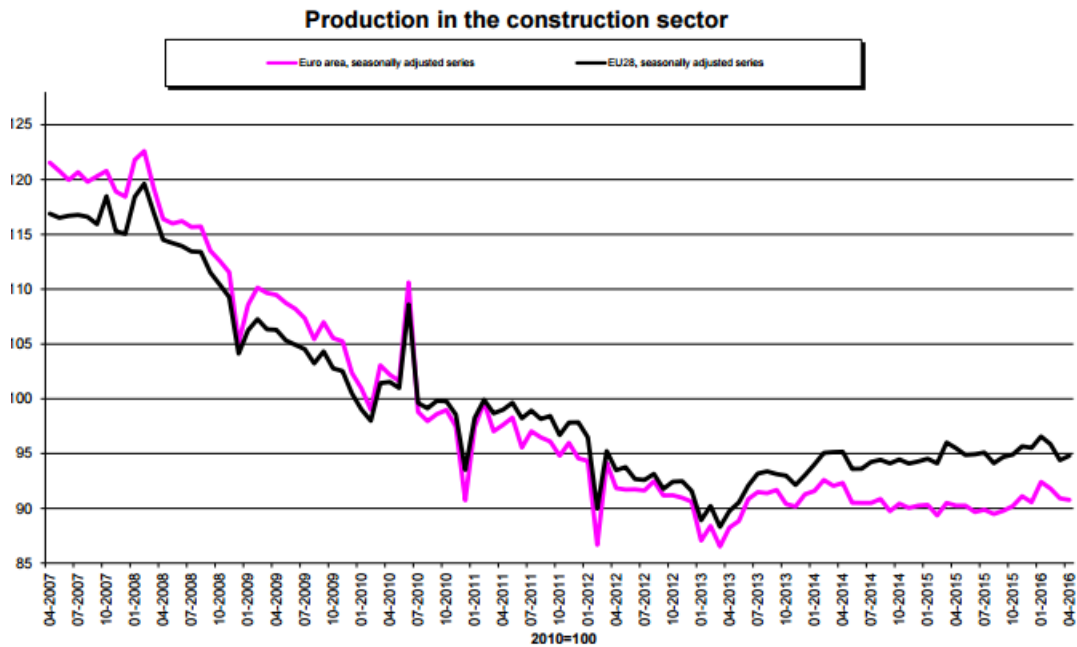
States and the Commission. Their mission is to modernise, prioritise, and speed up the timely delivery of standards by the end of 2019.

BIBM as member of Construction Products Europe is part of the initiative, who signed it together with the European Builders Federation and FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation).

[Press Release of the construction industry and material producers](#)
[European Commission - Press Release](#)

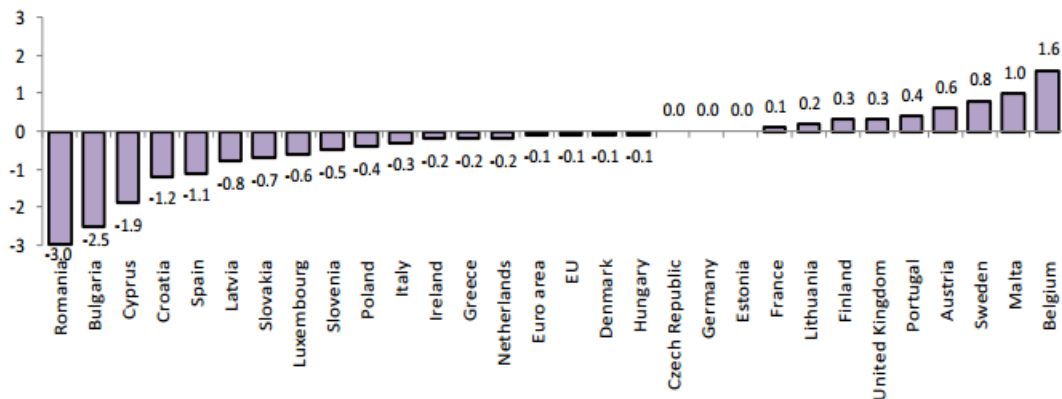


News in brief



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

According to first estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in April 2016 compared with March 2016, the seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector fell by 0.2 % in the euro area (EA19) and increased by 0.4% in EU28.

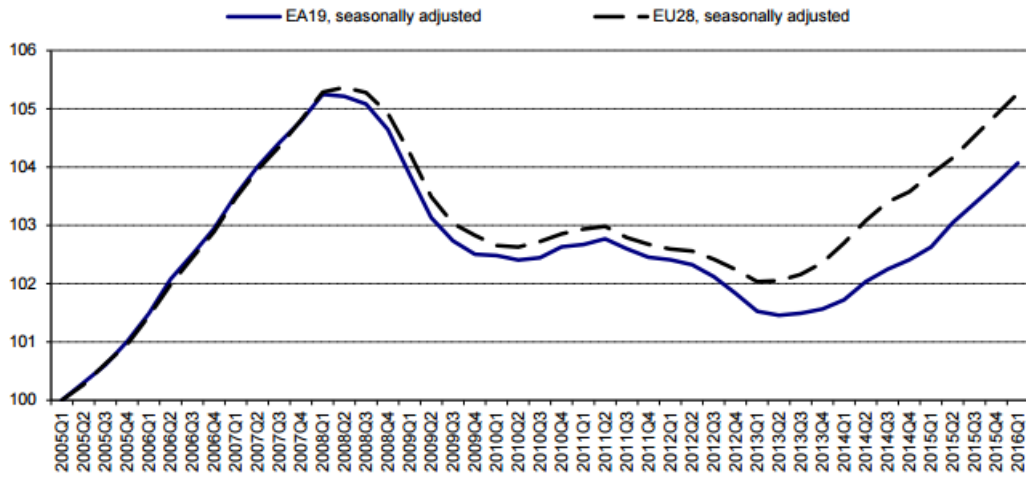


Graph 2 - Annual inflation rates (%) in May 2016, in ascending order

Annual inflation was -0.1% both in the Euro area and in EU 28. The lowest annual rate was registered in Romania (-3.0%), while the highest annual rate was recorded in Belgium (1.6%).



**Evolution of employment
Indices: 2005Q1=100**



Graph 3 - Employment rate (%) in Q1 2016

The number of persons employed increased by 0.3% in both the euro area (EA19) and the EU28 in the first quarter of 2016 compared with the previous quarter, according to national accounts estimates published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.



Agenda

JULY

5 July 2016
EMA meeting
Brussels, Belgium

6 July 2016
CPE - Sustainability working group
Brussels, Belgium

14 July 2016
CEN/BT SRAHG Precast concrete
Web-conference

15 July 2016
CEN/BT SRAHG Balustrades
Web-conference

AUGUST

30 August 2016
BIBM Wastewater engineering group
Brussels, Belgium

SEPTEMBER

8 September 2016
CPE TG CPR implementation
Brussels, Belgium

13 September 2016
BIBM Technical Commission
Brussels, Belgium

14 September 2016
CEN/TC 229/WG 1 and WG 4
Brussels, Belgium

20 September 2016
CEN/TC 104/TG 20
Stockholm, Sweden

20 September 2016
Fire Safe Europe Task Force
Brussels, Belgium

28 September 2016 (tbc)
BIBM Board
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