



Associação Nacional dos Industriais de Prefabricação em Betão

**CIRCULAR N.º 043/2014**

**Assunto: Concrete perspectives - April BIBM Newsletter 2014**

Caros Associados,

Vimos por este meio enviar a *Newsletter* de abril de 2014 do BIBM – European Federation for Precast Concrete, entidade da qual a ANIPB é associada.

Com os nossos cumprimentos,

(Iris Vilela)

Lisboa, 13 de maio de 2014

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## CONCRETE PERSPECTIVES

April 2014

### Construction sector

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- On 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014, in line with BIBM advocacy, the European Parliament plenary sitting approved the **exclusion of construction products from the Consumer Product Safety Regulation (2013/0049(COD))**.
- In the framework of the Renovate Europe campaign, on 15<sup>th</sup> April, the official Brussels launch of two studies took place. Both studies were prepared on **financing energy efficiency of buildings**. One of the study was prepared by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Finance Initiative** while the other one was prepared by a permanent working group established by the **European Commission, called Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group (EEFIG)**.

[United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\) Finance Initiative: Commercial Real Estate: Unlocking the energy efficiency retrofit investment opportunity](#)

[Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group: Energy efficiency- the first fuel for the EU economy](#)

- The **European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry** released a **video on CE marking in the construction sector**. Watch [here](#) the video entitled **“Building trust in the construction sector”**.
- The **FireSafetyFirst** campaign launched by **Fire Safe Europe** has now reached 45 MEPs and MEP candidates who pledged to work for a fire safe Europe. [List of pledged MEPs and MEP candidates](#)
- The **Serbian Cement Association** launched the **Serbian version of the European Concrete Platform’s publication “Sustainable benefits of concrete structures”**. For further information, please visit the [ECP website](#)
- **CECODHAS Housing Europe** launched a **Manifesto “9 Paths to Better Homes for a Better Europe”**. The Manifesto aims at finding solutions to Europe’s housing problem, providing greatest well-being for European and stabilising long-term investments.

[CECODHAS Manifesto](#)



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- **EU-OHSAS** the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work launched a **Healthy Workplaces** campaigns in April. The campaign is open to all individuals and organisations. In the framework of the campaign, **Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards** is organised which aims to demonstrate the benefits of adopting good OSH practice.

Furthermore, European Week for Safety and Health at Work will be held in October 2014.

For further details please refer to the [EU OHSAS Press Release](#).

Live from the European Union

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### **New Energy and Environmental State aid Guidelines adopted**

On 9 April 2014, the European Commission adopted its new Energy and Environmental State Aid Guidelines (the "EEAG") for the period 2014-2020. The new guidelines will take effect from 1 July 2014 and cover State aid to the energy sector. According to the new EEAG, the aid to renewable energy will focus more on market-based support and aims at addressing market distortions linked to subsidies granted to renewable energy sources.

The other main change in the new EEAG, is the possibility to reduce the burden of RES charges for a list of energy-intensive sectors (Annexe 3). This measure aims to release the burden on the energy-intensive industries that are exposed to international competition. Several construction-related sectors are enabled:

- Manufacture of cement
  - Quarrying of ornamental and building stone, limestone, gypsum, chalk and slate
  - Ceramics sub-sectors
  - Manufacture of bricks, tiles and construction products, in baked clay
  - Manufacture of tubes, pipes, hollow profiles and related fittings, of steel
- Etc.

For further information, please refer to the [Energy Environmental State Aid Guidelines - full text](#).

[European Commission - Press Release](#)

### **European Commission refers Belgium and Finland to the Court for incomplete transposition of EPBD directive**

On 16 April 2014, The European Commission referred Belgium and Finland to the Court of Justice of the European Union for failing to transpose the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Both Member States lack sufficient transposition measures on regional level, including, amongst others, measures relating to energy certificates and nearly-zero energy buildings.



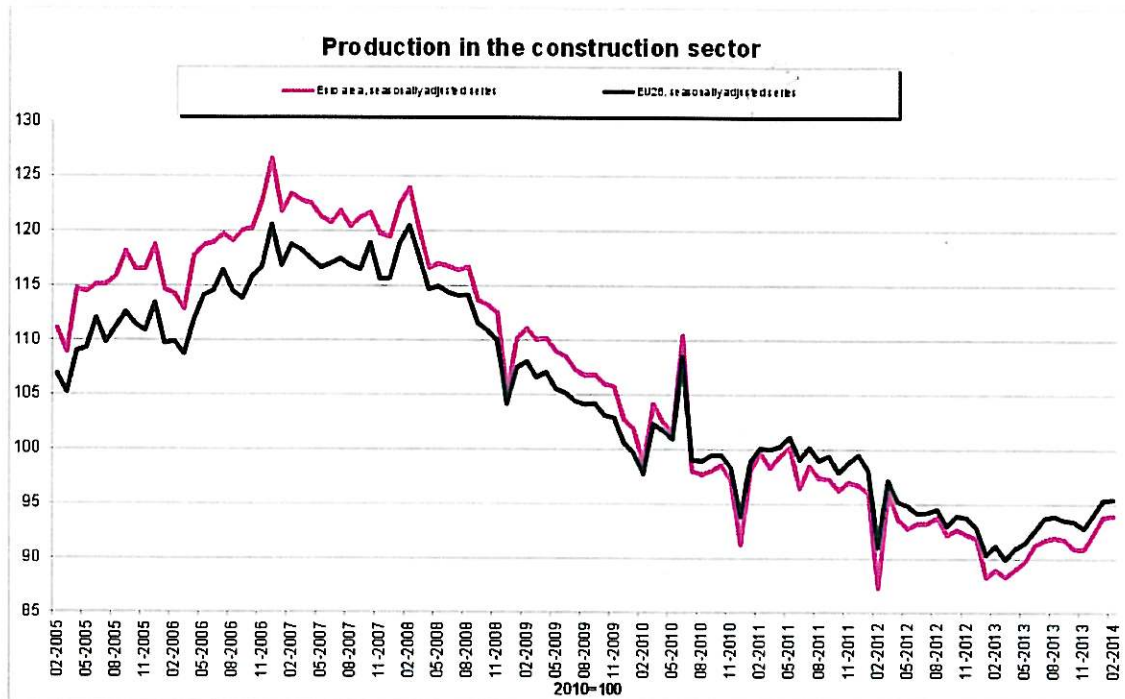
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At the same time, the Commission is currently examining other Member States as well over incomplete transposition of the EPBD directive (United Kingdom, Slovenia, Romania, Poland, the Netherlands, Malta, Latvia, Luxembourg, Italy, Greece, Estonia, Czech Republic and Austria).

[European Commission - Press Release](#)

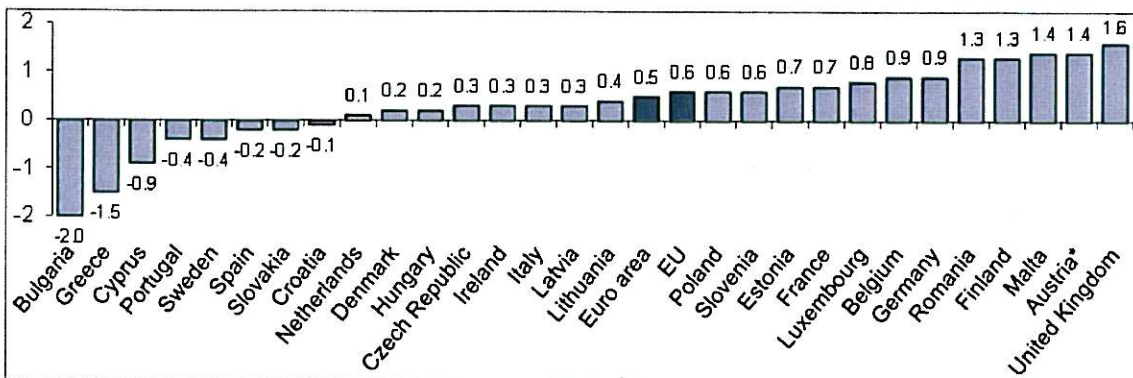


News in brief

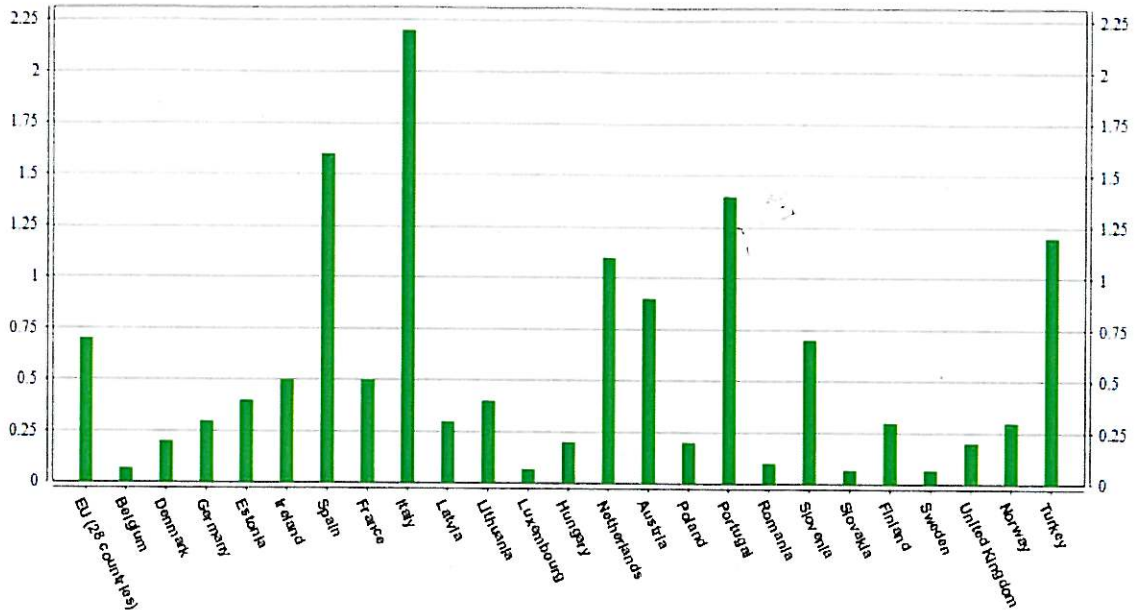


Graph 1 Long term - Reference 100 in 2010 seasonally adjusted construction production in the previous 10 years (pink - Euro area, black-EU28, seasonally adjusted series)

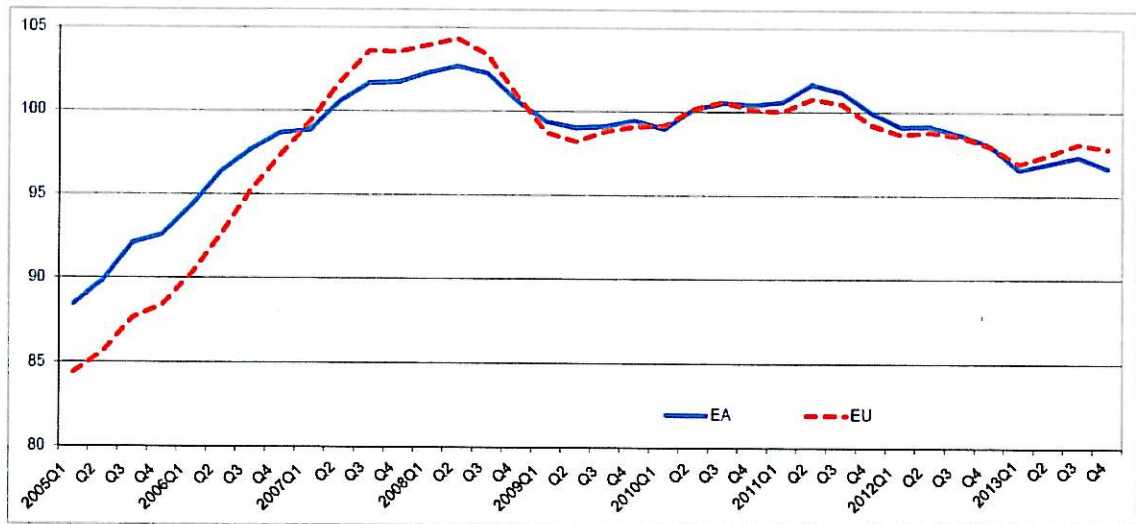
In February 2014 (compared with January 2014), seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector grew by 0.1% both in the euro area (EA18) and in EU28.



Graph 2: Annual inflation - March 2014 in ascending order  
\*Data for Austria is provisional.



Graph 3 - Inflation March 2014 Percentage change compared to February 2014



Graph 4: House prices in euro area and in EU

House prices, measured by the House Price Index (HPI), fell by 1.4% in the euro area and by 0.1% in the EU in the fourth quarter of 2013 compared with the same quarter of the 2012.



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## AGENDA

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### MAY

6 May 2013  
H&S Committee  
Brussels, Belgium

7 May 2013  
CEN/TC 229/WG 1 and WG 4  
Brussels, Belgium

8 May 2013  
Communication Commission  
Brussels, Belgium

13 May 2013  
CPE - Implementation of CPR  
Brussels, Belgium

21-23 May 2014  
BIBM Congress  
Istanbul, Turkey

22 May 2014  
BIBM General Assembly  
Istanbul, Turkey

27 May 2014  
The Concrete Initiative - Official launch  
Brussels, Belgium

### JUNE

2 June 2014  
ECP Board and General Assembly  
Brussels, Belgium

10 June 2014  
Environmental Commission  
Brussels, Belgium

11 June 2014  
CPE -General Assembly  
Brussels, Belgium

12 June 2014  
CPE - CPR WG  
Brussels, Belgium

16 June 2014  
CEN TC 104 TG20  
Brussels, Belgium

17 June 2014  
Masonry Alliance meeting  
Brussels, Belgium

18 June 2014  
CEN Construction Sector Network  
Brussels, Belgium

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