

Construction, Europe's largest industry, should have been included in the Clean Industrial Deal published today by the European Commissioners. Indeed, with investments reaching €1,683 billion in 2023, construction provides 18 million direct jobs and contributes 11% of the EU's GDP, making it the largest industry in the European Union (EU).

Acknowledging the importance of the construction industry

The Clean Industrial Deal and its associated Competitiveness Compass present an opportunity to focus on the construction sector as a key sector for our green transition. Investing in construction generates value and these financial resources are retained within our economy. The industry is made up of 99% of small, medium, or micro-sized, but also includes world-leading companies that are headquartered in the EU. Construction has the highest share of professionals with green transition skills. However, it has received the least EU research and innovation funding for its digital transition, whilst the demand for advanced digital skills is one of the highest in construction.

Delivering housing solutions for EU citizens

The housing crisis presents sustainability challenges for both new constructions and renovation works. Investments in efficient, circular construction is crucial for our energy security and the wellbeing of citizens. The forthcoming EU Affordable Housing Plan and European Parliament report should focus on how construction can deliver much-needed affordable housing in accordance with the specific needs of national markets, and foresee an economic stimulus programme for social housing. This approach is sensible for both private and public investments.

Unlocking the circular economy

Construction and demolition waste (CDW) accounts for more than a third of all waste generated in the EU. The industry is keen to decarbonise and adopt circular construction principles through innovative and sustainable processes, but it requires a stable, long-term legal framework.

Achieving climate neutrality

More than three-quarters of our buildings were constructed before 1990, and these account for over 36% of our CO₂ emissions and 40% energy consumption. It is crucial to accelerate renovation works and delivering efficient, sustainable buildings. The savings will make the climate neutrality journey cheaper each year.

Drafting the EU sustainable built environment roadmap

The construction industry's drive towards sustainability and decarbonisation can be a catalyst for the EU's economic growth. The European Institutions should leverage the construction industry's potential to reach climate neutrality, efficient housing and circularity objectives by 2050. The EU construction industry is ready to take on these challenges. We therefore **call upon the European Commission to quickly complement the Clean Industrial Deal publication with a Roadmap for a sustainable built environment**. This roadmap could foresee the delivery of several initiatives such as simplified standardisation procedures for affordable and decarbonised construction, reskilling the workforce, and improving access to raw materials to reduce dependency on non-EU suppliers, funding its digital transition, alongside circularity research and innovation.

Founded in 1988, Construction Products Europe is a Brussels-based international non-profit making association. The association is made up of national and European associations that represent Small and Medium-size Enterprises and world-leading companies. Construction Products Europe aims to promote the European construction industry, to share information on EU legislation and standardisation and to provide input in all European construction-related initiatives.

CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS EUROPE AISBL

54 Avenue Louise - Box P03 - 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Enterprise number: 0465.221.205 – EU Transparency Register: 48010783162-91

RPM Bruxelles - BNP Paribas Fortis BE04 0017 1257 6931

+32(0)472 47 72 23 - info@construction-products.eu - www.construction-products.eu