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EU Action Plan Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil

BIBM feedback

BIBM, the Federation of the European Precast Concrete Industry (www.bibm.eu), supports the EU's ambition to take further steps towards a zero pollution ambition. We welcome any efforts to reduce emissions to the atmosphere, water, and soil. Therefore, we support the integrated approach of the IED whereby permits are adapted to local conditions.

Industrial emissions may be a leading cause of pollution in Europe and they should be dealt with. The IED is functioning quite well in this perspective. It provides significant improvement on the interaction between seven previously existing directives (including in particular the IPPC Directive). The IED reduces the administrative burden through combined requirements on granting permits and streamlined reporting. The BREF process is generally an important tool to improve the environmental performance of European industry. We believe that the IED and the BREFs are delivering environmental performance across the EU because their approach is flexible, focuses on continuous improvements and addresses local environmental issues holistically. Thus, the new action plan should be also focused on measures to strengthen enforcement and implementation of the existing legislation.

When it comes to urban water treatment, we need a more ambitious approach which is essential for future circular wastewater management. We should also take into account a huge potential of appropriately treated wastewater and find different ways to reuse it. This is particularly important in times of changing rainfall patterns, severe droughts and water shortages. The UWWTD should promote circular economy for water by helping remove obstacles to enable widespread reuse of urban water as an alternative water supply for agricultural, municipal and industrial purposes. Water is, and will be, a very important resource, to be sustainably managed today and in the future. Precast concrete is an excellent material for containment, whether this is for water storage, domestic rainwater or grey water collection. The strength and resilience of precast concrete has been proven for these and other applications such as wastewater treatment works.

BIBM is willing to exchange with the EC both expertise and outputs from relevant activities and EU funded projects regarding sustainable construction towards a Zero Pollution Ambition. The real green transition can only be achieved if the EU devotes itself to a massive push towards the circular economy and we are happy to contribute in this regards.

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