

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

by Aris Chatzidakis, ECCE President

Lisbon, 25 September 2019





ECCE participates in the following forums related with the Construction Industry:

- **High Level Tripartite Forum**
- **Thematic Group 1 “Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation”**
- **European Construction Forum**





High Level Tripartite Forum

- The **7th Meeting of the High Level Tripartite Forum** was held **on 4 April 2019**, in Brussels.
- The meeting was divided into two sessions.
- **Session 1:** *Construction 2020 – What has been achieved and what is the visibility of outcomes?*
- **Session 2:** *Looking forward – Towards an initiative “A built environment for people”*
- [Agenda of the 7th Meeting of the High Level Tripartite Forum](#)





Session 1: Construction 2020 – What has been achieved and what is the visibility of outcomes?:

- [Introduction: Inventory of the Construction 2020 initiatives, its actions and outcomes](#)
- [Case 1: Resource efficiency in construction \(Thematic Group 3\)](#)
- [Case 2: Blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills in construction \(Thematic Group 2\)](#)

Session 2: Looking forward – Towards an initiative “A built environment for people”:

- [Keynote speech: The “Built Environment” as part of the quality of life](#)





High Level Tripartite Forum

Key messages

(1)

- Participants took stock of the achievements of the Construction 2020 initiative to date. The initiative was widely praised as an **important platform for the sector**, which remains vital in light of the industry challenges of today and tomorrow. The Construction 2020 initiative has demonstrated a **contribution at Member States level to innovations in the sector, in areas of investment, energy efficiency, infrastructure, skills, resource efficiency, internal market and the global competitive position of the construction industry**. To further these results on the ground, it is important to have the **continued engagement of stakeholders**.
- The HLF meeting also looked ahead and concluded that the **construction sector is crucial to the safety, health and well-being of people, as well as the economy**. The sector is instrumental to reaching the **Sustainable Development Goals, including those on climate change, energy efficiency and circular economy**.





High Level Tripartite Forum

Key messages

(2)

- Participants unanimously agreed about the importance of **continuing and strengthening the initiative**. In addition, it is important to pay attention to the EU competencies on construction-related topics (subsidiarity) and to its social dimension, both in terms of skills requirements as well as quality and affordability of housing. Whilst centring on the construction value chain, participants acknowledged the **need for the initiative to focus on the key issues facing the construction industry with respect to the built environment**.





High Level Tripartite Forum

Key messages

(3)

The Forum proposed to continue and strengthen the initiative by preserving its current strengths and reinforce these by:

1. Expanding the time horizon of the initiative: anticipate future competitiveness and cyclical challenges – boosting the resilience of the sector;
2. Expanding the lifecycle and holistic approach;
3. Enhancing the engagement of Member States, regions and cities, as well as financial players – thus building a 'construction community' for citizens;
4. Further strengthening EC-level involvement in the initiative;
5. Aligning with future EU funding instruments;
6. Boosting the role of the High Level Forum itself.

- **[Minutes of the 7th meeting of the High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum](#)**



- The **Thematic Group 1 “Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation” meeting** was held on **14th December 2018**, in Brussels.
- **ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner** participated in the meeting representing ECCE.
- As a follow up of the TG1 meeting all stakeholders were requested to send comments on the [Discussion Paper on Infrastructure maintenance](#) as well as on the [summary note on infrastructure research projects](#).
- ECCE prepared a document which was sent to the Construction 2020 team. The document can be found [here](#).





- The next meeting of the Thematic Group 1 of Construction 2020 will be held on **Friday 8 of November 2019, from 9:30 until 16:30** (including a networking stand-up lunch), in Brussels.
- The meeting will tentatively consist of the following parts:
 - Part 1 – Investing in affordable and sustainable housing;
 - Part 2 – Improving the built environment and urban infrastructure;
 - Part 3 – Digitalisation and innovation in the construction sector;
 - Part 4 – Beyond Construction 2020: Presentation on the main conclusions of the assessment of Construction 2020 focusing on the work areas of TG1
- ECCE will nominate a representative who will participate in this meeting.





- The **European Construction Forum (ECF)** had two meetings during 2019, in January and in April.
- ECCE is a member of ECF and has been actively participating in the works of ECF. ECCE President and ECCE ExBo have been following up all the meetings and the developments in ECF.
- Over the past year, ECF's main field of work was on the manifesto on a political responsibility for the built environment. This action was decided in ECF the meeting in November 2018 and a small working group was set up for this purpose.
- Although ECCE was not able to physically participate in the last two ECF meetings, ECCE President and the ExBo have been following up all the actions and have contributed to the draft document with comments and submitting ECCE ideas and opinion.





European Construction Forum

Construction 2050, Building tomorrow's Europe today

(2)

- The document **“Construction 2050, Building tomorrow's Europe today”** which summarizes the joint proposals by the participants in the “European Construction Forum” was published on 13th June 2019 together with a **Joint Press Release**.
- Construction stakeholders believe that the Construction 2020 initiative should be reinforced in order to fully achieve its ambitions, aimed at supporting the construction sector's adaptation to key emerging challenges and to promote the sustainable competitiveness of the sector.
- The construction stakeholder support that this comprehensive framework which is described in **“Construction 2050, Building tomorrow's Europe today”** document should be fully embraced by all actors in the construction ecosystem, Member States and European institutions.





European Construction Forum

Construction 2050, Building tomorrow's Europe today

(3)

- Building on the results of the current Construction 2020 initiative, this new framework should be based on the following principles:
- **A specific targeted approach to construction** because the sector is at the crossroads of different value chains and its unique nature requires a unique approach
- **An adaptable policy framework** to address the evolving construction ecosystem and the transformation of the industry
- **A holistic approach towards policy making** in order to implement coherent and balanced policies and legislation
- **A strong partnership between the European institutions, the Member States and construction social partners and stakeholders** to steer the transformation of the sector with the most adequate policies and tools.





European Construction Forum

Construction 2050, Building tomorrow's Europe today

(4)

- **Aris Chatzidakis, ECCE President** stated: “The construction sector needs to develop a new way to conceive more resilient structures, aiming to achieve a competitive sustainable building market. In order to obtain this European objective, a new design methodology is needed, focusing on a multi-performance and lifecycle oriented approach. Sustainable Structural Design (SSD) methodology addresses the possibility to include environmental aspects from the very beginning of the project. Sustainability for existing buildings should include their structural safety and that means that when renovation projects of a certain scale are undertaken, structural upgrade should be considered jointly with functional and energy efficiency upgrade.”





European Construction Forum

Construction 2050, Building tomorrow's Europe today

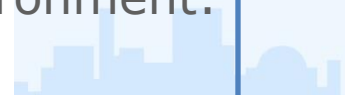
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• **Final message:**

The sustainable Europe of tomorrow cannot be achieved without the construction sector. All the actors in the construction process must be involved for the European Union to respond to its main challenges: competitiveness, youth unemployment, digital economy, urban regeneration, energy efficiency and energy poverty, circular economy, affordable housing, climate change, mobility and connected infrastructure etc.

As a matter of fact, the construction sector is at the heart of our life: construction enterprises and their workers build the homes we live in, the roads on which we travel and the buildings we work or learn in. European citizens spend over 90% of their time indoors, meaning that our health and well-being strongly depends on how our buildings are built, maintained and renovated.

It is within this context that construction stakeholders call upon the European Commission to strengthen the current construction policy setting by creating a new vision for the built environment: "Construction 2050: Building tomorrow's Europe today".





- The **"Construction 2050, Building tomorrow's Europe today"** was endorsed by the following organizations:
- ECCE – European Council of Civil Engineers
- FIEC – European Construction Industry Federation
- EBC – European Builders Confederation
- EFBWW – European Federation of Building and Woodworkers
- CECE - Committee for European Construction Equipment
- UIPI – International Union of Property Owners
- EURIMA - European Insulation Manufacturers Association
- Build Europe
- RICS - Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
- CEMBUREAU - European Cement Association
- GCP Europe – The voice of efficient building engineering services
- EDA – European Demolition Association
- ECCS – European Convention for Constructional Steelwork
- EAPA – European Asphalt Pavement Association
- ECP - European Concrete Platform
- EUPAVE – European Concrete Paving Association
- EFCA – European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations

THANK YOU

