

OUR CALL AND COMMITMENT FOR THE NEW EU POLITICAL TERM

The key-role of the construction sector has never been more important in delivering the green, competitive, and inclusive transition of the built environment, but suffers from a severe decline in demand. As we enter an election year, **the Construction 2050 Alliance is calling for a cross-stakeholder coordinated and integrated EU-policy approach to improving the climate resilience of our sector's process and output under the new EU-Commission mandate.** As the driver to deliver energy transition, industrial transformation and competitiveness, our sector requires an open dialogue between its stakeholders and high-level political decision-makers to jointly develop solutions for the built environment of the future that adequately takes account of the specific characteristics of our sector and accelerates the effective implementation of EU environmental policies.

As a first step, the Construction 2050 Alliance is committed to establishing, with the support of European policymakers, **an annual High-Level Summit for the Built environment**, inviting all the relevant policymakers at EU and national level to come together to take stock of the evolution in the construction market. To continue our indispensable contribution to the achievement of the EU's environmental, social, and economic ambitions, work must begin no later than early 2024, in coordination with the Belgian Presidency of the Council. This Summit should then become a regular event, mobilising all actors. It will be even more necessary in crisis situations.

The Construction 2050 Alliance is firm in its commitment to **ensuring that the fundamental contribution made by the construction industry is recognised and supported by policymakers**, with the aim of building tomorrow's Europe today.



ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

Construction is an important sector that contributes greatly to the economic growth of a nation. The construction process starts long before the physical work on site that transforms materials and design into the complete buildings: construction-related enterprises and their workers build the homes we live in, the roads and rails on which we travel and the buildings in which we work, learn, or spend our free time. European citizens spend on average over 90% of their time indoors, meaning that our health and well-being strongly depends on how our buildings are designed, engineered, built, maintained, and renovated, while buildings are also increasingly positioned at the nexus of integrated energy systems, with an impact on housing affordability for all EU citizens.

In accordance with the social, environmental, and economic ambition of the European Union, the construction sector has embarked on a transition towards sustainability, with the strong commitment of all actors along its value chain. Representing around 10% of the EU GDP and 15 million workers, the European construction sector, made of more than 95% of SMEs, is pivotal to achieving the priority goals set by EU policymakers.

The construction sector has the potential to impact positively on short and long term European sustainable growth. Construction should thus be regarded as a major component of investment programmes at European and national level and appropriate strategies shall be defined to further support its development.

PEOPLE

The construction industry is one of the most vital pillars of our society. Due its labour-intensive nature, the construction sector has immense potential to provide millions of quality jobs and a large variety of jobs. The construction sector is resilient and tends towards full employment, whilst also providing fertile ground for entrepreneurs and innovators and embracing diverse talents. The sector is comprised predominantly of SMEs and is actively working on increasing its own attractiveness. Indeed, the evolution of the trades, technologies and professions in the sector offer a wide range of career paths to youth, women, migrants and workers and entrepreneurs from other sectors.

ECONOMY

Investing in the construction sector is more than sound economic sense; it provides a return on investment that delivers a positive impact for people and communities. It supports local industrial activity that cannot be easily outsourced. In addition to the economic multiplier effect, investing in the sector has a huge environmental, economic, and social knock-on effect, because it creates high value local jobs, positively contributing to the recovery of local economies, delivering the sustainable growth strategy of the European Green Deal, the Renovation Wave, and the Net Zero Industrial Act. Ensuring a vibrant construction industry will ensure a better quality of life for all people across the EU.

CLIMATE

The main mid-century goal for the EU is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to zero. Entrepreneurs and workers all along the construction value chain have a crucial mission, to deliver a climate-neutral building stock by 2050. Climate resilience and sustainability must be designed into the building stock. Key construction actors, active in the design and construction through the operational, renewal, and end-of-life phases, are decarbonising their tools, products, and processes to reduce their environmental impact and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. A more sustainable designed and built environment is the only way forward for society, turning environmental challenges such as energy efficiency, waste management, and sustainable finance into opportunities for an inclusive and revitalised market, at the same time enabling a carbon neutral Europe.



The Construction 2050 Alliance is a partnership established in 2020 made of more than 50 European organizations representing the actors of the built environment working together to advance the needs and priorities of the wider construction and built-environment sector at the EU level.