

CONCRETE DIALOGUE - May 2016

The Concrete Initiative

'Concrete Dialogue' - providing you with the latest sustainable construction news from across Europe!

News from The Concrete Initiative!



Concrete Dialogue 2016

Responsible solutions to Europe's housing and infrastructure challenges? This will be the focus of the 2016 Concrete Dialogue 2016 debate. Identifying what the challenges really are and how the construction value chain, policymakers and stakeholders including civil society, banks etc. can turn potential solutions into reality.

- When? 17 November 2016
- Where? The Square, Brussels

[Click here](#) for the latest information, programme and speakers



From the blog: Affordable housing – a pipedream, or a future reality?

According to Habitat for Humanity's 2015 Housing Review, the cost of housing places a heavy burden on over 10% of European households. Of this 10%, more than 39% of families are also at risk of poverty. This is further backed by Eurostat figures which note that nearly 10% of EU citizens live in severe "material deprivation" – in new Member States this figure is almost double (18.6%). And it seems that the situation is not improving. [Read more](#)

EU highlights



Urban Agenda for the EU officially launched

With the informal Ministerial meeting on urban matters agreeing on the Pact of Amsterdam on 30 May 2016, the wheels of the EU Urban Agenda have now been set in motion. The main aim of this initiative is to improve the implementation of EU and national policies by getting cities involved. Indeed, when it comes to translating policies into concrete action, cities have a major role to play. At this stage, four partnerships have so far been launched. These cover air quality, housing, urban poverty and the inclusion of refugees and migrants. [Read more](#)



Parliament turns attention to household energy needs

On 26 May 2016, the European Parliament adopted a resolution which focuses on the cost of energy incurred by European households. As noted by the Parliament, the current and ongoing energy transition, which involves moving away from a traditional and centralised energy generation model towards one which is more decentralised, energy-efficient and based significantly on renewable energy, does involve an increase in costs. [Read more](#)



Energy poverty: evaluating and understanding the current situation

Energy poverty is an issue which is moving increasingly to the forefront of the wider EU debate on energy. Against this backdrop, the Commission is looking at ways in which it can support the Member States in protecting vulnerable consumers. Areas in which it plans to take action include identifying good practices and facilitating an exchange of information. But first of all it is important to understand what is meant by energy poverty and what the extent of the problem really is. [Read more](#)



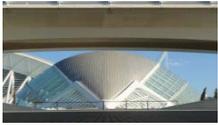
Commission consults on impacts of legislation on construction

Is European legislation having a negative impact on the competitiveness of the construction sector? This is the question behind the recently launched European Commission consultation, which aims to gather feedback on the impact of EU legislation on the construction sector. It covers 15 pieces of EU legislation in the following policy fields: Internal Market, Energy Efficiency, Environment and Health & Safety. [Read more](#)

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EU highlights



Driving sustainable building practices

With the aim of supporting sustainable property development, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Europe Regional Network of the World Green Building Council (WGBC) have joined forces to work on improving energy and resource efficiency, whilst at the same time reducing CO₂ emissions. [Read more](#)



Targeting renovation investments for greatest energy efficiency gains

New research by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology may have found a way of identifying which buildings offer the greatest potential when it comes to retrofitting for energy efficiency. Thanks to these findings it may be possible to identify which retrofitting programs offer the highest return on investment and have the greatest impact on a city's overall greenhouse gas emissions. [Read more](#)

The Concrete Initiative Events

[17 November 2016](#)

Responsible solutions to Europe's housing and infrastructure challenges?

Featured case study



Affordable apartments in Park Hill, UK

This iconic post-war housing development needed to be brought into the 21st century. The concrete structural grid was structurally sound and was repaired and retained to create modern living spaces. There are 874 apartments, of which one third are affordable, together with new retail and leisure facilities. The project has given the Grade II listed building a whole new lease of life. Park Hill was nominated for the 2013 Stirling Prize award.

[Read more](#)

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