



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Circular economy on construction - draft Council conclusions

With a view to the meeting of the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation (Construction Products) on 3 July 2019, delegations will find in the Annex draft Council conclusions prepared by the Presidency based on previous discussions in the Working Party, at the Informal Meeting of the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation: Circular Economy and Construction Products Regulation in the Future, in Helsinki, and on written answers by delegations on the questionnaire from July.

Circular economy on construction

Draft Council conclusions

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING:

The Council conclusions on

- More circularity – Transition to a sustainable society
- 1. NOTES that half of the Earth’s raw materials are used for construction, that 40% of the final energy consumption is used during the service life of buildings, that the embodied carbon of construction products represents 12% of total energy, and that construction and demolition waste accounts for a third of waste generated in the Union;
- 2. RECOGNISES the large potential for enhanced resource efficiency and circularity of construction materials and products;
- 3. HIGHLIGHTS the need for a rapid transition to a climate neutral and more circular economy in the sourcing and manufacturing of construction products and their sustainable use in construction works;
- 4. NOTES that existing buildings and infrastructure form a materials’ bank which should be exploited;
- 5. POINTS OUT that buildings are the single largest energy consumer in Europe, that construction is highly material and carbon intensive and that the maintenance and renovation of existing buildings and infrastructure, and new circular construction, can play a role in a climate neutral and green transition;

6. ACKNOWLEDGES the potential a circular economy can offer to the creation of jobs and to the overall EU economy. The transition into a circular economy can generate up to 60 million new jobs worldwide;
7. URGES the Commission to include and facilitate requirements aimed at supporting the circularity of construction products in the possible revision of the Construction Products Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 (CPR) and to do the utmost to include corresponding requirements into (Harmonised) Technical Specifications;
8. SUPPORTS the integration of circularity principles, life-cycle thinking and modular design into construction by adopting tools such as Level(s), Green Public Procurement criteria for construction works and the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management protocol;
9. STRESSES the importance of enabling the delivery of information regarding the basic works requirement (BWR) 3 (Hygiene, health and environment) and 7 (Sustainable use of natural resources) of Annex I to the CPR, also for construction products covered by harmonised product standards where such characteristics are missing;
10. UNDERLINES the voluntary nature of the re-use of construction products;
11. URGES the importance of securing the safety of a construction product also when it is being re-used or manufactured from recycled material;
12. ENCOURAGES the Commission to consider options such as
 - an obligation for manufacturers to take back surplus construction products at the client's own expenses and responsibility,
 - an obligatory life-cycle assessment of construction products,
 - provisions facilitating a market for high-value materials from recycling,

- conditions for creating a European platform for recycled products,
 - provisions promoting a material passport to list all construction products and materials used in a construction work to promote sustainable long-term building management and recycling,
 - an alternative for factory production control (FPC), for example a need to test one product per 100,
 - more consistent use of the already existing definitions and terminology for “re-use”, “recycling” and “recovery”,
 - clarification of the relationship between Waste Directives and the CPR as regards reusable construction products and materials recovered from construction waste;
13. ACKNOWLEDGES the excellent work of the Member States in developing pilot projects, and INVITES the Commission to examine the possibilities of scaling up those offers;
14. INVITES the Member States to further develop and strengthen their national roadmaps and strategies in adopting a circular economy in the construction sector;
15. ACKNOWLEDGES that not all aspects relating to re-use and recycling of construction products and materials they contain can be solved in the possible revision of the CPR alone and INVITES the Commission to develop policy for the built environment based on life-cycle assessment and to integrate sustainability goals and targets.
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