



CONCRETE PERSPECTIVES

April 2017

Construction sector

- On 19 April 2017, the German Government [brought an action today against the European Commission](#) in the General Court of the European Union regarding the Construction Products Regulation. The German government believes that the safety of construction works, environmental protection and public health would be at risk if the standards are applied in their current form.
- [The European Demolition Report 2017](#) is ready, it was announced on 11 April 2017. The report will be published at the DDR Expo 14-16 June in Brussels.
- The Confederation of Finnish Industries published a report entitled [“Together towards new growth”](#) presents how pioneering Finnish companies are making headway in the circular economy.
- [Fire Safe Europe](#) announced the election the new president Mark Leverton who is currently Managing Director for Western Europe at Knauf Insulation. [Press Release](#)
- On 24-25 April, a [conference](#) ‘Reducing Energy Poverty by Energy Efficiency Projects in Residential Buildings: The Case for Eastern Europe’ was organized by Habitat for Humanity International with the support of USAID (Brussels).

The Conference promoted a better understanding of residential energy efficiency among EU policy makers; by introducing improved and tailor-made EU level policy measures addressing energy poverty and security. It also aimed at a clearer understanding of how investing into residential energy efficiency can contribute to reducing energy poverty in the Eastern European region.

- On 26 April, a coalition of over 300 businesses and organisations from across Europe called the European Union to lead the world on cutting greenhouse gas emissions from existing buildings. The coalition includes cities, public authorities, property developers, manufacturers and energy utilities, as well as trade associations, NGOs and universities.

Their recommendations are released today in a [series of publications](#) by the [World Green Building Council](#), the coordinating organisation behind BUILD UPON. [Press Release](#)



Live from the European Union

Commission launches study on Fire performance of facades

On 22 March 2017, the European Commission launched a study on Fire performance of facades. The project includes several subcontractors to check the condition at national level and is divided in different tasks. The original scope of the project was: "to propose a complete and detailed product assessment method and a corresponding classification for fire performance of products (kits) for facades". The first steering group meeting took place in April.

Circular Economy Package

In March, the European Parliament voted in Strasbourg on the [waste package](#) prepared by MEP Simona Bonafé. The Parliament voted on 4 different waste related directives:

- the EU Waste Framework Directive,
- the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive,
- the Landfill Directive and
- directives on end-of-life vehicles, batteries and waste electrical and electronic equipment.

The original waste and recycling targets were confirmed as follows:

- 70% recycling for household and office waste by 2030 (an increase on the 65% target put forward by the Commission)
- 80% target for packaging waste, and separate targets for preparation for reuse of waste (5%) and for reuse of packaging waste (10%)
- landfilling is limited to 5%.

MEPs have also supported proposals to change the way in which progress towards recycling targets is measured. This includes changing the wording of laws which allow materials from sorting facilities to count towards final recycling tonnages.

In a debate preceding the vote, issues over the calculation of recycling rates were also raised by MEPs and urged to have a new method which will make it possible to compare at the right level and manner.



Importantly, the Commission's original proposal focused on 'recycling' being measured at the point of input into the final recycling process, or through a derogation, the output of a sorting operation provided it is sent to a final recycling process.

The Environment Committee decided to eliminate the option of measurement at the output of the sorting stage ([more information](#)).



National Award Winner Project

Belgium : KU Leuven's REGA student residence wins the FEBE [Outstanding Precast Award 2016](#)

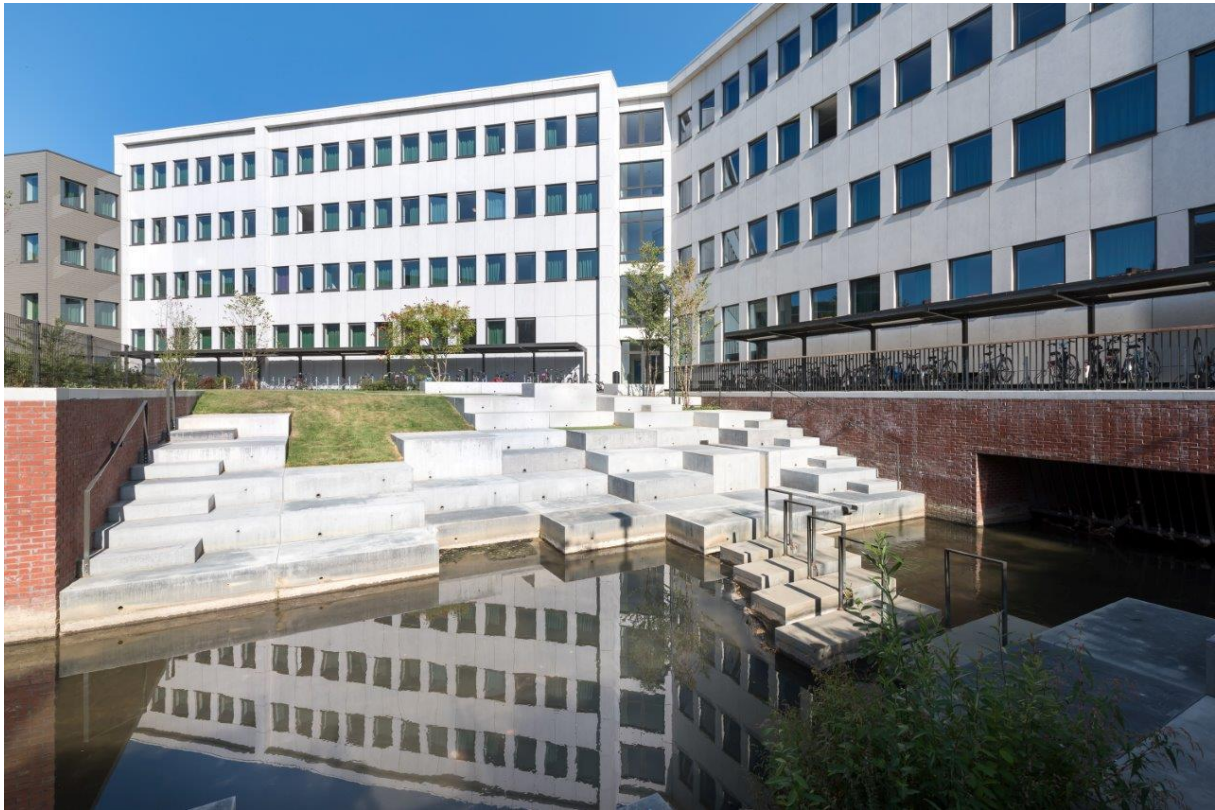


Picture: © Stradus Infra

Residents can enjoy a large indoor garden with views of the Vunt river. The design office Michel Pauwels created a terrace on the water's edge that is also the highlight of the project.

Prefabricated concrete blocks made to measure in various sizes by Stradus Infra nv form a terrace with different levels.

Architect: Michel Pauwels
Manufacturer: Stradus Infra
Contractor: Vanhoeyveld bvba
Client / Adjudicator: KU Leuven



Picture: © Stradus Infra

The Wilrijk Square

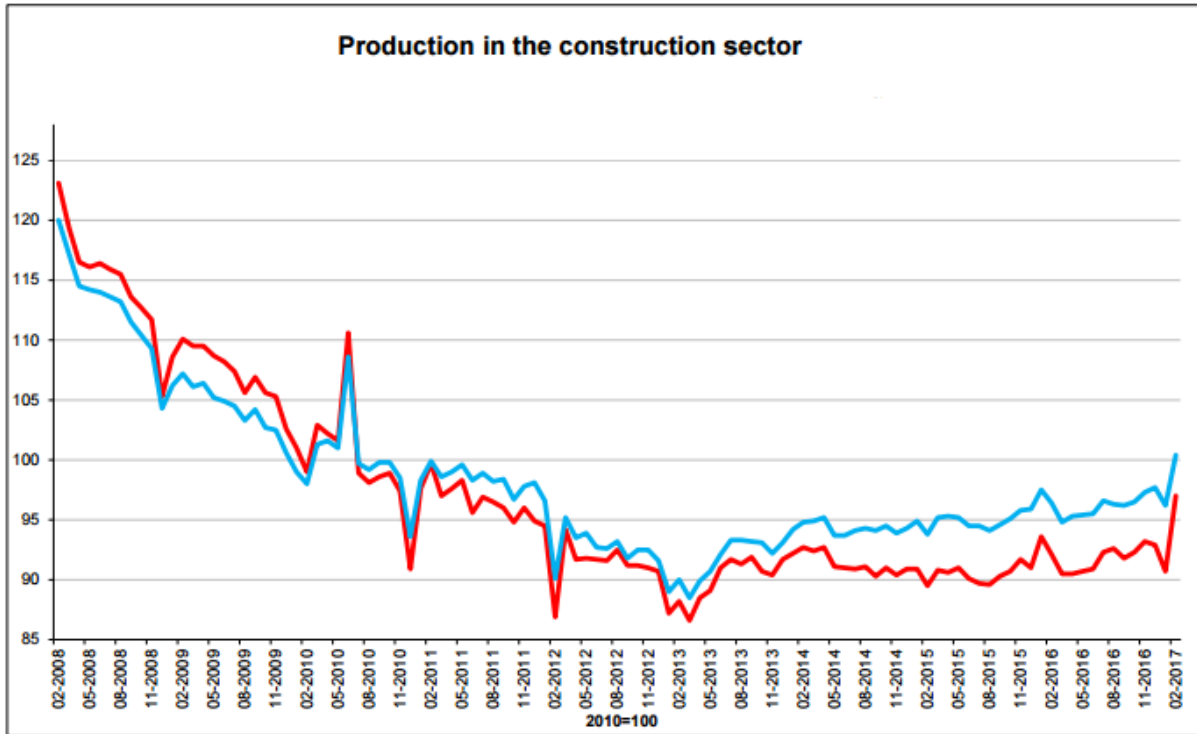


Picture: © Stradus Infra

The Small Scale Precast Award was awarded to the Wilrijk Square project by *Ontwerpbureau Stramien*. Aquaflo pavement were used to create this pathway which is used for jogging and hiking. The pavement were manufactured by Stradus Infra nv. and it is a combination of two models of pentagonal shaped drainage blocks.

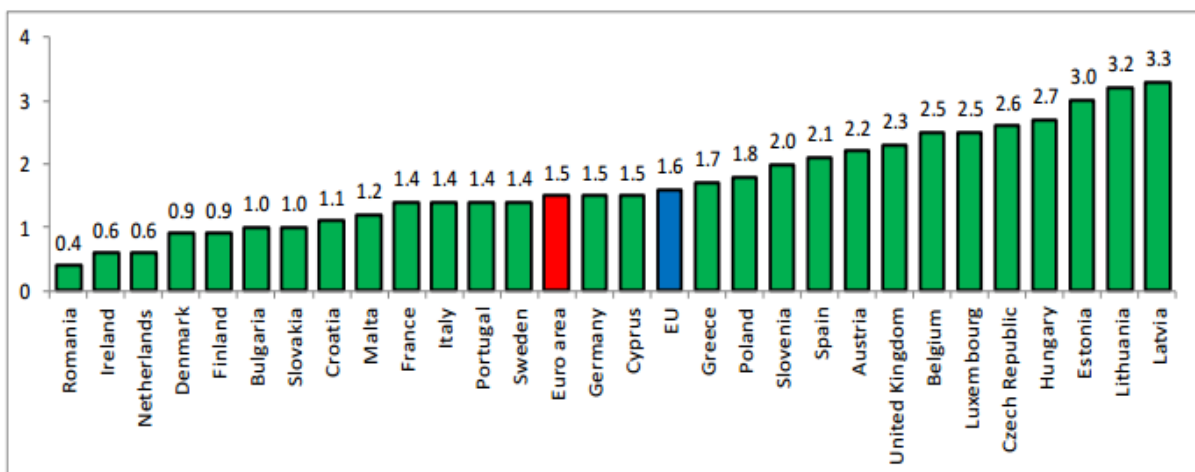


News in brief



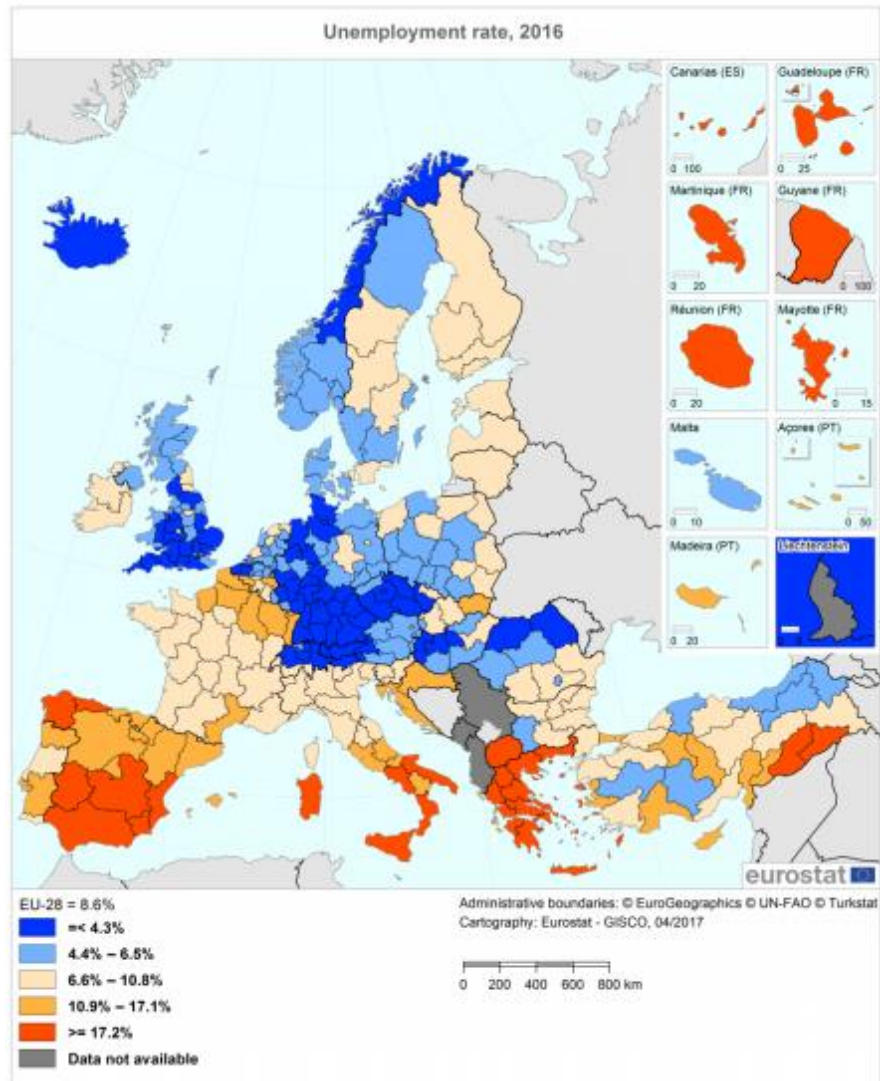
Graph 1- Production in Construction (red - Euro Area, blue - EU28)

According to first estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, In February 2017 compared with January 2017, seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector increased by 6.9% in the euro area (EA19) and by 4.4% in the EU28.



Graph 2 - Annual inflation rates (%) in March 2017, in ascending order

Euro area annual inflation was 1.5% in March 2017, down from 2.0% in February. European Union annual inflation was 1.6%. The lowest annual rates were registered Romania (0.4%), Ireland and the Netherlands (both 0.6%), while the highest annual rates were recorded in Latvia (3.3%), Lithuania (3.2%) and Estonia (3.0%).



Graph 3 - Unemployment rates in EU regions

The lowest rates recorded in Niederbayern (2.1%) in Germany and Praha (2.2%) in the Czech Republic, followed by the German regions of Oberbayern (2.4%), Mittelfranken and Unterfranken (both 2.5%) and Tübingen (2.6%).

The highest unemployment rates were registered in Dytiki Makedonia (31.3%) in Greece, Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla (30.8%) in Spain, Dytiki Ellada (29.8%) in Greece, Andalucía (28.9%) and Extremadura (27.5%) in Spain and Mayotte (27.1%), an overseas region of France.



Agenda

MAY 2017

9 May
ECP TF Fire and Eurocodes
Confcall

17 May
VEEP Workshop
Madrid, Spain

17 May
Marketers' Conference
Madrid, Spain

17-19 May
BIBM Congress
Madrid, Spain

18 May 2017
BIBM General Assembly
Madrid, Spain

22-23 May
CEN/TC 104/SC 1
Berlin, Germany

23-24 May
CEN/TC 104
Berlin, Germany

23 May
CPE CPR working group
Brussels, Belgium

29 May
ECP Board and GA

Brussels, Belgium

30 May
AhG Concrete Initiative
Nivelles, Belgium

JUNE 2017

7 June
CPE General Assembly
Brussels, Belgium

8 June
SMAART meeting
Brussels, Belgium

14-16 June
[DDR forum and expo 2017](#)
Brussels, Belgium

19 June
ECP TF Sustainable Concrete
Confcall

21-23 June
[Hiser Conference](#)
Delft, The Netherlands

21 June
CPE Sustainability WG
Brussels, Belgium

27 June
CPE CPR Implementation TG
Brussels, Belgium

The 6th edition of the IPHA Newsletter is available [here](#).

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

VEEP Project- Cost-Effective Recycling of CDW in High Added Value Energy Efficient Prefabricated Concrete Components for Massive Retrofitting of our Built Environment