

**“Citizens at the Heart of the Sustainably-built Environment”**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**The Square Meeting Centre, Brussels**

**9.00 –9.15 Welcome Session**

*Environment Commissioner Karmenu Vella (Video)*

*Daniel Gauthier, CEMBUREAU President - on behalf of The Concrete Initiative*

**9.15 – 10.00 Keynote session: “Sustainable construction as a driver for growth and jobs”**

*Mr Antti Peltomäki, Deputy Director General, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission*

*Mayor Alexiei Dingli, Valetta, Malta - Urban Regeneration*

**10.00-10.30: The Multiplier Effect of Concrete on the Economy**

*Presentation by Artabaz Shams (LeBIPE/Euroconstruct)*

In this session, LeBipe (Euroconstruct) consultants will present a study on the multiplier effect of an investment in concrete for the whole economy, **focusing on the benefits of a local supply chain**. The study covers the EU 28 plus Norway, Turkey and Switzerland and assesses the direct (jobs, growth), indirect (upstream and downstream) and induced (direct and indirect employee expenditure) to the economy. It will further qualify the contribution to sustainable growth. This presentation will provide the basis for a larger discussion on how concrete and, by extension, other building materials, can contribute to **creating and maintaining jobs and growth** in Europe while at the same time, promoting the energy-efficiency in buildings agenda.

**10.30-11.20 Debate I: What are the regional and local economic and social benefits of sustainable construction?**

Moderator: Ronnie Hall - Principal Adviser, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

With interventions by

- Eliana Garcés Tolón, Senior Economist and Deputy Head of Unit, Economic Analysis, DG GROW
- Gergana Miladinova, Team Leader, Competence Center Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG Regio
- Joost van Iersel - President EESC section EMU & Regional & Cohesion policy
- Brian Field - Former Special Managerial Adviser on Urban Planning & Development, EIB
- Werner Buelen - Political Secretary, European Federation of Building and Woodworkers
- Julia Reinaud – Director Industrial Policy, European Climate Foundation
- Savvas Verdis - Urban and Infrastructure, Siemens

**11.20-11.50 Coffee Break**

**11.50-12.20 Building Design for Safety and Sustainability**

*Presentation by Paolo Negro, Scientific/Technical Projects Officer (Joint Research Center, European Commission)*

The new report, “Building Design for Safety and Sustainability”, by the Joint Research Centre’s Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen (IPSC), shows that an integrated approach to addressing needs and concerns is the best way to achieve building sustainability. Placing environmental aspects side by side with the design principles of durability, reliability and safety of structures, as well as cost, help to achieve an optimum solution. The presentation will include a new methodology which follows this approach.

**12.20-13.10 Debate II: What can sustainable construction bring to the circular economy?**

Moderator: Dave Keating - Freelance journalist

With interventions by

- Kestutis Sadauskas - Director, Green Economy, DG Environment, European Commission
- Evelyn Huytebroeck - MP, former Minister for Environment, Energy and Urban Renovation, Belgium
- Fulvia Raffaelli - Head of Unit Clean Technologies and Products, DG GROW, European Commission
- Christophe Sykes - Director General, Construction Products Europe
- Alexander Kessler - Senior Manager - Environment, Technology, Sustainability, BDI/BusinessEurope

**13.10-13.25 Concluding remarks:** Cedric de Meeûs, project leader - The Concrete Initiative

***“What next for sustainable construction and The Concrete Initiative?”***

**13.25-15.00 Lunch**

**Keynote speaker: Philip Jodidio**

World-famous author on architecture, author of “Architecture Now!” series: “The role of materials in building tomorrow’s buildings and infrastructure”

**Keynote speaker: Ruben Dekker**

First Secretary/Environment attaché, Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the EU: “The Dutch Presidency’s outlook for the circular economy”