

CONCRETE DIALOGUE - October 2016

The Concrete Initiative

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

News from The Concrete Initiative!

	<p>Concrete Dialogue 2016 – One month to go!</p> <p>Responsible solutions to Europe's housing and infrastructure challenges? This will be the focus of the 2016 Concrete Dialogue debate. Confirmed panelists include European commission, European Parliament, Flemish government, Habitat for Humanity, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, ING Belgium.</p> <p>Click here for latest programme and registration</p>
	<p>Fact sheet: Fire safety with concrete</p> <p>In terms of safety, one area of concern for citizens is how well protected they are in the event of a fire breaking out. In this document, The Concrete Initiative outlines its views on what needs to be done to ensure a high level of protection for people in buildings, tunnels and other infrastructure. Concrete does not burn and concrete elements retain their strength at high temperatures, so concrete structures can withstand the effects of a fire without requiring any other form of active or passive protection. This safety comes at no additional cost and will always be there, even if the building changes over time (due to refurbishment or accidents). This means that concrete has much more to offer than other structural materials when it comes to safety. Read more</p>

EU highlights

	<p>Report highlights investment in infrastructure needs</p> <p>According to the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, over the next 15 years, US\$90 trillion needs to be invested in infrastructure. As a result, it calls on governments and finance institutions to scale up and shift investment for sustainable infrastructure as a fundamental strategy to spur growth.</p> <p>Read more</p>
	<p>Guidance highlights good practices for resilient cities</p> <p>In September, the Mayor's Adapt initiative published a brochure outlining good practices in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures for European cities. This publication provides real life examples from cities across Europe. These case studies have been grouped into five categories. The document aims to demonstrate how combining adaptation and mitigation measures can help cities make better planning decisions and solve key challenges. Read more</p>
	<p>An energy efficiency mortgage for greener buildings</p> <p>On 20 September 2016, the building sector joined forces in the launch of a new mortgage scheme offering lower rates to buyers opting for more energy efficient buildings. In order to be eligible, buyers would need to commit either purchasing more energy efficient homes or to carrying out energy-saving retrofits to the property purchased. The project is led by the European Mortgage Federation – European Covered Bond Council (EMF-ECBC) and involves partners such as the European Regional Network of Green Building Councils. Read more</p>

An initiative by:

EU highlights



Adapting Europe's urban environment to climate change

The European Environmental Agency (EEA) has recently published a report in which it analyses potential action which can be taken in order to adapt European cities to climate change. The report, entitled "Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe 2016 – Transforming cities in a changing climate", provides an overview of the progress which has already been achieved in recent years, whilst at the same time looking at it from the perspective of the future challenges posed by climate change. [Read more](#)



Financial boost to sustainable urban development

With the aim of boosting investment in start-ups and sustainable urban development, the European Commission has recently launched two new financial instruments. One of the aims of these is to encourage the regeneration of urban areas. Falling under the scope of European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds, the Commission hopes these funds will encourage Member States to take advantage of revolving financial support, which combines both public and private resources, rather than to depend on the more traditional grants system. [Read more](#)



Investment in improved housing generates savings

According to a recent report by Eurofund, investing €3 in improving housing conditions would generate savings of €2 in just one year. The report focuses on improving the quality of housing in terms of structural problems, lack of basic facilities (eg bath/shower or toilet) and a shortage of space. The authors estimate an investment of around €295 billion in order to improve the housing stock to an acceptable level. [Read more](#)



Commission consults on building sector resource efficiency

In mid August, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the first draft proposals for indicators relating to resource efficiency in the building sector. Interested stakeholders have until 7 October 2016 to respond. The consultation focuses on the summary findings and indicator proposals for the life cycle environmental performance and resource efficiency of EU office and residential buildings. [Read more](#)



UNESCO recognises outstanding contribution of architect Le Corbusier

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has recently recognised the outstanding architectural contribution of Le Corbusier to the Modern Movement. 17 of his works, across 7 countries have now found their way onto the list of UN World Heritage sites. [Read more](#)

Featured case study



Rehabilitation of the Antwerp Ring Road

The R1 is a 14-km ring road which surrounds the city of Antwerp and was opened to traffic in 1969. The road was first rehabilitated between 1976 and 1977, with some sections of the road being widened to up to 7 traffic lanes. However, an increase in traffic intensity to nearly 200 000 vehicles per day led to the need for a complete structural rehabilitation of this motorway. [Read more](#)