

## **Adapting to climate change - EU strategy**

### **BIBM feedback**

BIBM, the Federation of the European Precast Concrete Industry, promotes the uptake of efficient construction solutions for buildings and infrastructures. It is vital that we invest in infrastructure which is long-lasting and robust - but we must also consider the overall quality of the environment and human well being.

The onset of the effects of climate change, including flooding, extreme heat and weather events and sea level rise, mean that the future pressure on construction and civil engineering structures will be much greater than today. Precast concrete allows us to build sustainably and with confidence in the face of such adversity. A long list of different applications and solutions are available corresponding to changing climate conditions. The reduction of emissions generated during the life cycle of the construction is important in order to mitigate climate change. But besides combating and preventing climate change, the proper adaptation to the foreseeable consequences of climate change is very much needed. To address such evolutions, the thermal inertia properties of precast concrete ensure a more constant and appropriate temperature in the buildings, both in cold and hot climates, with a minimum demand for heating and cooling.

Precast concrete is a strong material and resists to fire and other possible natural catastrophes which may occur more frequently in European regions, such as floods or droughts. Buildings we design and build today will have to be immune to more extreme climatic conditions and environmental pressures in the future. Adapting our built environment to the impacts of climate change will be a substantial challenge for the European Union. It will require contributions from governments, industry and citizens and the European Institutions have to ensure the right regulatory framework in order for us to succeed.

The creation of an intersectoral forum (construction, energy, transport) is also needed to promote the exchanges of experience between the different sectors most concerned by climate change adaptation.