CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS EUROPE

Position Paper
EU Climate Resilience

04 November 2026

A workable EU Climate Resilience and Risk Management Framework for a safe, competitive and climate-neutral built environment

Addressed to the European Commission, European Parliament and Council of the European Union

Executive message

The European construction products industry supports the adoption of an ambitious and coherent EU framework that mainstream climate resilience in policy, planning, investment and procurement.

People depend on buildings and infrastructure for their safety, health and daily lives. If these assets are not resilient in the face of a changing climate, the people living, working or travelling in them are put at risk. This is particularly pertinent given the long lifespan of the built environment. The European Union must therefore transition from reactive recovery to resilience by design.

The 2024 European Climate Risk Assessment identifies the wellbeing of people in non-adapted buildings, and damage to infrastructure and buildings, as direct climate risks. The European construction products industry is also directly concerned with the economic and infrastructure risks that follow, including disruption to production sites, supply chains and the networks on which the sector relies.

The future framework must be based on a scientific basis, with clear public-sector responsibility and investable demand. At the same time, it must avoid fragmented national requirements, duplicated assessments and disproportionate liability for manufacturers and contractors. Improving buildings and infrastructures resilience must be considered an opportunity to encourage the European construction products industry in delivering appropriate solutions.

Our recommendation is to establish a performance-based EU-framework that aligns climate-risk assessment, construction rules, public procurement, finance and insurance, while considering regional hazards, the existing building stock, housing affordability and realistic transition timelines.

Priority recommendations

The European construction products industry supports the adoption of an ambitious and coherent EU framework that mainstream climate resilience in policy, planning, investment and procurement.

1. Create one common, usable climate-risk baseline

Adopt a common EU reference trajectory for strategic planning and stress testing, supported by transparent assumptions, regularly updated datasets and open-access tools. The baseline should improve comparability without replacing location-specific hazard, exposure and vulnerability assessments.

2. Embed resilience in construction policy without undermining the Single Market

Integrate climate resilience coherently across the EU Single Market, using the Construction Products Regulation (CPR), building and infrastructure policies such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, Eurocodes, and relevant national regulations. It is crucial establishing a performance-based EU approach to resilience which is material-neutral and technology-neutral. The framework must leave room for innovation and for products suited to local conditions. Harmonised standards and assessment methods must remain the primary route for demonstrating product performance.

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3. Apply lifecycle and proportionality principles

The European Commission's proposal must differentiate requirements by asset type, expected service life, criticality, location and intervention scale. New construction, major renovation, maintenance and emergency repair cannot be treated identically. Rules should account for whole-life carbon, durability, repairability, adaptability, disassembly and safe reuse, avoiding trade-offs that improve resilience while unnecessarily increasing embodied emissions or costs. Following this logic, building codes and standards regularly for resilient products must be based on forward-looking climate data rather than historical records.

4. Improve building resilience through adequate construction products that safeguard occupants' security, comfort and wellbeing

When it comes to buildings specifically, climate resilience can be integrated into the performance requirements for construction products and building components, including thermal performance, solar control, heat fire, wind and water resistance. Since non-adapted buildings are a direct risk to occupants' wellbeing, it is relevant to consider the role of construction products in improving comfort and health (thermal comfort, protection against overheating, air quality, daylight) as a core resilience criterion.

5. Assign public risk ownership and allocate liability fairly

Clearly identify competent risk owners at EU, national, regional and local levels. Public authorities should define hazard information, acceptable risk levels and planning parameters. Contractual responsibility must follow actual control over design, specification, construction, operation and maintenance; manufacturers and contractors should not bear open-ended liability for public-data gaps, unforeseeable future conditions or misuse outside declared product performance.

6. Make resilient demand bankable

Use EU funding, taxonomy-related tools and public procurement to reward verified resilience outcomes and lowest whole-life cost, not simply the lowest initial price. Funding conditions should be stable, proportionate and accessible to SMEs. Renovation and adaptation finance should prioritise vulnerable buildings and population, and critical infrastructure.

7. Scale nature-based and engineered solutions together

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) may reduce stormwater, heat and biodiversity risks, but should complement, not automatically substitute engineered protection. EU guidance should support integrated design, measurable performance, maintenance responsibilities and context-specific selection.

8. Close data, skills and insurance gaps

We should consider the importance of interoperable climate and asset data that may connect with Digital Product Passports (DPPs) and, where used, Digital Building Logbooks (DBLs). Measures addressing the insurance protection gap could reward verified risk reduction, support prevention and preserve access to finance, without making insurance availability a de facto product-compliance test.

Implications for the construction ecosystem

- **Manufacturers:** clearer demand for durable, high-performance and circular solutions, accompanied by predictable test methods and declarations.
- **Designers and engineers:** consistent scenarios and tools for whole-life assessment, overheating prevention and compound-risk design.
- **Contractors:** measurable specifications, realistic tolerances and fair allocation of risks within contracts.
- **Building owners and investors:** comparable information on resilience, maintenance, insurability and whole-life value.
- **Public authorities:** defined ownership, adequate technical capacity and funding to translate EU objectives into local action.

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Implementation principles

Once approved, the framework could be developed through structured engagement with the construction value chain and tested against real projects before obligations apply. The Commission must provide clear definitions, common indicators, guidance for SMEs, regulatory consistency checks and adequate transition periods. Monitoring must focus on outcomes, such as reduced vulnerability, improved continuity and damage avoidance, rather than reporting volume.

Conclusions

The European construction products industry is essential to building a climate-resilient European Union. A successful framework must combine ambition with technical feasibility, harmonisation with local relevance, and resilience with competitiveness and climate neutrality. The European Institutions must deliver the enabling conditions for investment and innovation, while ensuring that responsibilities are clear, requirements are proportionate and the Single Market remains intact.

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.

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