



EUROPEAN BUILDERS CONFEDERATION

The Voice of Construction Crafts and SMEs in Europe

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PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

2030 Framework for Energy and Climate policies

An energy efficiency target needs a financial commitment to be realistic

Brussels, 23rd October 2014

Ahead of the European Council's deliberation on the 2030 Framework for Energy and Climate Policies, European small construction firms represented by the European Builders Confederation call on a coherent and realistic agreement. Construction SMEs are supportive of the Commission's proposal. However, irrespective of a binding engagement by the EU Member States, the housing sector needs the right implementation and financial framework to deliver more energy efficient buildings.

José Antonio Calvo Delgado, EBC President, said ***"We hope for a sound agreement on new energy targets from the European Council. Whether or not there will be a binding engagement on targets, governments are about to make a political commitment. They must respect it and live up to it, by making it possible through the right policy framework."***

José Antonio Calvo Delgado added: ***"Fixing a target alone is not realistic nor sufficient to reach ambitious levels of energy saving. What small housing businesses urgently need is the introduction of proper measures - including financial ones - to develop the market potential of energy efficiency improvements."***

Without provisions such as reduced VAT rates, advantageous loans, long term incentive schemes, tax deductions and the proper involvement of the financial sector, energy efficiency will not be delivered. Small construction businesses should not be left alone with owners to bear the cost of homes' energy improvements. They are a crucial part in this process."

José Antonio Calvo Delgado concluded ***"Boosting energy retrofitting works is the most effective way to reduce energy consumption and fuel poverty, while re-launching the European economy and tackling the pressing problem of energy security. We need to get construction SMEs back to work to provide local jobs and sustainable development."***

* END *

Links

To have an overview of European small and medium construction enterprises, [click here to have a look at the EBC annual report](#).

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NOTE TO THE EDITOR

Established in 1990, the European Builders Confederation - E.B.C. - is a European professional organisation representing national associations of Craftsmen and SMEs working in the construction sector. Through its national members, E.B.C. represents 2 million micro, small and medium sized enterprises from the construction sector.

The construction sector is of vital importance to the European Economy. With 3.1 million enterprises, an annual turnover of almost € 1600 billion, a total direct workforce of almost 14 million, the construction sector contributes at about 10% to the GDP of the European Union.

The European construction sector is composed at about 99% of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), who produce 80% of the construction industries output. The small enterprises (less than 50 employees) ensure 60% of the production and employ 70% of the sectors working population.

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