



Construction sector

- **Public consultations**

BIBM submitted answer to the evaluation and possible revision of the Outdoor Directive, the SME definition and the public consultation on the scope of EU Timber Regulation.

- At the beginning of April 2018, the European Commission published a study called "[Survey on users' need for information on construction products](#)". The costs and burdens related to the CE marking have indeed been identified as the main impact of the CPR incurred by economic operators in the supporting study for the fitness check on the construction sector. This report describes the outcomes of the "Survey on users' need for information on construction products" implemented by Ecorys for the European Commission.

- **CEN TC 350 plenary meeting**

Construction Products Europe reported that "The main topic discussed during the meeting was the discussion of the tasks to be developed by the Committee according to their 4th contract with the EC. The list includes the development of the harmonised test methods for the assessment of release of dangerous substances but also other developments. The additional tasks are in general the development of Technical Report on different issues. The majority of them will require further discussion by the relevant working groups."

For further information please follow this [link](#).

- On 26 April, the European Construction Sector Observatory has updated [country fact sheets](#) (CFS) for each country. Each CFS provides an analysis of key figures, macro-economic indicators, economic drivers, issues and barriers, innovation, the national/regional policy and regulatory framework, and the current status and national strategy to meet **Construction 2020** objectives.
- The **World of Concrete Europe** edition took place between 23-25 April in Paris where the Concrete Initiative held a session on "[Concrete and the Challenge of Low-Carbon Construction](#)". Amongst other, Alessio Rimoldi Secretary



General of BIBM held an interesting presentation on Energy storage in buildings as part of the equation.



Live from the European Union

Implementation of Eco-design Directive

The European Parliament prepared an own-initiative report on the Implementation of Eco-design Directive. The responsible Committee adopted its review of the Eco-design Directive on 25 April, which includes a call for the European Commission to put forward a proposal on extending the eco-design principle to cover non-energy related products and include recyclability and waste management.

The plenary vote will take place between 28-31 May 2018. For information, the own-initiative report is not a legally binding document therefore the Commission has no obligation to follow the recommendation of the Parliament.

Circular economy legislation adopted by European Parliament

On 18 April the European Parliament adopted the draft text of the circular economy legislation. The adopted text is available [here](#).

The text now goes back to Council for formal approval before publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

BIBM closely follow the legislative process and actively advocated for a proper definition of backfilling.

EU Environment Foot-printing (PEF) Final conference

PEF final conference took place between 23-26 April. The conference marked the opening of the transitional phase of pilot projects.

Key topics discussed related to existing achievements and challenges of the pilot project. In addition, a major focus was on experiences with communicating environmental information and the role of PEF within that context.

Some contributions were critical of the PEF itself, highlighting that issues such as biodiversity, marine litter or health are not being addressed properly, or that PEF and LCA approaches should not be the only approaches to inform sustainability decisions.



A live online poll concluded at the workshop of 26 April that most participants believe that EPD like declaration is the most effective way to use environmental footprints B2B (business to business).

For more info please click [here](#).
[EU Environment Foot-printing Conference](#)



National Award Winner Project

Outstanding Precast Winner in innovation: Skywalk and Antwerp ZOO Reception Building (Belgium, Antwerp)

The 2020 global plan for the Antwerp ZOO foresees the construction of a modern reception building. On the roof of this new construction there is a 225 m long promenade, the suitably named Skywalk.



Pictures: © FEBE

The new construction blends in with the materials already present in the ZOO. The large format slabs blend seamlessly with the park's historic trails. Thanks to the well-chosen choice of materials and the slope of about 4%, the path remains practicable and does not become slippery in wet weather conditions.

By choosing architectural concrete, the ZOO opted for a durable material that is easy to clean without special techniques or products and which, moreover, does not undergo physical transformations.

Prefabrication of complex organic forms in a specialized industrial environment has reduced the margin of error to an absolute minimum and the whole project has been achieved



The opinion of the jury:

The jury sees this structure as an exemplary project that builds what precast concrete can achieve.



On the one hand, there is the innovative approach of a classic problem: the connection between two buildings. By using an unconventional space and without restricting the functional aspects, namely the structure of the roof, the visitor perceives an image totally different from the immediate environment, including the central station.

On the other hand, there is the complex structure in which almost no prefabricated elements are identical. Using innovative techniques and execution methods, a high-quality result is created in a very short time. This achievement demonstrates, according to the jury, that each construction can be prefabricated.

Provocative design, good preparation and excellent collaboration between the designer, the manufacturer and the contractor have led to an 'Outstanding' final result, in which technical perfection and complex structure blend perfectly. The 'life experience' aspect is central and allows visitors to better enjoy the zoo.



Architect: 8 Office Architects - Fondu Landscape Architects

Prefabricator: Decomo nv

Contractor: Democo nv

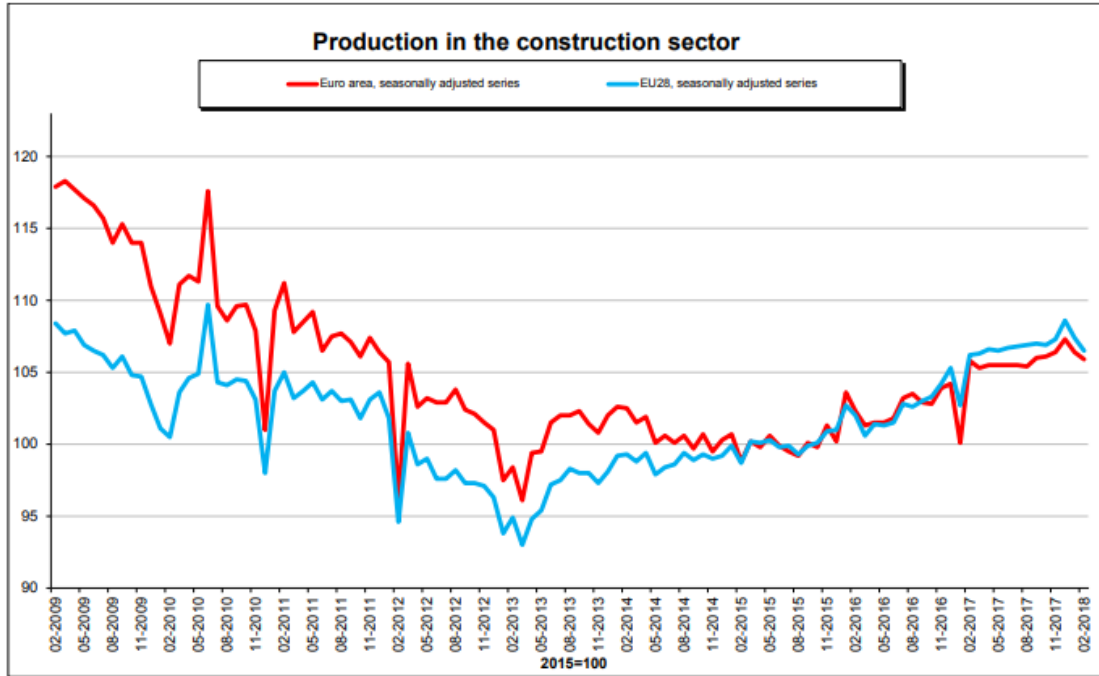
Engineering office: Arcade Groep

Client: Koninklijke Maatschappij voor Dierkunde van Antwerpen vzw

Other partners: Kuijpers Uitvoering & Advies BVn



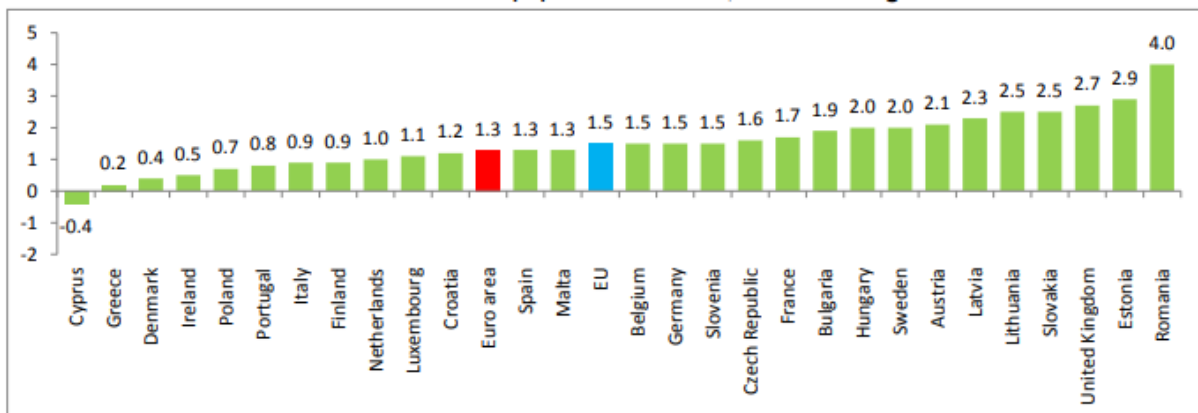
News in brief



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

In February 2018 compared with January 2018, seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector decreased by 0.5% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.8% in the EU28, according to first estimates from Eurostat.

Among Member States for which data are available, the largest decreases in production in construction were recorded in Bulgaria (-14.0%), Slovenia (-13.1%) and Hungary (-5.0%). The highest increases were observed in Romania (+4.7%), France (+2.7%) and Spain (+0.9%).



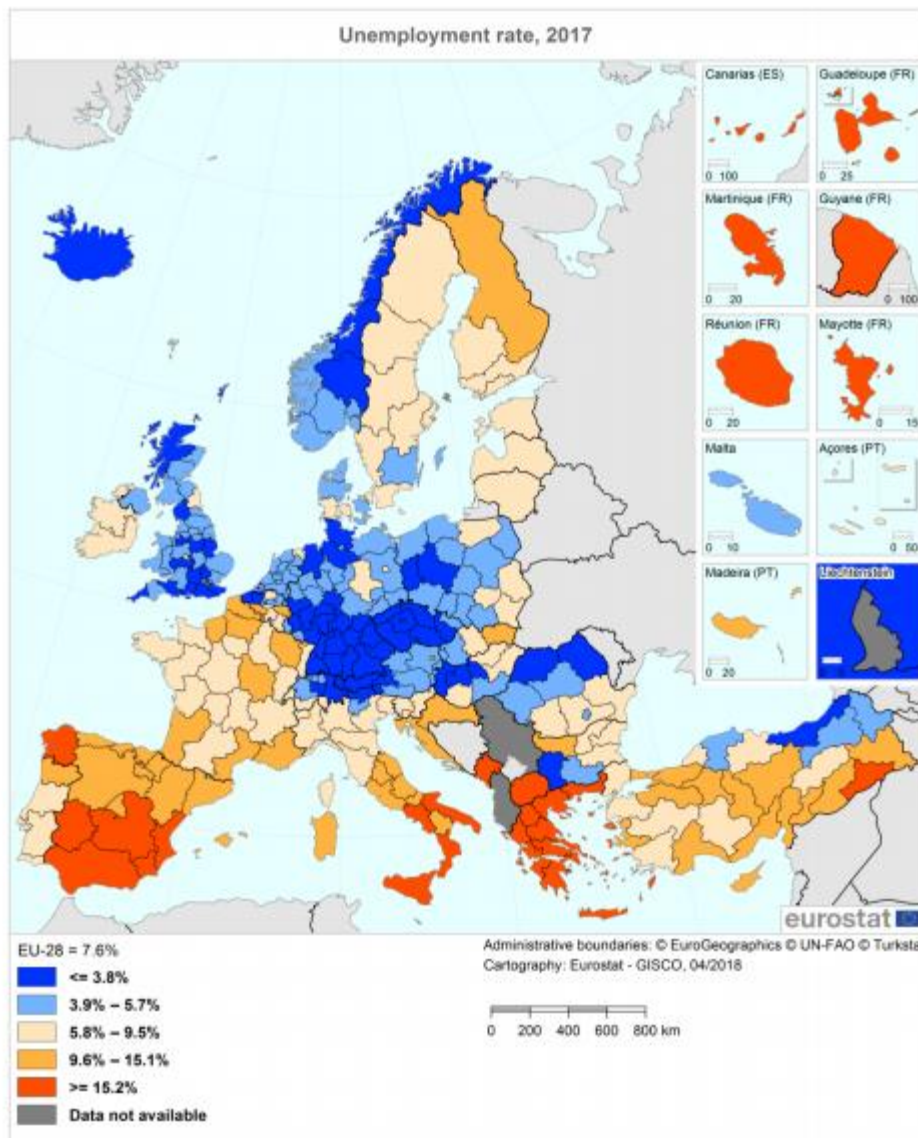
Data for the United Kingdom are for February 2018.

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

Euro area annual inflation rate was 1.3% in March 2018, while the European Union annual inflation was 1.5%



The lowest annual rates were registered in Cyprus (-0.4%), Greece (0.2%) and Denmark (0.4%). The highest annual rates were recorded in Romania (4.0%), Estonia (2.9%), Slovakia and Lithuania (both 2.5%).



[Figure 3: Unemployment in the EU regions in 2017](#)

More than 80% of the NUTS 2 regions of the European Union (EU) saw their unemployment rate for persons aged 15-74 fall in 2017 compared with 2016.

The regional unemployment rates vary widely across the EU regions, with the lowest rates recorded in Praha (1.7%) in the Czech Republic and Trier (2.0%) in Germany, followed by the Czech regions of Střední Čechy and Jihozápad and the German regions of Niederbayern and Mittelfranken (all 2.1%).



At the opposite end of the scale, the highest unemployment rates were registered in Dytiki Makedonia (29.1%) in Greece, Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla (27.6%) in Spain, Dytiki Ellada in Greece and Extremadura in Spain (both 26.3%), Mayotte (25.9%), an overseas region of France and Andalucía (25.5%) in Spain.



Agenda

MAY

- 2 May 2018
BIBM Technical Commission
Brussels, Belgium
- 3 May 2018
CPR review - Technical Platform
Brussels, Belgium
- 15 May 2018
BIBM Board meeting
Amersfoort, Netherlands
- 18 May 2018
Concrete Initiative
Brussels, Belgium
- 23 May 2018
Workshop on decarbonisation of the cement sector
Brussels, Belgium
- 24 May 2018
Research projects - Green Week Workshop ConWEEB
Brussels, Belgium
- 24-25 May 2018
CEN/TC 229
Stockholm, Sweden
- 28 May
BIBM Environment Commission
Confcalls (tbc)

JUNE

- 5 June 2018
Fire Safe Europe meeting
Brussels, Belgium
- 6-8 June 2018
VEEP mid-term review
Schlierbach, France
- 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
- 19 June 2018
CPE - CPR implementation
Brussels, Belgium
- 28 June 2018
ECP - Board and GA
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