

Provisions on energy efficiency and SMEs excluded from the EFSI



EBC speaks out against the joint vote on 20 April of the BUDG and ECON Committees of the European Parliament on the EFSI regulation. The rejection by BUDG and ECON of the ITRE amendment to article 5 directed to earmark € 5 billion for **energy efficiency projects** and € 5 billion for **SMEs** is a bad news for small and medium construction enterprises in Europe.

This would have been the most effective way to ensure that SMEs would be able to access the EFSI, while producing all the positive effects linked to more energy efficient buildings in Europe. This means reducing the dependency on energy imports and the carbon footprint, as well as creating qualified jobs in a sustainable way across the European Union.

 [Click here to read EBC's position](#)

New logo and new website for EBC

At the end of March the European Builders Confederation EBC launched a new logo, as well as a new website to be found at www.ebc-construction.eu.

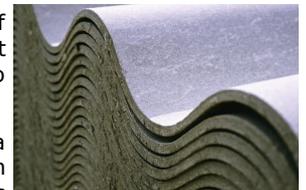
EBC wanted the 25th anniversary to mark a moment of change. The visual identity was modernised to better match the **dynamism of the association** and represent the changes undertaken since it was founded 25 years ago. Today EBC is both **more structured and representative**. Its members cover all the construction trades and represent half of the small and medium construction enterprises in Europe. Considering some timid signs of recovery from this crisis, EBC companies want to look to the future to build a better and more sustainable living environment.

The **new website is clear, user-friendly and up-to-date** to showcase the latest information on EBC activities. It will now be easier to find the most interesting news and the latest EBC positions on European affairs related to construction SMEs.

 [Click here to read the press release](#)

Simplifying procedures to CE mark under the CPR for micro-enterprises

On 23 March Risk & Policy Analysts (RPA) and DG GROW held a workshop to discuss the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR). The workshop followed a **consultation exercise** carried out from November 2014 until January 2015 to assess the extent to which the CPR is meeting (or is likely to meet) its main objectives, based on the first implementation experience.



Small Business Standards (SBS) and EBC are fully involved in this process. On 20 April SBS released a position paper, in which it dealt with the **problematic implementation of CPR for SMEs**. One of the main points is easing the access of micro-companies to simplified procedures through the **use of Annex ZA**. It is a sort of "check list" to be found in the standard related to the product that manufacturers use to mark CE. According to SBS, Annex ZA should clearly mention the possibility for micro-enterprises to self-certify their product. This insertion would allow micro-enterprises to get proper information about how to treat their product and **benefit from the simplification measures they are entitled to**.

■ [Click here to see the position paper of SBS](#)

Construction 2020 needs political support

On 25 March EBC participated in the High-Level Strategic Forum on Construction 2020, promoted by DG GROW. The High-Level Forum presented the conclusions of the Thematic Groups about stimulating the investment conditions, improving human capital, enhancing resource-efficiency.



EBC has been supporting this initiative since its launch in 2012. The **Latvian Presidency** is doing a useful work for the construction sector. Despite these good intentions, EBC believes that without a full **support of the Council** and the coordination between Construction 2020 and the legislative initiatives of **the European Commission**, the plan will not produce the expected positive effects.

■ [Click here for more information on Construction 2020](#)

EBC speaks about SME access to public procurement in the Procurement Week

Procurement Week is an international conference - organised every year by Bangor Law School - that aims to explore the many facets of Public Procurement such as Public Tendering, Business Development, Procurement Law and International Trade. Procurement Week 2015 took place in Cardiff (UK) from 16 to 20 March and brought more than 800 attendees from over 30 countries.

EBC was invited to speak about SME access to public procurement. Riccardo Viaggi, EBC Secretary General, explained the **main improvements of the Public Procurement Directive** and underlined that now the responsibility lies with Member States for a quick and fair implementation.

■ [Click here to read EBC's assessment of the Public Procurement Directive](#)