

THE EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION FORUM

BUILDING PROSPERITY FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

A MANIFESTO FOR ACTION

What the construction sector can offer	Decisions EU policymakers should take
<p>Economic growth and jobs creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits to the economy as a whole through the multiplier effect thanks to the sector's large share of EU GDP • Well designed, sustainable buildings and infrastructure essential for Europe's future growth • Green jobs based on a comprehensive understanding of techniques and materials fully embracing a culture of health and safety • Identification and anticipation of the skills needs of workers in order to guide policy. 	<p>Integrated policy framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a long-term, coordinated, and stable regulatory framework to ensure competitive sustainable growth • Implement policies based on impact assessments that put the three pillars of sustainability at the same level • Support renovation and new innovative, efficient solutions in buildings and infrastructure, leading to cost-effective nearly zero-energy new and existing buildings • Prioritise upgrading of infrastructure, including smart grids for energy distribution and sustainable transport networks • Adopt a whole life-cycle assessment approach to buildings • Invest in training, education and skills for workers, going beyond information and best practice exchange.
<p>Commitment to innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong commitment to innovation in daily business practice • Support for increased R & D through pro-active participation in EU research programmes and industry platforms • Identification of technological gaps along the construction value chain in response to the Commission's drive for innovation 	<p>Boost investment in research and innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take full account of the strategic role of the construction sector in the proposed Horizon 2020 budget • Endorse the use of Structural and Cohesion Funds to leverage investments in efficient buildings and infrastructure • Support effective technology transfer.
<p>Care for the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in resource use and energy efficiency • Contribution to energy and transport infrastructure 	<p>Drive coherent environmental policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure coherence and integration between environmental policy and policies to foster growth in industry • Strong focus on upgrading buildings' energy and environmental performance • Set appropriate frameworks for recycling and waste-management.
<p>Responding to social needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement towards a quality and safe built environment, adapted to demographic and social challenges • Solutions for affordable housing • Resilient construction for adaptation to climate change 	<p>Develop a sustainable housing policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design planning and permit systems that facilitate new development (EU should benchmark different regional planning systems) • Facilitate access to credit for investment in affordable housing • Allow for measured and proportionate fiscal incentives for construction and renovation of dwellings.
<p><i>The construction sector calls upon the European Commission, European Parliament and the Member States to coordinate efforts at all levels of government in order to implement coherent and balanced policies and legislation based on a level playing field between public and private actors as well as between the EU and third countries.</i></p> <p><i>More specifically, European and national policy makers should ensure coherence between their policy decisions and consequent investment decisions, even if this requires punctual exemptions from stability pact principles.</i></p>	

European Construction Forum

Participants (as at 28/1/2013)



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The ECF is a platform for cooperation on issues of common interest between independent organisations representing key players in the construction sector and participating on a voluntary basis.

The principal aim of the ECF is the establishment and recognition of a single comprehensive policy approach for the European construction sector through raising the awareness of decision makers at European level to the specific issues affecting the sector as a whole. To this end, the participating organisations strive to arrive at consensual views on issues of common interest. This should lead over time to:

- an increase of the construction sector's direct involvement in the preparation of all EU legislative acts, programmes and actions that have a bearing on the sector
- a more coherent and coordinated approach by the European institutions towards the sector.