

Launch of Concrete Europe: The Voice of Concrete and Its Value Chain

Conveying solutions to achieve the EU Green Deal in the construction ecosystem

Brussels, 8 February 2023 - 2023 will be a crucial year for the built environment in Europe with the publication by the European Commission of the Construction Ecosystem Transition Pathway and the Whole life Carbon Roadmap. This is why the four European associations representing the concrete sector and its value chain - [BIBM](#) (the Federation of the European Precast Concrete Industry), [CEMBUREAU](#) (the European Cement Association), [EFCA](#) (the European Federation of Concrete Admixtures Associations) and [ERMCO](#) (the European Ready Mixed Concrete Organization) - have joined forces in a new umbrella organisation: **Concrete Europe**. The new entity is the successor to The European Concrete Platform and The Concrete Initiative. The membership is open to all EU associations active in the concrete value chain.

In its [EU Green Deal communication](#), the Commission defines our sector as "*indispensable to Europe's economy*". **Concrete Europe will continue to convey to the EU stakeholders our sector's contribution to achieving the goals of the EU Green Deal by:**

- **Embedded emissions reduction towards carbon neutrality:** As highlighted in the [CEMBUREAU 2050 Carbon Neutrality Roadmap](#), our sector aims to reduce its gross CO₂ emissions by 30% for cement and 40% down the value chain by 2030. The Roadmap highlights actions and recommended policy frameworks to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 at every step of the cement and concrete value chain.
- **Activated thermal efficiency in buildings through concrete:** According to the [3E Study](#), thermal mass in heavyweight buildings can provide the flexibility to store energy and respond to the needs of the electricity grid by allowing for consumer energy demand to be shifted in time ("active demand response") through the use of structural thermal energy storage. This can result in up to:
 - 25% CO₂ reduction per dwelling;
 - 50% reduction in the need for peak electricity supply capacity;
 - 25% increase in renewable energy penetration.
- **Concrete as a solution for the [circular economy in construction](#):**
 - Concrete structures can easily last more than 100 years;
 - When a concrete structure is dismantled, concrete elements can be re-used, or demolished and crushed and be 100% recycled as aggregates;
 - Concrete is mainly manufactured in proximity to the final user and uses either natural, locally available materials, or quality recycled materials.

Press release

- [Concrete carbonation](#), recognised by the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**: During the life of a built structure, up to 25% of the process emissions related to the production of the cement can be absorbed. CEMBUREAU estimates that the potential carbonation volume is 16 million tonnes CO₂ per year in the EU27. This process can be enhanced at the cement, aggregates and concrete production stages, turning concrete into a [carbon sink](#).

Norbert Schröter, Concrete Europe President, sums it up: *“Our sector is committed to providing solutions to help achieve European climate and environmental targets. Concrete Europe’s task will be to convey them to the EU policy makers and stakeholders in the construction value chain. Indeed, policy is key in helping us deliver faster and having open communication within the value chain is essential for the construction sector to reach these targets”.*

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Notes to editors

Concrete Europe is an umbrella organisation formed in 2023 by four European associations representing the concrete sector and its value chain, namely [BIBM](#) (the Federation of the European Precast Concrete Industry), [CEMBUREAU](#) (the European Cement Association), [EFCA](#) (the European Federation of Concrete Admixtures Associations) and [ERMCO](#) (the European Ready Mixed Concrete Organization). It conjoins The European Concrete Platform association and The Concrete Initiative project.

Concrete Europe aims to convey to the EU stakeholders and construction value chain stakeholders the concrete sector’s contribution in achieving the goals of the EU Green Deal.

More information can be found on the Concrete Europe website: <https://www.concrete-europe.eu/>.

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