



Construction sector

- **NEPSI reporting**

On 15 March 2018, the reporting of respirable crystalline silica at work places ended for the year 2018.

This is the fourth time in a row that the coverage of the precast industry increased through the BIBM membership, sign of an increasing commitment of our sector to provide healthy and safe workplaces.

The application of the NEPSI good practices guide and monitoring will help precasters to comply with the upcoming implementation of the “carcinogens and Mutagens at workplace directive”, due to be in place in the next two years.

- **Public consultations**

Recently there were several public consultations opened that relevant for the precast concrete sector. Amongst others, BIBM is preparing an answer to the public consultations on the [evaluation and possible revision of the Outdoor Directive](#), [Definition of SMEs](#). Feedback is also open for the Roadmap on [Alignment of environmental reporting obligations](#).



Live from the European Union

REACH Report

On 5 March, the European Commission published the [REACH review](#). The review shows that thanks to the Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) EU companies and authorities are ensuring the safe use of chemicals and the phase-out of dangerous substances.

For better protecting of consumers, workers and the environment, the European Commission proposes a number of concrete actions to improve the implementation of REACH. These measures are put forward to improve the quality of registration dossiers submitted by the companies, to simplify the overall authorisation process and to ensure a level playing field between the EU and non-EU companies. The Commission wants to further support SMEs in their compliance and enhance enforcement by national authorities.

The Commission will discuss the outcomes and follow-up actions of the second REACH review with the European Parliament, Member States and stakeholders at a public conference, planned for June 2018.

Commission announces next steps for Fire Information Exchange Platform (FIEP)

The European Commission announced more information on the functioning of FIEP. Two annual meetings are planned, and the Commission is currently looking into:

- priorities and organization of the work (secretariat, etc.),
- possible contribution from other Commission services,
- creation of specific Project Teams to prepare proposals for the FIEP Plenary,
- planning further FIEP Plenary meetings (2 per year).

Furthermore, the common areas of work were updated as well:

- common terminology and fire statistics,
- the application of fire prevention principles,
- dealing with new products (e.g. integrated photovoltaic panels) and high-rise buildings,
- the exchange of experience from fire accidents,
- the use of a fire engineering approach in building regulations

The red-thread priority running through all cooperation is domestic fire safety as most fire victims occur in houses or apartments.

For further information please find [here](#) the full presentation.



National Award Winner Project

Margretheholmen (Copenhagen, Denmark)



Udsigten at Margretheholmen is located in Copenhagen and is owned by PKA and TopDanmark. The property was built in 2015 and consists of 456 apartments and a parking garage, distributed over a total area of 45,228 sq.m. Udsigten is an eight-storey building with shared facilities.

Udsigten's façades are a combination of brick and concrete elements with large balconies, most of which offer an excellent view of the Copenhagen skyline.¹



¹ Source: <https://deasgroup.com/cases/udsigten-margretheholmen>



The property is Denmark's longest residential construction, located at a maritime area converted into residential area.

The building is the result of an architectural competition from 2003. The view is a 550m long block of 8 floors, which is visually broken down by a series of breaks.

The massive volume is pierced by strategically placed gates with access to an open area on the Eastern side. The buildings are located on the border of the large industrial area, and the upper floors offer panoramic views of both Øresund and Copenhagen city center.

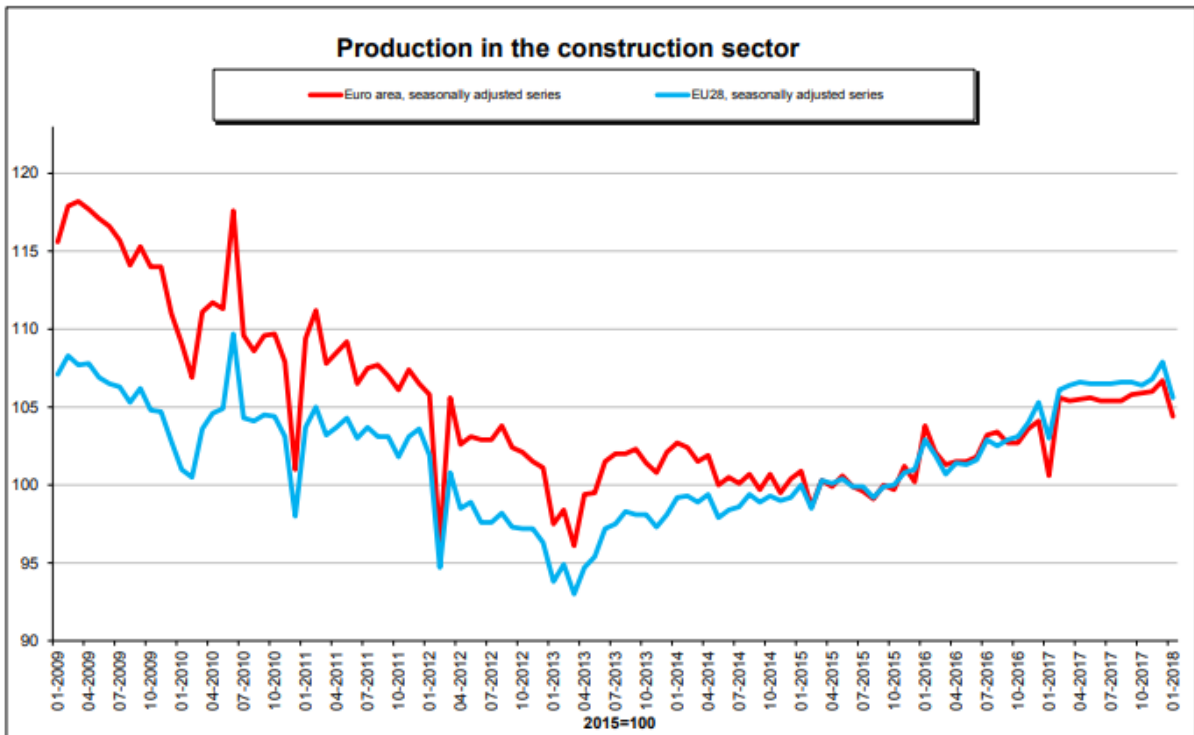
The façade is decorated with shutters: on the Western side, there are removable shutters to shield the sun and wind, while on the Eastern side hinged shutters were applied with a sound-insulation function. The basic structure of the house is made of concrete, with facades of sandwich elements with different finishes.²



² Source and for further pictures: <https://www.arkitekturbilleder.dk/bygning/margretheholm-udsigten/>



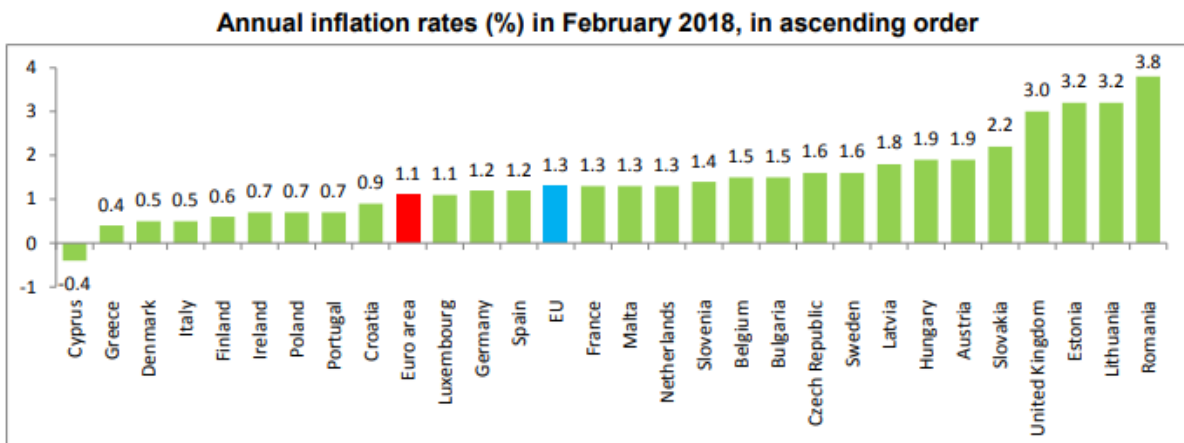
News in brief



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

In January 2018 compared with December 2017, seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector decreased by 2.2% in the euro area (EA19) and by 2.1% in the EU28, according to first estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Among Member States for which data are available, the largest decreases in production in construction were recorded in France (-7.6%), Sweden and the United Kingdom (both - 3.4%). The highest increases were observed in Slovenia (+14.4%), Poland (+8.8%) and Hungary (+6.4%).

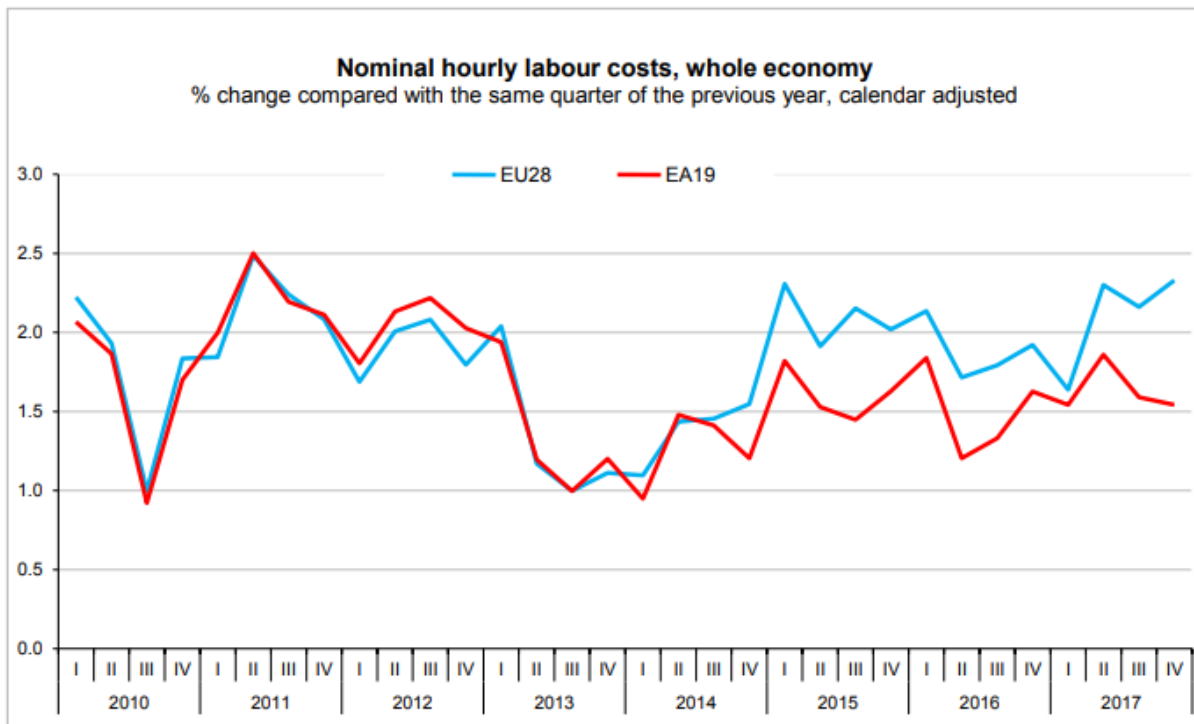




Graph 2 - Annual inflation rates (%) in January 2018, in ascending order

Euro area annual inflation rate was 1.1% in February 2018, while the European Union annual inflation was 1.3%

The lowest annual rates were registered in Cyprus (-0.4%), Greece (0.4%), Denmark and Italy (both 0.5%). The highest annual rates were recorded in Romania (3.8%), Estonia and Lithuania (both 3.2%).



Graph 3: Annual growth in labour costs at 1.5% in euro area

Hourly labour costs rose by 1.5% in the euro area (EA19) and by 2.3% in the EU28 in the fourth quarter of 2017, compared with the same quarter of the previous year. Breakdown by economic activity: hourly labour costs in the euro area rose by 1.3% in industry, by 2.1% in construction, by 1.9% in the services and by 1.1% in the (mainly) non-business economy. In the EU28, labour costs per hour grew by 2.3% in industry, by 2.5% in construction, by 2.7% in services and by 1.9% in the (mainly) non-business economy.



Agenda

APRIL

17 April 2018
Communication Commission
 Brussels, Belgium

23-25 April 2018
PEF Workshop
 Brussels, Belgium

26-27 April 2018
CEN/TC 104/TG 20
 Paris, France

MAY

2 May 2018
BIBM Technical Commission
 Brussels, Belgium

3 May 2018
CPR review - Technical Platform
 Brussels, Belgium

15 May 2018
BIBM Board meeting
 Brussels, Belgium

23 May 2018
Workshop on decarbonisation of the cement sector
 Brussels, Belgium

24 May 2018
Research projects - Green Week Workshop
 Brussels, Belgium

24-25 May 2018

CEN/TC 229
 Stockholm, Sweden

28 May
BIBM Environment Commission
 Confcall (tbc)

JUNE

5 June 2018
Fire Safe Europe meeting
 Brussels, Belgium

6 June 2018
Marketers Conference - Concrete Initiative
 Oslo, Norway

7 June 2018
CPE General Assembly
 Brussels, Belgium

11-12 June 2018
BIBM General Assembly
 Vienna, Austria

18 June 2018
NEPSI Council
 Brussels, Belgium

18 June 2018
NEPSI Council
 Brussels, Belgium

19 June 2018
CPE - CPR implementation
 Brussels, Belgium



To the Newsletter of Construction Products Europe please follow [this link](#).

FIEC's January Newsletter is available at [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

CSC - Concrete Sustainability Council

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