



## CONCRETE PERSPECTIVES

May 2018

### Construction sector

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On 22 May 2018, Fire Safe Europe held a webinar titled Three reasons why fire resilience contributes to sustainable buildings. Agnes Schuurmans and Fanny Guay drew the link between fire resilience and sustainable buildings providing concrete examples. They also showed how fire resilience of buildings can contribute to the sustainable development goals 9, 11 and 12 and demonstrated how it is necessary that fire resilience is considered when developing policies, regulations and sustainable building rating schemes. Click [here](#) for the full programme and information about the speakers.



Live from the European Union

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### **General Data Protection Directive enters into force**

New rules to protect the data of Europeans online and simplify rules for companies handling personal information apply to the EU from 25 May. The rules give consumers more power over their digital presence, including the right to information about how their data is used, and to delete content they no longer want visible online.

Strong data protection is indispensable to investment in digital innovation and to make the EU's Digital Single Market a reality before the end of 2018.

BIBM also amended its privacy policy that you can read [here](#).

### **Eco-design Directive - call for including resource efficiency**

On 7 May, the European Parliament adopted an [own-initiative report](#) which calls on the European Commission to go beyond energy efficiency and consider other aspects, such as how long a product lasts, how easy it is to take apart, repair and recycle. Setting requirements for these things would help to make products last longer and reduce their impact on the environment even further.

This change was already recommended in the Circular Economy Package issued in December 2015.

MEPs debated the proposals to improve the current ecodesign directive at the end of May and voted in favour. The report is now forwarded to the European Commission for consideration.

### **Spring 2018 Economic Forecast**

On 3 May, the European Commission [Spring 2018 Economic Forecast](#). It covers the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 and includes data for all 28 EU Member States.

According to the report, growth rates were at 2.4% high (record in the past 10 years). The pace of growth is expected to remain robust on the back of sustained consumption and strong exports and investment. Both the EU and the euro area are forecast to grow by 2.3% this year.

Unemployment continues to fall and is now around pre-crisis levels. The number of people in work in the euro area is now at its highest since the introduction of the euro.



## National Award Winner Project

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### Techrete for John Lewis, Victoria Gate - Leeds, UK

The British Precast Concrete Project Award 2017 was won by Techrete.



Pictures: BPCF

For the flagship John Lewis store in Leeds, the diagrid pattern was deconstructed by Techrete engineers to panelise a façade to enable production. Innumerable intricate details regarding the geometry, the engineering and the manufacturing were combined in 3D BIM, from which over 600 drawings were generated. Many challenges were successfully overcome: accuracy of faceted corners, contrasting finishes within single units, installation of unusually shaped units of up to 14 tonnes in weight and the requirement for unique permanent fixing methods.

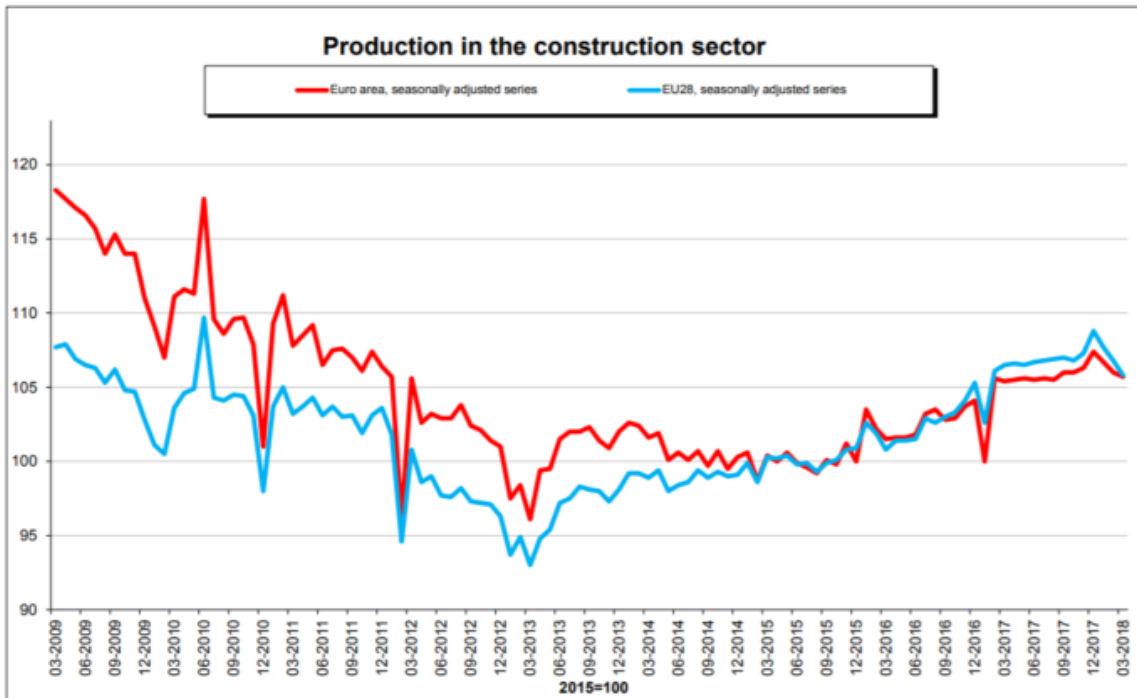
Precast concrete products are used for a wide range of applications in our built environment. This award showcases projects that deliver on aesthetics, functionality, innovation, workmanship, cost-effectiveness and demonstrates the inherent benefits and properties of precast concrete.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.britishprecast.org/Awards/Project-Award-2017-Shortlist!.aspx>



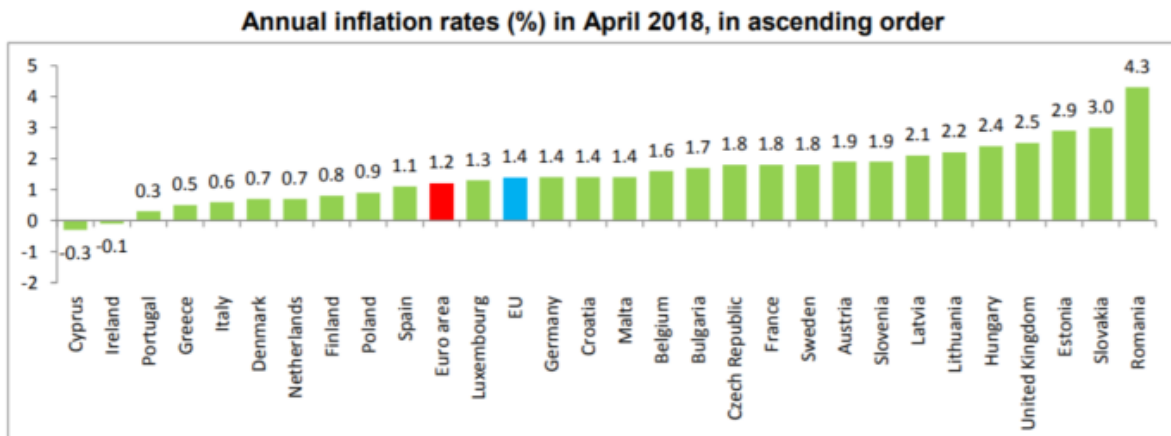
News in brief



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

In March 2018 compared with February 2018, seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector decreased by 0.3% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.9% 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 Hungary (-10.3%), Romania (-9.2%) and France (-2.6%). The highest increases were observed in Spain (+3.1%), Slovakia (+2.3%) and Belgium (+1.1%).



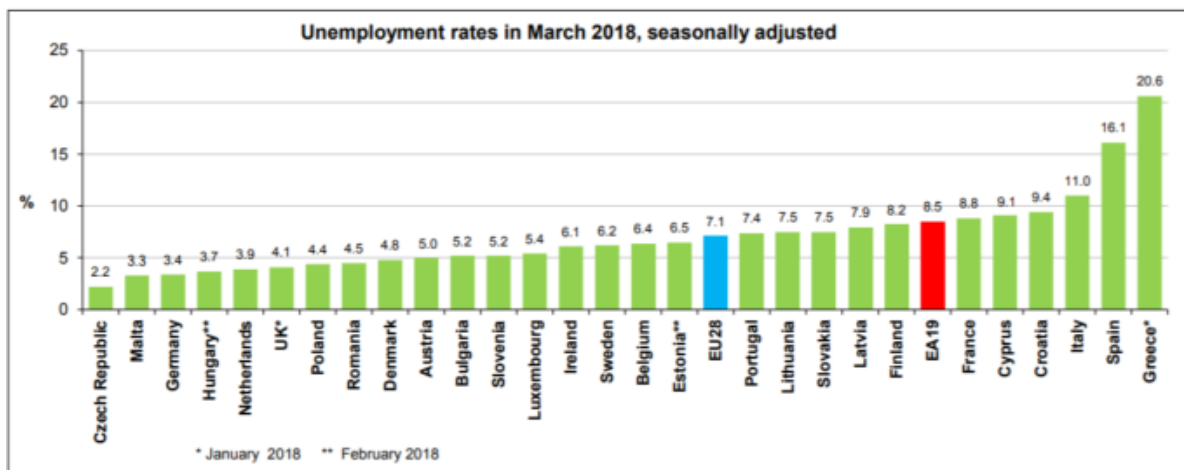
Data for the United Kingdom are for March 2018.

[Graph 2 - Annual inflation rates \(%\) in April 2018, in ascending order](#)



Euro area annual inflation rate was 1.2% in April 2018, while the European Union annual inflation was 1.4%

The lowest annual rates were registered in Cyprus (-0.3%), Ireland (-0.1%) and Portugal (0.3%). The highest annual rates were recorded in Romania (4.3%), Slovakia (3.0%) and Estonia (2.9%).



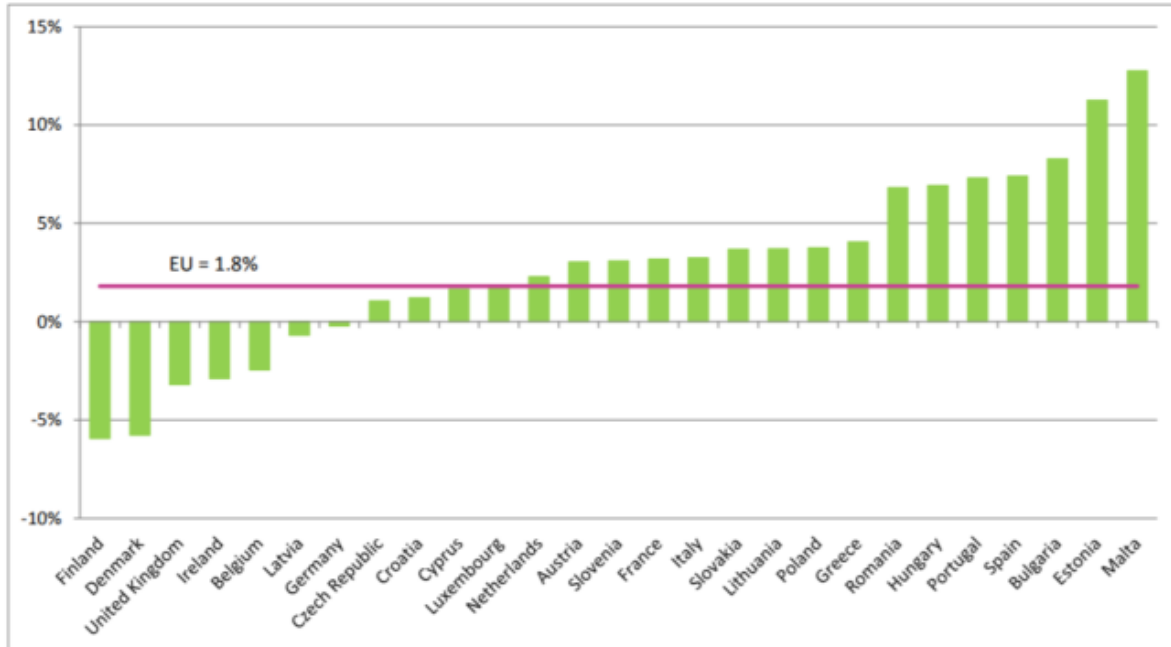
**Figure 3: Unemployment rates March 2018**

The euro area (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.5% in March 2018, stable compared with February 2018. This is the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since December 2008. The EU28 unemployment rate was 7.1% in March 2018, stable compared with February 2018, this is the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since September 2008.

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in March 2018 were recorded in the Czech Republic (2.2%), Malta (3.3%) and Germany (3.4%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in Greece (20.6% in January 2018) and Spain (16.1%).



**Change in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 2017/2016 (estimated)**



**Figure 4: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the EU in 2017**

Eurostat estimates that in 2017 carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from fossil fuel combustion increased by 1.8% in the European Union (EU), compared with the previous year.

According to Eurostat estimates, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rose in 2017 in a majority of EU Member States, with the highest increase being recorded in Malta (+12.8%), followed by Estonia (+11.3%), Bulgaria (+8.3%) Spain (+7.4%) and Portugal (+7.3%). Decreases were registered in seven Member States: Finland (-5.9%), Denmark (-5.8%), the United Kingdom (-3.2%), Ireland (-2.9%), Belgium (-2.4%), Latvia (-0.7%) and Germany (-0.2%).



## Agenda

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### 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

20-21 June 2018

**RE4 mid-term review**  
Brussels, Belgium

26 June 2018

**Concrete Initiative**  
Brussels, Belgium

28 June 2018

**ECP - Board and GA**  
Brussels, Belgium

### JULY

3 July 2018

**CPR Sustainability Working Group**  
Brussels, Belgium

### AUGUST

30 August 2018

**CPE Sustainability Assessment WG**  
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