



Construction sector

EBC and FIEC issues position paper on the Inclusion of Silica Dust

On 12 September, the European Builders Confederation ([EBC](#)) and the European Construction Industry Federation ([FIEC](#)) issued a Press Release entitled “[The Inclusion of Silica Dust in The Carcinogens Directive is not adequate to protect workers](#)”.

The joint position paper to speak up against the inclusion of the Respirable Crystalline Silica dust in the proposal to revise the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive.

The joint position paper can be read [here](#).

CEN holds conference on Standards for circular economy

On 8 September, the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) held a conference entitled “[Standards for circular economy: waste management and secondary raw materials](#)”. The conference addressed the question how industry is making the shift from the linear approach to a circular thinking, with a focus on waste and secondary raw materials.

Construction Products Europe internal debate on CE marking

On 7 September, Construction Products Europe (CPE) held an [internal debate on CE marking](#). Earlier this year, CPE has developed the concept of smart CE marking and now held an internal debate to discuss its implementation.



Photo: @ConstructionEU

In the meantime, the European Commission issues a study entitled “[Opportunity now: Europe’s mission to innovate](#)”. The study also mentions smart CE marking (section 54).



Live from the European Union

Building materials CEOs send letter to the European Commission

On 23 September, a group of 42 CEOs from construction and building materials companies [signed and sent a letter](#) to European Commission, asking for a “high level political commitment” in order to achieve EU’s target of a “Nearly Zero Energy” building stock by 2050.

URBAN Intergroup extraordinary meeting

On 6 September 2016, the [URBAN Intergroup](#) of the European Parliament co-organised a meeting with [UN HABITAT](#) in the preparation of HABITAT III (will be held in Quito, Ecuador 17-20 October 2016).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the forthcoming European Cities Report which will be published during the European Week of Regions and Cities 10-13 October.

After the introductory remarks of MEP Jan Olbrycht, Mr Paulius Kulikauskas (Chief of Office for Europe and European Institutions, UN-HABITAT) gave some insights into the cooperation between the European Commission and UN. The European Cities Report is a joint report built on mutual confidence between the two institutions (UN and European Union).

Last year UN adopted the agenda entitled “[Transforming our world-the 2030 agenda for a sustainable development](#)” in which Member States commit to work together and make cities inclusive, safe and resilient.

Earlier this year (30 May 2016) the European Union adopted the [EU Urban Agenda](#), as a step toward the future common work, the review of urban development policies in the EU.

Lewis Dijkstra (Deputy Head of Unit of the Economic Analysis Unit from DG REGIO) gave a detailed presentation about the report that includes the following chapters:

1. Demographic changes
2. Urban economic development
3. Social issues
4. Urban mobility
5. Resource Efficiency of cities
6. Land use change
7. Urban environmental & climate change

The goal of the report was to show European cities in a global perspective, comparing them to cities around the world (data is based on Eurostat data).

From a global perspective, the main conclusion of the report is that North-America and Europe are the least urbanised (comparing with Asia for example).



BIBM @EuropeanPrecast · Sep 6
#UrbanIntergroup meeting today! #lookingforward @JanOlbrycht
@UNHABITAT #European #cities



North America's cities have low density and difficult to provide public transport, while in Europe cities have a bit higher density than North America and more efficient public transport.

One important question for the future is to see how Africa will develop, which model it will follow.

Demographic changes

- The population is higher in cities due to migration but the speed of urbanisation slowed down in the recent years. Unsurprisingly, the working population goes to the cities while the pensioners move out of the cities.
- Eastern European cities are shrinking
- In general, the capitals' population is growing the fastest both due to natural change (more birth than death) and to migration. It is unknown while people tend to have more children in capitals while it is usually more expensive to live (and it is more difficult to get affordable homes while of course usually income is higher as well)



- Foreign born (both European and third countries) population is highest in the capitals compared with other cities, e.g. in Luxembourg 40% of population is foreign born.

Urban economic development

- In general, cities boost productivity (employment, economy)
- Predictably, the higher the income in cities, the higher the migration

Social issues

- EU cities are relatively safe
- Housing in cities is expensive, small and crowded
- People in cities tend to be more satisfied with their lives and in capitals, they are even more satisfied
- It is difficult to find good quality affordable housing in capitals and metropolitan cities (difference in expectations what is affordable)

Urban mobility

- Car use in cities: diversity (Paris less than 10% use their cars while in Helsinki 50%, Dublin 30%)
- The popularity of walking is also very different in each city

Resource Efficiency of cities

- Cities are more resource efficient than rural areas
- Use less energy for heating/ cooling, for transport
- Need fewer roads, but it is not automatically generated in each big city.

Land use change

- Majority of growing cities use less and less land (construction upwards)
- The share of green areas doesn't correlate with the access to green spaces (distribution of the population)

Urban environment and climate change

- Air pollution is still a serious problem, biggest challenge in big cities even though GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions are reducing

Conclusion:

- European cities need to improve their performance and innovate
- Metropolitan governance system is needed
- Actions are necessary at many different levels
- At the same time cities are vulnerable: social problems are present, energy and food supply is vulnerable
- The report does not address poverty, because there is no indicator to measure the increasing social gap



European Commission launches study on Façade fire testing

DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) launched a call for tender to assess façade fire testing in the European Union and to develop a standard, following a consultation process with the Member States technical experts in late 2015. The deadline for submissions was mid-September and the Commission now will announce the consultant who will deliver the study by mid-October 2016.

[Fire Safe Europe](#) welcomed the initiative of the Commission towards better regulation of façade testing, however, it expressed its concerns over the small scale test, whose fire exposure is ten times lower than the large scale tests.

Fire Safe Europe [openly advocates for a European harmonised large scale façade test](#) method which will ensure higher quality of fire safety across the European Union.

The study is foreseen to be finished autumn 2017.



National Award Winner Project¹

Stormen Concert Hall and Library (Norway)

The Norwegian Precast Concrete prize 2015 was awarded to DRDH Architects for Stormen Concert Hall and Library.



The new library and concert hall, Stormen, in the city of Bodø, realizes an important though previously undeveloped part of the city centre in an outstanding way. The new buildings contribute to a revitalization of the area Storgata, Sjøgata, the harbour and Hålogalandsgata. Stormen and its public areas create space for activities in the previously empty harbour quarter. The buildings are situated in a challenging context where they must relate to the existing street grid, the harbour, the landscape as well as the diversity of the surrounding existing buildings. The challenge is met in an exemplary way by creating two volumes that complete the block without dominating the cityscape. The context is

¹ Source of the article: Betongelementforeningen, Lars Jårvik (Association of Consulting Engineers), Trine Amundsen (National Association of Norwegian Architects), Randi Augenstein (National Association of Norwegian Architects), John-Erik Reiersen (Norwegian Precast Concrete Association)



underlined by a specific expression in the different facades through a conscious composition of the façade elements.



The two buildings comprising Stormen have facades of precast concrete. The white facade elements are brushed and lightly polished highlighting the marble structure in the surface. The geometry of the façade elements is complex; with its precise joints, corners and window openings, it expresses a serene elegance. Mirrored in the two buildings, the geometrical design relates them to each other in a distinct way. The facades and columns reaching upwards give the buildings dignity in interaction with the surrounding buildings and coastal landscape, and emphasize the important role of the buildings in the city centre.

The materiality and the white surfaces of the facades change with the seasons; reflecting the low Northern sun at the streets, or the rain subduing the concrete surfaces. This adds character and variety of expression to the buildings. At the same time, the white colour and shape of the buildings create associations to mountains and winter landscapes.



The innovative use of precast concrete façades is essential for the unique design of the building. The details are thoroughly planned and consistently implemented, from the size and form of each element to the small details in the columns, windows and entrances. The precast façade elements are used in a challenging manner, partly due to the overlapping corners in masonry. The complex pattern of division in the elements invite curiosity regardless of the perspective from which they are viewed.

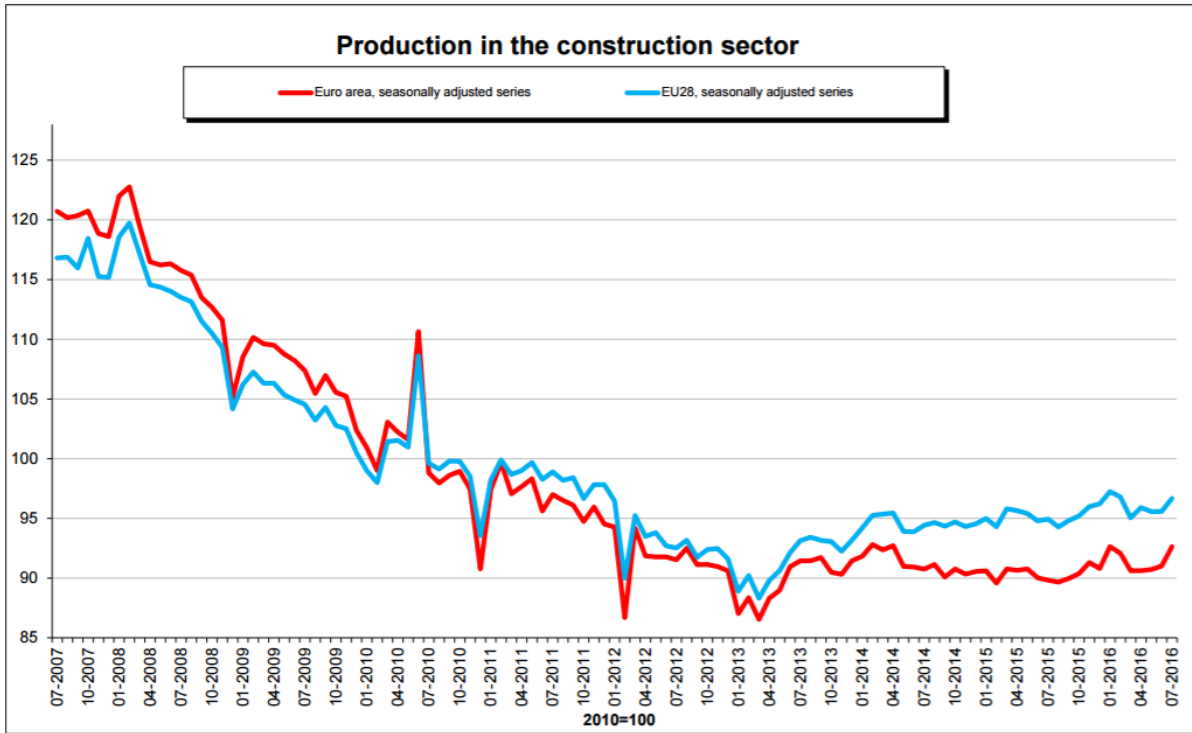
Through superior architectural and functional quality, Stormen Concert Hall and Library constitute two important buildings in the centre of Bodø city. The project is the result of a courageous process and excellent cooperation between client, architect and the precast concrete producer.

Facts:

Category: Cultural building
Client: The Municipality of Bodø
Architect: DRDH Architects, London
Local coordinator: Dark Arkitekter AS
Landscape: Dark Arkitekter AS
Acoustics and scene technics: Arup
Landscape: Dark Arkitekter AS
Size: 18 038 m²
Localization: Storgata 1A og 1B, Bodø
Finalized: 15 november 2014
Precast Concrete: Overhalla Betongbygg AS

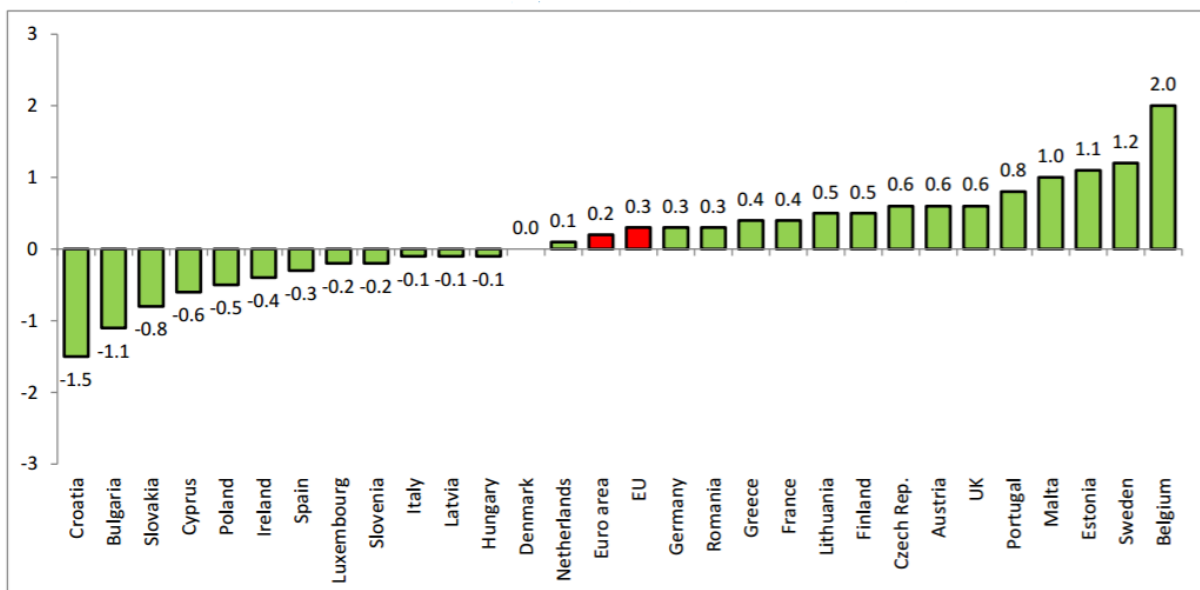


News in brief



Graph 1- Production in Construction (red - Euro Area, blue - EU28)

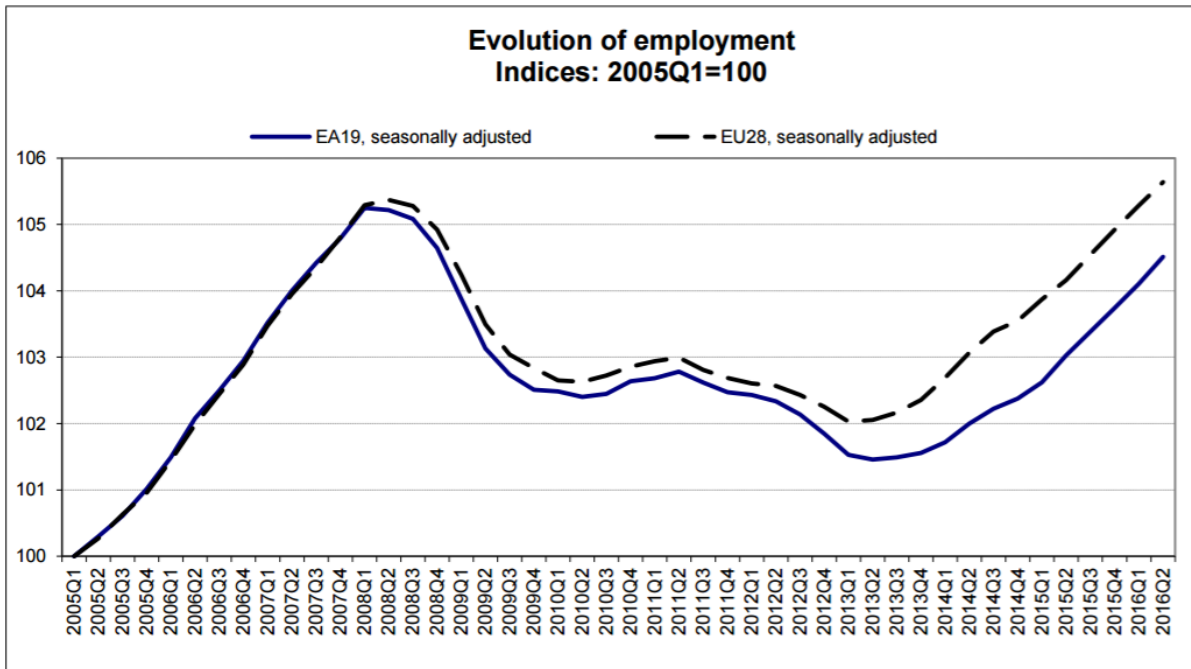
According to first estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in July 2016 compared with June 2016, the seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector increased by 1.8% in the euro area (EA19) and by 1.1% in EU28.





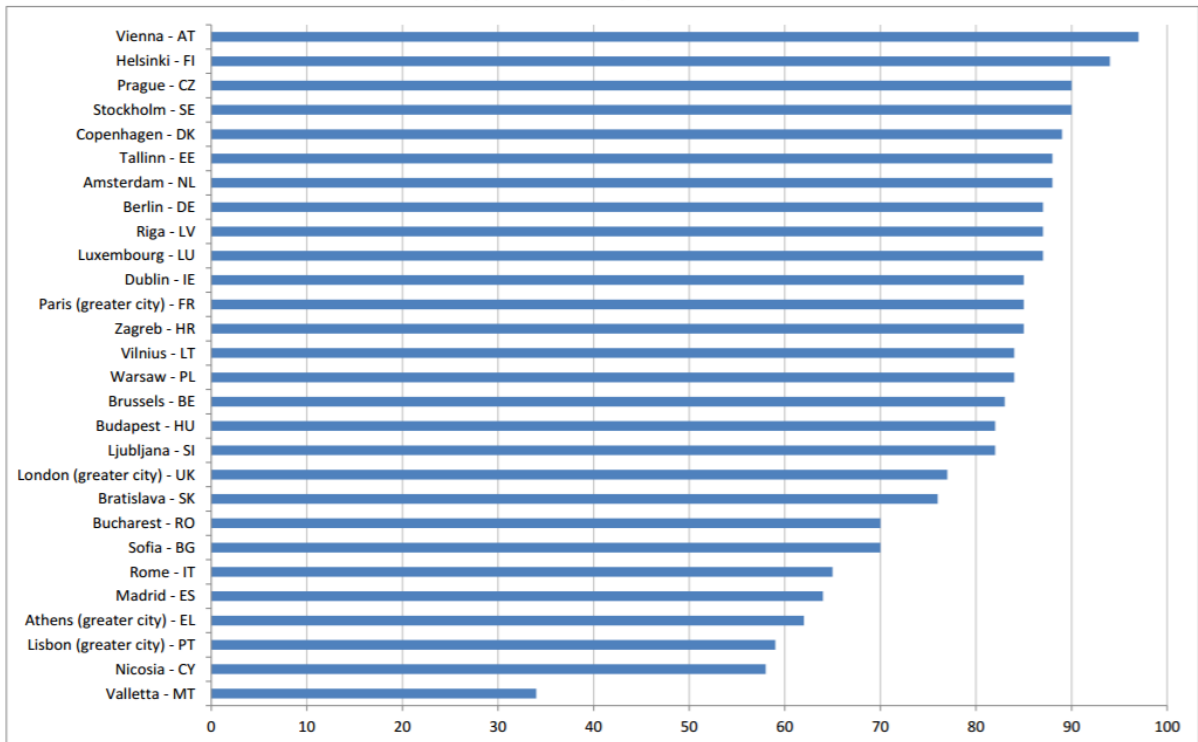
Graph 2 - Annual inflation rates (%) in August 2016, in ascending order

Annual inflation was stable 0.2% in the Euro area and 0.3% in EU 28. The lowest annual rate was registered in Croatia (both -1.5%), while the highest annual rate was recorded in Belgium (2.0%).



Graph 3 - Employment rate (%) in Second Quarter 2016 (blue EU 19, black EU28)

The number of persons employed increased by 0.4% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.3% in the EU28 in the second quarter of 2016 compared with the previous quarter, according to national accounts estimates published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the first quarter of 2016, employment increased by 0.4% in both zones. These figures are seasonally adjusted.



Graph 4 - Satisfaction with cultural facilities in EU capital cities

In most capitals, inhabitants are generally satisfied with cultural facilities. Vienna, Helsinki, Prague and Stockholm were the EU capital cities with the highest proportions of their inhabitants very or rather satisfied with the cultural facilities in their city, in contrast notably to inhabitants of Valletta, the only EU capital city where fewer than half of respondents declared that they were satisfied with their cultural facilities.



Agenda

OCTOBER

6 October 2016

Environment Commission
Brussels, Belgium

6 October 2016

SG 13 (notified bodies)
Brussels, Belgium

14 October 2016

European Masonry Alliance meeting
Brussels, Belgium

19-20 October 2016

VEEP kick-off meeting
Brussels, Belgium

25 October 2016

CPE Sustainability WG
Brussels, Belgium

26 October 2016

CPE CPR WG
Brussels, Belgium

NOVEMBER

2 November 2016

Fire Safe Europe meeting

Brussels, Belgium

16 November 2016

BIBM Board meeting
Brussels, Belgium

17 November 2016

Concrete Dialogue - Concrete Initiative
Brussels, Belgium

22 November 2016

ECP TF Fire and Eurocodes
Brussels, Belgium

24-25 November 2016

CEN/TC 229
Vienna, Austria

30 November 2016

European Concrete Platform Board
Brussels, Belgium

DECEMBER

7 December 2016

CPE CPR implementation
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:

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