

# High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum

## REPORT

### On follow-up actions on the Communication and Action Plan Construction 2020<sup>1</sup>

February 2014

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2012) 433 final "Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises"

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## Executive summary

Construction 2020 is aimed at identifying and implementing measures that help fostering sustainable competitiveness in the construction sector in the short as well as in the medium to long term. It intends to define sound conditions on a general level for investment, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, higher resource efficiency and work environment. It also encourages actions to reassure and ameliorate the functioning of the Internal Market and help remove barriers to trade and business at international level. The potential of the European construction sector can largely be developed through existing EU instruments and strategies. During 2013, the EC has facilitated the development of a governance structure comprising of a High Level Strategic Forum (HLF) and 5 Thematic Groups (TGs) to address the various actions presented in the Construction 2020 Action Plan. This bottom up approach has provided Member States and stakeholders representatives with the opportunity for expressing their views with regards to the implementation of the various actions.

This report presents the outcome of the discussions of the High Level Strategic Forum (HLF) during 2013. This document reflects the state of play and does not prejudice possible adjustments of the strategy and of the vision of the HLF in 2014 depending on the effective implementation of its recommendations and new policy developments.

How is this document structured?

**Section 1:** Provides a summary of those recommendations which have been prepared by the TGs and discussed by the HLF. For each Thematic Group, a brief introduction on the proposed recommendations precedes a table with the scope and possible actions to be undertaken.

**Section 2:** Gives an overview of the priorities defined by the HLF for 2014.

**Section 3:** Presents the timetable of the various meetings of the TGs and of the HLF in 2014.

**Annex A** presents a detailed table with "possible actions" that the HLF may bring forward. **Annex B** identifies possible national initiatives that converge with the objectives of Construction 2020 and where further cooperation should be strengthened. **Annex C** provides with a list of European and international events related to sustainable construction which could serve for the dissemination of the HLF recommendations.

HLF Members are expected to ensure leadership, commitment and that adequate resources are allocated to the implementation of the agreed recommendations. In parallel, a Commission EC Task Force involving various EC services will analyse to which extent existing policies and initiatives are responding to the HLF recommendations and assess the need to launch possible new actions.

During 2014, the visibility of Construction 2020 needs to be increased. To this end, links should be established with other EU-institutions, and platforms, think-tanks and forums at Member States level that share the thematic spirit of the "Construction 2020 Action Plan". Moreover, in consultation with the Thematic Groups, the EC Secretariat will develop an approach for assessing the progress achieved with the Construction 2020 Action Plan and its governance structure.

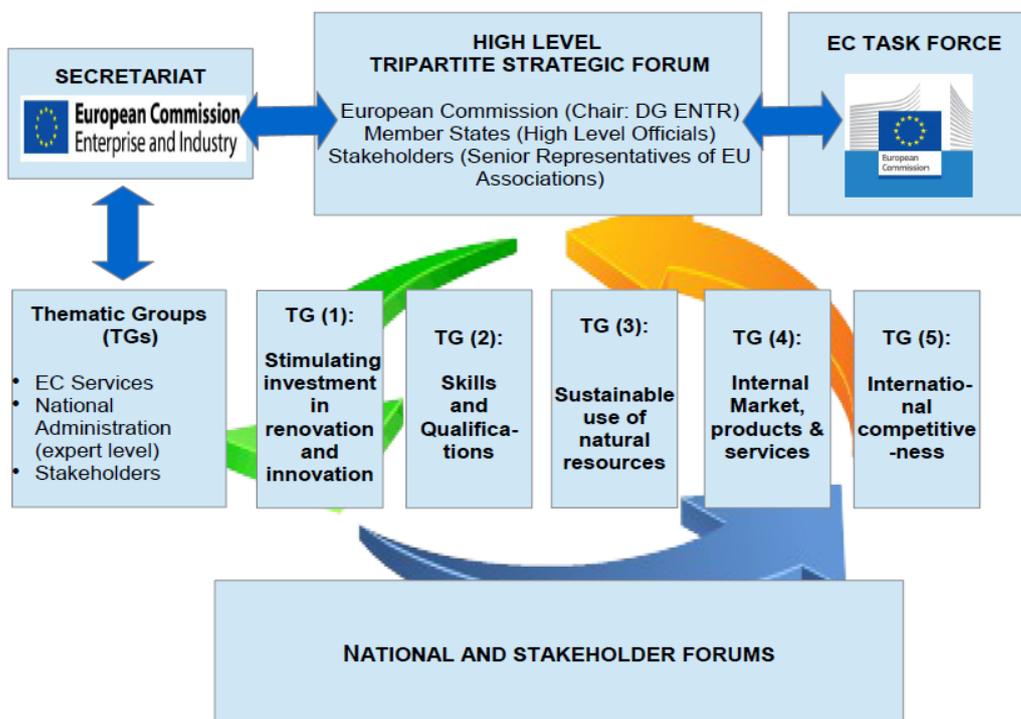
# Introduction

In 2012 the Commission issued a **Communication on the “Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises”** (Communication COM (2012) 433 final), aimed at facilitating sustainable growth and development in the construction sector. This Communication was accompanied by an Action Plan, commonly known as **“Construction 2020”**, which aims to support the construction sector in its adaptation to key upcoming challenges and to promote the sustainable competitiveness of the sector. In order to help meeting these goals, the Action Plan is organised around five key strategic objectives:

1. Stimulating favourable investment conditions
2. Improving the human-capital basis of the construction sector
3. Improving resource efficiency, environmental performance and business opportunities
4. Strengthening the Internal Market for construction
5. Fostering the global competitive position of EU construction enterprises

For the implementation of the Action Plan, the Commission has created a dedicated governance structure:

**Illustration of Construction 2020 governance structure**



This structure aims to co-ordinate initiatives at EU level based on national good practice and identify potential synergies as well as provide concrete recommendations for initiatives to be supported by the High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum. The governance structure consists of:

- The **High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum** (HLF), which monitors the overall progress of the implementation of the Action Plan and its objectives, provides an opinion and follows up on the recommendations of the five thematic groups (described below). The HLF proposes new initiatives or revisions to existing initiatives and makes concrete recommendations for future action. The HLF is a tripartite group, consisting of the Commission, Member States (MS) and sectorial representatives. The HLF has met twice in 2013.
- Five **Thematic Groups** (TG), corresponding to the key strategic objectives which map sector needs and identify barriers to the implementation of the Action Plan and make specific recommendations for future action. Each group has met twice during 2013. The Thematic Groups are composed of EC services, MS authorities and sectorial representatives with expertise in relevant areas.
- The **Secretariat** is in charge of logistics arrangements, the preparation of discussion papers and background documentation to support the exchange of information among Thematic Group participants, as well as drafting Reports and co-ordinating draft Recommendations to the HLF. DG ENTR awards a service contract for support in the tasks.
- The **EC Task Force** on “*Sustainable industrial policy, construction and raw materials*” is a group which ensures co-ordination across EU services. From the point of view of the Action Plan, it ensures contributions of the construction sector to policy development on innovation, job creation, social cohesion, energy efficiency, meeting environmental goals and achieving international growth. Its main focus is on possible synergies, overlaps, inefficiencies and other co-ordination issues linked to the key contributions of the construction sector to the EU 2020 strategy, long-term Industrial Policy and other relevant EU goals.

## Section 1: Recommendations from the High Level Forum

During 2013, each Thematic Group (TG) has met at least twice to discuss the initiatives set out in the "Construction 2020" Action Plan. Participants discussed specific recommendations that would foster the implementation of these initiatives.

The following sections provide a synthesis of those recommendations from the TG members which the HLF considers worth pursuing in 2014. Initially, the report identifies those recommendations for which the HLF members have expressed some reserve and which would require, in some cases, further investigation from the TGs.

Subsequently, the recommendations of each group are presented in summary – please see Annex A for detailed tables of the scope and possible actions to be undertaken.

### **THEMATIC GROUP 1 – "Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation"**

The HLF welcome the idea that energy efficiency is seen together with other basic requirements for construction works. As regards the extent to which a building can be renovated, some members are hesitant to promote specific measures or concepts, such as *deep renovation*, but would rather prefer a cost benefit approach to reassure most value for resources, so that energy efficiency is obtained in the most cost-efficient way when renovating.

Representatives from the financial sector should be associated to the Forum and the TGs as finance is essential to construction, renovation and innovation. In particular, the availability of mortgage loans and business finance on suitable terms for investors and SMEs is important for the development of the residential market. Today, various constraints are putting pressure on the availability of proper finance for investments in buildings and infrastructure construction, renovation and maintenance. Financing mechanisms should make long-term investments in construction works more attractive for property owners as well as for the financial sector.

As regards communication needs for EU funding and energy efficiency information, e.g. energy labelling and energy performance certificates, some members of the HLF are unsure that a EU wide dissemination campaign would be an efficient tool since the average person or landlord is likely to not identify with EU branding on this. More targeted campaigns should be organized at national level.

Furthermore, some HLF members believe that lowering the administrative burden on the (new) built environment would have a positive effect on the provision of affordable houses. They invite public authorities to carry out an inventory and an analysis of the different existing regulatory and policy measures affecting the provision and the commercialization of dwellings, in order to abolish and/or replace inefficient and ineffective measures. At the same time, they suggest that public authorities make sure that every new policy proposition is presented together with a socio-economic impact assessment. The European Commission could play a role in facilitating exchange of experiences and capacity building for administrative simplification at regional and local levels.

The HLF discussed also the need of modernising rent regulations in order to improve the general state of the building stock and address the split incentive problem in energy efficiency investments. Most members pointed it out that is a subsidiarity matter which should be dealt with specific approaches and incentives at national and regional levels. This question should be reconsidered once the Member State would have presented their national renovation plans in 2014 as foreseen by the Energy Efficiency Directive.

About fiscal instruments for sustainable construction, some members of the HLF remarked that some Member States have put in place schemes within the scope of the existing EU legal framework, particularly for energy efficiency in the housing sector. It was suggested that an exchange of experiences is organised within the ECOFIN context about how fiscal instruments impact on sustainable construction. The Economic Policy Committee (EPC) Working Group on Energy and Climate Change would be a possible place for such an exchange of information amongst Member States.

### Key recommendations (see Annex A for full details)

In order to stimulate the demand for energy efficiency and infrastructure upgrading the HLF recommends to better align the existing EU instruments for sustainable building renovation and infrastructure maintenance. Moreover, in order to capitalise on research programmes, the HLF suggests to give priority to demonstration projects and market oriented activities fostering the take-up of new knowledge and innovative approaches in building renovation and infrastructure maintenance. Specific recommendations are:

1. A **mapping should be carried out of the various market segments' needs** related to residential and non-residential buildings, and guidance developed on blending the various available financial instruments. Particular attention should be given to the residential sector and providing the technical assistance required to aggregate small projects into 'bankable' projects. A framework for EU wide metrics should allow the **appraisal of the cost-benefits of financial instruments and other policy initiatives**, in order to monitor implementation effectiveness.
2. Encourage the property valuation industry to **adopt internationally recognised valuation standards**, in particular those developed by the International Valuation Standards Committee and the European Group of Valuers' Association, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and collect information to properly assess the **impact of sustainability on market** expectations, market value and fair value.
3. Use a **life cycle costing** approach to anticipate the maintenance costs during investment decisions. Apply the **user-pays principle** to finance infrastructure maintenance and upgrading; ensure that funds collected are earmarked for this purpose. In addition, the Group suggests **better appraisal of the sustainability of infrastructure projects** at the decision stage, especially regarding maintenance and upgrading.
4. Support innovative "**lighthouse**" **projects** addressing various market segments and project sizes to strengthen synergies between public funds and private investors. Develop a **quality assurance** strategy specific to the respective needs of new materials, technology and services to ensure their take up by the market and insurance coverage.

5. Support **active ageing schemes**, both via an adapted building stock and by facilitating continued employment of older workers in construction.

## THEMATIC GROUP 2 – "Skills & Qualifications"

As far as skills and qualifications issues are concerned, the industry's main focus seems related to the **consolidation of entrepreneurship** within the sector, particularly from the contractor's perspective. The construction sector unfortunately is not attracting young talents and **falls short in relevant skills in regards to low carbon economy and resource efficiency**, except for engineering and architecture. In general, HLF Members recognize that any initiative in respect to **exchange of best practices** is of vital importance to the sector, workforce and trainers, public and private, targeting socio-economic benefits at EU level. The exchange of best practice should also address the **link between career development and young talent attraction**.

The High Level Forum considers that the **BUILD UP Skills model has proven to be a useful step forward** to federate the various policy initiatives undertaken at national level, even beyond energy efficiency. Yet there are still different points of view when tackling the issue of **quality assurance** in relation with qualifications and skills, in particular, when it comes to initial vs. lifelong learning and informal training. However, a general agreement emerges for the necessity to further develop **partnerships that foster the transfer of good practices**, use of **ICT tools**, and exchange of experiences to overcome barriers. This process should ensure easy access to training for the self-employed and micro-enterprises.

Public procurement has to be driver to increase the supply of skilled/qualified workers/managers. Actions such as an EU Sector Skills Council for Construction would be of high esteem. Also, further development regarding the curricula for sustainable construction, in particular in the context of the Sector Skills Alliance pilots and the future ESCO model, could provide insight and where suitable, provide baseline for possible harmonization.

Where the construction industry is undergoing a major restructuration process, access to finance for training is of very high concern. MS as well as industry are aware of opportunities offered through ESI Funds and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF).

### Key recommendations (see Annex A for full details)

The HLF suggests to strengthen the implementation of existing EU and MS instruments to ensure suitably qualified and sufficiently numerous human resources for energy-efficient building renovation and infrastructure maintenance. European quality assurance schemes should facilitate the mobility of workers and construction professionals and increase the attractiveness of the sector to young talents.

6. **Support and extend the BUILD UP Skills initiative** (Pillar I & II) to cover building and construction site professionals and include other stages of the property lifecycle such as construction, building operation and management. In particular, identify which national

issues may benefit from similar solutions at regional or EU level. The group also recommends to **review the eligibility for funding measures for training to ensure fair access** for all workers, professionals and sizes of enterprise, especially for SMEs. The aim is to stimulate partnerships for trainings needs at regional and local level. In addition, the group should **provide guidelines for developing partnerships** to optimise uptake of training.

7. Provide **guidelines for developing partnerships** to optimise uptake of training. **Encourage training for jobs in the green economy**, and tapping potential new personnel streams. The group should also **review existing EU level initiatives and partnerships that support training** to compile and spread good practice.
8. **Facilitate mobility of workers and construction professionals** by following up the development and implementation of assessment tools and registries (professional cards), in construction. Finally, it was proposed to study Health & Safety innovative practices in the sector to spread good practice.

### THEMATIC GROUP 3 – "Sustainable use of natural resources"

The HLF Members focused the discussion on the forthcoming Sustainable Building Communication (expected to be adopted in 2014) as well as the revision of the Waste Framework Directive.

The need for a voluntary, transparent, EU framework (baseline structure) for the measurement of the sustainability performance of buildings and other construction works was discussed with a view to boost future investments in resource efficiency, help to upgrade existing building stock and strengthen the internal market for construction products and services. As a first step, HLF Members advocate the benchmarking of existing assessment tools and available standards in order to ensure better comparability. The demand for sustainable buildings and related Research, Development and Innovation (R&D&I) activities should be boosted through available instruments, such as European Structural and Innovation Funds, Horizon 2020 and Green Public Procurement. The issue of available qualified and skilled workforce in the supply chain is vital (not only at the design stage but at the installation/maintenance phases) thus further synergies have to be developed between different EU instruments.

In the light of the actual revision of the Waste Framework Directive, it is important to define a realistic target for Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste, The HLF recommends improving the terminology and further developing on appropriate metrics to ensure proper monitoring and assessment. Deconstruction principles and assessment tools for material efficiency should be promoted throughout the entire value chain. Further exchange of best practice in regards to tools/guidelines for preliminary assessment of buildings before demolition in order to facilitate maximizing the valorisation of C&D waste. It is also necessary to support for R&D&I in line with market demand in order to improve resource efficiency.

#### Key recommendations (see Annex A for full details)

The HLF suggests to improve the comparability of the various existing methods for the assessment of the building environmental performances and to promote a single structure for the assessment of the environmental performance of construction products. Moreover, the factual information basis regarding C&D waste needs to be improved together with the promotion of assessment tools for material efficiency.

9. Encourage the creation of an EU framework for **building assessment** in terms of evaluation/comparability of the environmental performance of buildings. Promote a single structure for the **assessment of the environmental performance of construction products** building based on existing environmental assessment tools and European standards. Use existing instruments within the framework of ESI Funds and Horizon 2020 to **incentivise resource efficiency** in the construction sector. Consider Green Public Procurement as a tool to increase demand for sustainable buildings. Using **communication tools**, increase awareness/ knowledge about integrated design and sustainable buildings amongst different actors. **Collect data to assess building /product sustainability**. Consider feedback from buildings in operation, and transparent communication of operating data, to gain valuable information for future investment.

10. Explore ex-ante assessment of buildings prior to demolition to identify viable/potential opportunities to facilitate maximizing the **valorisation of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste**. Identify **economic instruments that provide incentives for recycling C&D waste**. Improve the recycling infrastructure throughout Europe by **clarifying definitions** in the context of the Waste Framework Directive. Develop a realistic target for C&D waste recycling based on sound waste management statistics.

## **THEMATIC GROUP 4 – "Internal Market"**

The HLF showed wide support for the proposed recommendations. It also highlighted the very important degree of interrelation of the internal market for construction products with construction services. While the assessment in regards to construction products is highly standardized and effective, the provision of construction services in the internal market, particularly in the provision of cross border services, is still far from satisfactory. The HLF highlighted the well-established contact points system throughout Europe and the importance to ensure their actual operability and further development of a network. Furthermore, it was noted that market surveillance, which is essential, shall also be exercised at regional level in Member States, so the regions should be explicitly mentioned.

At EU-level, a pragmatic mapping study on cumulative burden of existing legislation applicable to construction products and services based on representative case studies for services/professions/products would be welcomed and should be coherent with the European Commission's REFIT initiative. The HLF noted that cross-border liability is a complicated issue, and that clear regulation and rules are needed.

Eurocodes has proven as a tool which is gaining momentum, for cost-benefit reasons but also by enhancing the internal market for construction. However, some HLF Members, believe that, before starting studying the possible wider use of Eurocodes in new areas, efforts should be concentrated on the correct implementation of the current Eurocodes and more return of market experience should be shared. A specific effort should also be undertaken towards simplification.

### **Key recommendations (see Annex A for full details)**

The HLF confirms that there is a need to assess the cumulative burden of EU legislation on construction products and service businesses. Further improved use of Eurocodes could also be beneficial for the Internal Market of construction services. Based upon the experiences gathered at MS level of market surveillance for construction products, the HLF puts emphasis on the need to guarantee enough resources by MS to ensure quality in the European construction industry. The HLF also suggests to assess how Member States have progressed with the integration of provisions related to sustainability in national building regulations and codes.

11. With regard to "**Fitness check**", assess the overall consistency and coherence of EU legal acts imposing obligations on the construction sector to identify/avoid/remove provisions creating overlaps, inconsistencies, obsolete measures or excessive cumulative burden. This

does not aim at deregulation. Priority areas would be: the Internal market, Environment; Energy efficiency; Health and safety.

12. Develop a comprehensive **network of national contact points for construction products and services** to provide harmonised, consistent and accessible information on **EU and national legislation** related to construction products and services, **covering both national and cross-border services**<sup>2</sup>. Insurance for cross border services in construction. Facilitate the provision of insurance for cross border services based on the definition of common criteria for the assessment of equivalence of insurances and flexible conditions for temporary cross-border services.
13. Ensure that **Eurocodes** are more widely used in the EU, including in public procurement. Explore possibilities of **further clarification**, simplification, harmonisation and evolution of Eurocodes.
14. **Ensure effective market surveillance** of construction products, including legislative simplification. **Encourage MS to assign the necessary resources** and to guarantee proper market surveillance at national and regional level.
15. **Assess legislative sustainability provisions** in Member States: gather preliminary views about the aspects to be considered in relation to the EU internal market.

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<sup>2</sup> Communication on Services COM (2012) 261 final "A partnership for new growth in services"

## THEMATIC GROUP 5 – "International Competitiveness"

The HLF Members recognize the importance of international competitiveness in the construction sector, particularly regarding market access. It was noted that most of the existing support schemes target SMEs, but that a significant contingent of non-SME construction firms also face fierce competition and barriers when entering third markets.

The HLF appreciates the approach taken in regards to the construction sector and the establishment of future Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), notably the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the US (TTIP). Industry underlined the importance of further promotion of European standards as a means of market access, but also a guarantee for quality in construction. The HLF established a list of priority countries for the international promotion of construction and maximising the benefits of trade negotiations.

HLF Members supported cooperation in "sustainable" construction aspects but also in broadening the international cooperation on regulation and standards beyond the current focus on construction design codes (Eurocodes), notably to include construction products and professional qualifications.

HLF Members did not reach consensus in regards to the new reciprocity instrument for public procurement.

### Key recommendations (see Annex A for full details)

The HLF suggests to strengthen the promotion of EU construction industry know-how at international level and to maximize benefits of trade negotiations. Moreover, the HLF welcomes the current support measures and schemes for the internationalisation of EU construction SMEs and is keen to contribute to the development of possible new support measures and schemes.

16. **Focusing future work and collaboration** with international partners. Due to the particularities of trade in the construction sector, **a well-targeted selection of potential partner countries** for intensifying cooperation is necessary.
17. The Group recommends to the EU institutions, together with Member States, to address the issue of **access to finance and guarantees**, notably for trade and investment with high-risk regions and those where European companies suffer from unfair competition. Foster during the next programming period (2014-2020) the **participation of the private sector in EU External Aid projects** through blending mechanisms, in line with G20/8 conclusions and respecting OECD Rules.
18. **Foster the international cooperation on regulation and standards beyond Eurocodes** notably to include construction products and professional qualifications.

## Section2: Priorities for 2014

In 2014, Construction 2020 and the HLF should aim to focus on four (4) main priorities:

### 2.1. Follow-up the suggested recommendations by the HLF (Section 1 of this document):

HLF Members are expected to ensure leadership, commitment and adequate resources are allocated to the implementation of the agreed recommendations. In parallel, a Commission EC Task Force involving various EC services will analyse to which extent existing policies and initiatives are responding to the HLF recommendations and assess the need to launch possible new actions.

### 2.2. Initiate Action Plan measures that have not yet been covered:

#### **Stimulating favourable investment conditions**

Actions associated with this objective aim to stimulate investment in the construction sector, particularly in renovation activities, and to improve the sector's capacity to innovate.

- Mapping of implementation of the financial instruments and mechanisms at MS level, including the expertise of the of the financial sector for sustainable construction/renovation
- Mapping of national permit granting process for TENs cross border sections from a technical perspective (to be further developed).
- Other ESI Funding mechanisms that could foster research-innovation-procurement, , interregional clusters, etc. to speed up the uptake of new knowledge and technologies at EU and regional levels in the construction sector.

#### **Improving the human capital basis**

Actions associated with this objective aim to gage skills and qualifications needs in the construction sector and to adapt trainings accordingly; to improve training and mobility options for workers in the sector; to increase sector attractiveness and to help harmonise qualifications across the EU.

- All actions have been covered under the scope of the actual recommendations issued. Thus, no new action in this field is envisaged.

#### **Improving resource efficiency, environmental performance and business opportunities**

Actions associated with this objective aim to harmonise understanding of sustainable and green buildings, to align assessment methods and to develop and exchange best practices to promote resource efficiency, improve environmental performance and promote life cycle thinking in the sector.

- Assessment of hindrances resulting from national legislation governing, the authorisation process for major construction projects, with a view to identifying good practices for streamlining the procedures, (with a particular view on the on-going revision of the EIA Directive).

### **Strengthening the Internal Market for Construction**

Actions associated with this objective aim to facilitate cross-border provision of services and develop a common approach to product and building standards.

- All actions have been covered under the scope of the actual recommendations issued. Thus, no new action in this field is envisaged.

### **Fostering the global competitive position of EU construction enterprises**

Actions associated with this objective aim to strengthen the EU construction sector's position in the global market, notably by facilitating international competitiveness of SMEs, promoting European standards beyond the EU and setting priorities for international collaboration to foster market access for construction products and the provision of services. Special attention should be paid to capitalise European political leadership in regards to the climate agenda

- Further collaboration with 3rd countries around sustainable construction, including in public procurement, both from a B2B perspective as well as in regards to regulation and standardisation.
- Possible sub-group to identify information and analytical needs in terms of trade flows and exports/investment opportunities for construction products/solutions/technologies

## **2.3. Communication Strategy:**

### **Establish links with other EU-institutions, and platforms, think-tanks, forums at MS level that share the thematic spirit of the "Construction 2020 Action Plan":**

The HLF suggests that a communication strategy is developed regarding its messages and the activities and reports from the Thematic Groups. In particular, this strategy should reflect on dissemination channels for the specific recommendations at national and regional levels, which will play a prominent role in the implementation of Construction 2020 in the coming year(s).

While opportunities for communication are diverse, a way forward could be dissemination:

- In written form via EU communication outlets (news items, memos, website, etc.)
- At relevant national and international construction forums or other similar events gathering a variety of key affected stakeholders
- National or regional construction forums in particular may present an interesting opportunity for the HLF to present its recommendations and interact with relevant stakeholders<sup>3</sup>. The High Level Forum is invited to inform the Commission about those national forums which seem more appropriate for the communication strategy.

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<sup>3</sup> For reference, a selection of upcoming construction forums in the EU is provided in a separate Annex below (Annex C: Selection of EU and non-EU 2014 construction forums). The HLF may wish to consider a presence at one or more of these non-EU forums to exchange information on EU and non-EU practices, though communication efforts should likely prioritise EU events. Also a list of relevant stakeholder/MS initiatives is being prepared.

- Liaison with the European Investment Bank, European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee<sup>4</sup> and the Committee of the Regions.
- Whenever appropriate for improving the capacity building of the Thematic Groups and the High Level Forum, other key stakeholders will be involved, amongst others, national administrations in charge of construction related affairs and business federations representing the financial and real estate sectors.

#### **2.4. Prepare the criteria/indicators for assessment and impact of the Construction 2020 Action Plan**

During 2014, the Secretariat will develop in consultation with the Thematic Groups an approach for assessing the progress achieved with the Construction 2020 Action Plan and its governance structure.

This approach should be discussed at the next meeting of the High Level Forum in 2014

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<sup>4</sup> In particular regarding the opinion raised by the EESC on the COM(2012)433 final, <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.ccmi-opinions.25196>

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## Section 3: 2014 Agenda of TGs and HLF

In order to pursue the implementation of the sustainable construction strategy, several meetings of the thematic groups and one of the High Level Forum will be organised in 2014.

For each Thematic Group two meetings are scheduled to take place in Brussels: one in April 2014, and the other one in September 2014. Further, the annual meeting of the HLF is expected to be organised in October 2014. While only one HLF meeting will take place in 2014 (in contrast to the two meetings that took place in 2013), the EC could help to arrange web-based meetings and webinars in order to facilitate HLF collaboration throughout the year.

A provisional meeting calendar for 2014 is presented below. All meetings are tentatively scheduled to last from 10 am to 5 pm and will be held in Brussels.

**Calendar: Construction 2020 meetings 2014**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Tentative Date</b>
<b>Thematic Group 1</b>	Meeting 3	Tuesday, 1 April 2014
<b>Thematic Group 2</b>	Meeting 3	Thursday, 3 April 2014
<b>Thematic Group 3</b>	Meeting 3	Tuesday, 8 April 2014
<b>Thematic Group 4</b>	Meeting 3	Wednesday, 9 April 2014
<b>Thematic Group 5</b>	Meeting 3	Wednesday, 2 April 2014
<b>Thematic Group 1</b>	Meeting 4	Tuesday, 9 September 2014
<b>Thematic Group 2</b>	Meeting 4	Thursday, 11 September 2014
<b>Thematic Group 3</b>	Meeting 4	Tuesday, 16 September 2014
<b>Thematic Group 4</b>	Meeting 4	Wednesday, 17 September 2014
<b>Thematic Group 5</b>	Meeting 4	Thursday, 18 September 2014
<b>High Level Strategic Forum</b>	Yearly meeting (meeting 3)	Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec. 2014 (tbc)

## ANNEX A – DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS THEMATIC GROUPS 1 - 5

Each recommendation is presented according to the following structure:

RECOMMENDATION	SCOPE	POSSIBLE ACTIONS
<i>Recommendation in regards to the Construction 2020 Action Plan deliverables</i>	<i>Fields to be covered or investigated by the recommendation</i>	<i>Proposed actions to be taken at EU/MS/sectoral level that could serve to pursue the aim of the recommendation</i>

### DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS THEMATIC GROUP 1

RECOMMENDATION	SCOPE	POSSIBLE ACTIONS
<b>1.1 Better alignment of EU instruments for sustainable building renovation and infrastructure maintenance</b>		
<b>Building renovation:</b> The Thematic Group (TG) suggests that further EU policies take into account aspects of structural stability, health and comfort in addition to energy efficiency requirements.		
1.1.1 Blending of different financial instruments	Map the specific arrangement needs for various market segments related to residential and non-residential buildings, and develop guidance on blending various financial instruments available. Particular attention should be given to the residential sector and providing technical assistance required to aggregate small projects into 'bankable' projects.	<b>Develop guidelines for financing sustainable building renovation</b> with typical project examples in the scope of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds <sup>5</sup> ), with special emphasis on technical assistance schemes and blending of financial instruments – Provide return on experience with these mechanisms
1.1.2 Monitoring and assessment of financial instruments and other policy initiatives	Develop a framework for EU wide metrics to appraise the cost-benefits of financial instruments and other policy initiatives, to monitor their implementation and to assess their effectiveness (in terms of jobs creation, new business opportunities, impact on the environment, etc.)	Create an Ad Hoc Group to develop <b>analytical tools and guidelines</b> for public and private entities involved in the measuring country performance with respect to Europe 2020 and ESI Funds implementation <sup>6</sup> .

<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/what/future/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/index_en.cfm)

<sup>6</sup> Measuring performance: country factsheets, [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/information/brochures/pages/country2012/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/brochures/pages/country2012/index_en.cfm)

1.1.3 Late Payment		Follow up on the <b>Information Campaign on the new Late payment Directive<sup>7</sup></b> , in particular regarding the implementation of the Directive in the construction sector and the identification of possible “hidden” delays at national level.
1.1.4 Property Valuation	Encourage the valuation industry to adopt internationally recognised valuation standards, in particular those developed by the International Valuation Standards Committee and the European Group of Valuers’ Association, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and collect information to properly assess the impact of sustainability on market expectations, market value and fair value.	Call for further evidence from relevant bodies to provide detailed justification for this measure. Professional valuation bodies to promote a minimum level of continuing professional development on sustainability issues amongst their members
<b>Infrastructure:</b> The Thematic Group suggests better appraisal of the sustainability of infrastructure projects at the decision stage, especially regarding the maintenance and upgrading of the infrastructure.		
1.1.5 Life Cycle Costing <sup>8</sup>	Use a life cycle costing approach to anticipate the maintenance phase during construction investment decisions	Define a core cost classification criteria at EU level for LCC implementation taking stock of the work already done at EC level <sup>9</sup> - Investigate the possibility of applying a common methodological framework across the EU in compliance with the new proposed public procurement directive, as well as the possible ways of funding LCC  Assess the needs in terms of ICT interoperability for LCC monitoring & control strategies <sup>10</sup> .

7 [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/fighting-late-payments/late-payment-campaign/events/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/fighting-late-payments/late-payment-campaign/events/index_en.htm)

8 This recommendation is also applicable for building construction, renovation and maintenance.

9 [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/studies/life-cycle-costing\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/studies/life-cycle-costing_en.htm)

10 <http://www.connectandconstruct.eu/>

1.1.6 Financing infrastructure maintenance and upgrading	Apply the user-pays principle (via e.g. tolling) to finance infrastructure maintenance and upgrading; ensure that funds collected are earmarked for this purpose	Assess <b>implementation</b> within the context of relevant <b>existing Directives</b> <sup>11</sup>
<p><b>1.2 Take-up of R&amp;D results and deployment of innovative practices and governance for the construction sector:</b> The TG suggests that EU support to research and innovation gives priority to demonstration projects and market oriented activities fostering the take-up of new knowledge and innovative approaches in building renovation and infrastructure maintenance.</p>		
1.2.1 Development of Public Private Partnerships to fund pilot initiatives	Support “lighthouse” (flagship) innovative projects addressing various market segments and project sizes, which would strengthen synergies between various public funds and private investors, especially in the context of public procurement.	<p>Develop <b>guidelines</b> to help <b>developing partnerships</b> for innovation, regarding aspects such as adopting voluntary arrangements and a life cycle approach, using common language and tools, networking, etc. and to foster a systemic approach giving active support to a European network of focal points for such innovative approaches</p> <p>Support the transfer of know-how with regard to existing research results in the construction sector, particularly through appropriate training</p>
1.2.2 Quality assurance	Develop a quality assurance strategy specific to the respective needs of new materials, technology and services (e.g. Energy Performance Contracting) to ensure their take up by the market and insurance coverage.	Identify initiatives that provide quality assurance to insurers on know-how related to installation of new technologies and materials, based on among others the ELIOS <sup>12</sup> experience. Compile a living database of projects and promote it.

<sup>11</sup> Eurovignette Directive <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1999L0062:20070101:EN:PDF>

<sup>12</sup> Railway infrastructure charges Directive <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2001L0014:20071204:EN:PDF>  
<http://www.elios-ec.eu/>

<b>1.3. Other recommendations</b>		
1.3.1 Active Ageing schemes	Support active ageing, both via an adapted building stock to improve quality of life for the elderly, and by facilitating continued employment of older workers in the sector.	<p>Develop <b>recommendations</b> for adapting the building stock to demographic changes (e.g. promotion of innovative solutions and development of an impact assessment framework to evaluate them; development of an EU housing performance index to evaluate the adaptation of buildings to ageing) to facilitate a more inclusive environment.</p> <p>Develop <b>recommendations</b> for facilitating continued employment of older workers in the construction sector (e.g. continuing training, reconciliation of work and care, employment services for older workers, etc).</p> <p><b>Identify synergies</b> with the work of other programmes (e.g. Design-led innovations for Active Aging (DAA) under the Stockholm programme).</p>

## DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS THEMATIC GROUP 2

RECOMMENDATION	SCOPE	POSSIBLE ACTIONS
<b>2.1. Better implementation of existing EU and MS instruments to ensure suitably qualified and sufficiently numerous human resources for energy-efficient building renovation and infrastructure maintenance</b>		
2.1.1 Support and extend the BUILD UP Skills initiative (Pillar I & II) to cover building and construction site professionals and include other stages of the property lifecycle such as construction, building operation and management.	<p>Draw conclusions from the BUILD UP Skills initiative's final reporting at EU and MS level; in particular identifying which national issues may benefit from similar solutions at regional or EU level.</p> <p>Explore the extension of BUILD UP Skills based on the evaluation of the initiative. Identify trades/professions, MS and market needs.</p>	<p>Further stock taking from the BUILD UP Skills and similar initiatives (national/regional).</p> <p>Assess the validation of informal skills acquisition in the BUILD UP Skills initiative.</p>
2.1.2 Funding of training: Review the eligibility for funding measures to ensure fair access for all workers, professionals and sizes of enterprise especially for SMEs.	Stimulate the development of partnerships for trainings needs in construction at regional and local level, especially for crafts and microenterprises.	<p>Follow-up on inclusion of BUILD UP Skills roadmaps under the priorities for the 2014-2020 European Social Fund financing.</p> <p>Capacity building and competency development of public procurement contracting authorities.</p>
<b>2.2. Accelerated implementation of skills and qualifications programmes/ initiatives/ regulations</b>		
2.2.1 Provide guidelines for developing partnerships to optimise the uptake of the innovation process by suitably trained people.	Define a) innovation fields (particularly ICT, holistic project approaches, youth/active aging) and b) target groups and c) barriers to overcome as a matrix of these.	<p>Compile examples (based on the "Innovation in Construction" conference) and draft guidelines for review by TG2. Ad Hoc Groups to draft EU guidelines.</p> <p>Better information flows to and from the sector to highlight 'green' links with BUILD UP, Connect &amp; Construct, and similar programmes. Build awareness that construction is a field also for those who seek an 'environmental job'.</p>

		"Active aging" – passing on knowledge to the next generation.
2.2.1 Encourage training for jobs in the green economy.	The Green Jobs initiative - Communication on job creation in the green economy. Tap potential new personnel streams.	In line with 1.1.2 & 1.2.1, Strengthen synergies between different funding mechanisms (Horizon2020, COSME, Cohesion Policy Funds, Leonardo da Vinci, Erasmus+) regarding skills for the green economy
2.2.2 Review existing EU level initiatives and partnerships that support training, including sectorial trade and professional associations.	EU good practice	Support a Sector Skills Council for Construction or similar framework (if necessary, setting a mandate and governance frames with modus operandi.)  Support the future European Classification of Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO) model in regards to construction.  Foster accreditation for skills acquired through experience.
<b>2.3. A common approach to learning outcomes</b>		
2.3.1 Facilitate mobility of workers and construction professionals	Follow up the development and implementation of assessment tools, registries (professional cards), in construction.	Particularly follow up on continuing VET and its relation to EQF, EQUAVET and ECVET fostering mobility  Develop competence testing and comparative gap analysis among the various professions.
2.3.4 Health & Safety innovation.		Monitor initiatives of a legal, voluntary or training-related nature.

## DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS THEMATIC GROUP 3

RECOMMENDATION	SCOPE	POSSIBLE ACTIONS
<b>3.1. Environmental performance of buildings</b>		
3.1.1. EU framework for building assessment	Evaluation/comparability of the environmental performance of buildings.	Mapping of indicators building on existing evaluation systems <sup>13</sup> that would enhance the comparability of these schemes or provide for streamlined evaluation modules on a voluntary basis. In coordination with the EC "Sustainable Buildings" COM by DG ENV <sup>14</sup> .
3.1.2. Environmental Performance of Construction Products	Promote a single structure for the assessment of the environmental performance of construction products building on existing environmental assessment tools and European standards.	In relation with recommendation 4.5.1., establish an Ad Hoc Group to gather views and information, on the basis of a pragmatic mapping of national sustainability legislation based on representative cases. If deemed necessary, launch a study on "state of the art" relating to Basic Construction Work Requirement 7 in the scope of CPR <sup>15</sup> . This initiative would be mainly focusing on the Single Market potential.
3.1.3. Incentives	Use existing instruments within the framework of ESI Funds and Horizon 2020 for resource efficiency in the construction sector. Consider Green Public Procurement as a tool to increase demand for sustainable buildings.	Under the scope of the new MFF <sup>16</sup> , MS have to report on the strategies put in place. The EC will continue to stimulate market uptake measures within the scope of H2020 and COSME.
3.1.4. Communication	Increase awareness/ knowledge about integrated design and sustainable buildings amongst different actors.	Taking stock of the development/promotion of training material, guidelines for specific target groups (architects, engineers, etc.) at MS level.
3.1.5. Data collection in regards to the assessment of building /product	Consider feedback from buildings in operation, and	On the EU level, a platform, specific but not exclusive to the

<sup>13</sup> BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method, <http://www.breeam.org/>), LEED ( Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), HQE (Haute Qualité Environnementale, <http://assohqe.org/hqe/>), etc.

<sup>14</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned\\_ja/docs/2013\\_env\\_008\\_sustainable\\_buildings\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ja/docs/2013_env_008_sustainable_buildings_en.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> European Product Declarations (EPDs) and the work of CEN/TC350 provide a good basis to develop.

<sup>16</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/index_en.cfm)

sustainability	transparent communication of operation data, to facilitate the assessment of the eco-efficiency (energy efficiency measures, product based performance) which would provide valuable information for future investment	construction sector, could provide a tool for data gathering.
<b>3.2 Management and valorisation of C&amp;D waste</b>		
3.2.1 Valorisation of C&D waste	Explore the ex-ante assessment of buildings prior to demolition in order to identify viable/potential opportunities in order to facilitate maximizing the valorisation of C&D Waste.	Develop Tools/Guidelines based on existing incentives/practices on MS level, support research (H2020) and technological development, remove legislative barriers to increase resource efficiency  Support training to construction companies on a voluntary basis on dismantling buildings, implementing separate collection on site to tackle contamination, assessing wastes (including hazardous waste) and planning for maximizing recycling and use of materials
3.2.2. Economic instruments that provide incentives for recycling of C&D waste.	Improving the recycling infrastructure throughout Europe.	Study on specific waste streams to identify and promote cost-effective recycling practices, including the needs for infrastructure and technologies
3.2.3. In the context of Waste Framework Directive clarify definitions (e.g. better definition of recycling, metrics, more reliable and comparable statistics etc.)	Develop a realistic target for C&D waste recycling based on sound waste management statistics, which takes into account the framework conditions, resource efficiency of the recycling process itself, the possibilities of improving separate collection of specific waste streams and the competitiveness of the sector	Assure that in the on-going waste review process the economic as well as sustainability aspects are balanced and based upon sound data.

## DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS THEMATIC GROUP 4

RECOMMENDATION	SCOPE	POSSIBLE ACTION
<b>4.1. "Fitness check" concerning the Internal Market for construction products and services</b>		
4.1.1 "Fitness check"	<p>Assess the overall consistency and coherence of a number of EU legal acts imposing obligations on the construction sector. The objective is to identify/avoid/remove provisions in EU legal acts creating overlaps, inconsistencies, obsolete measures or excessive cumulative burden. It does not aim at deregulation. Priority legislative areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Internal market, including horizontal and sectorial legislation, public procurement, posting of workers and recognition of professional qualifications</li> <li>2. Environment;</li> <li>3. Energy efficiency;</li> <li>4. Health and safety of workers, health and comfort of occupants.</li> </ol>	<p>A pragmatic mapping study on cumulative burden (including due to inconsistencies, incoherent and duplication) based on representative case studies for services/professions/products with significant cross-border trading.</p> <p>The study should include the involvement of stakeholders, especially SMEs, from the very beginning.</p> <p>The study should include a review of relevant available findings of other EC evaluation exercises, including REFIT, and be coherent with these other initiatives.</p>
<b>4.2. Follow-up construction issues identified in the implementation of the Services Directive</b>		
4.2.1 Network of national contact points for construction products and services	Develop a comprehensive network of national contact points for construction products and services to provide harmonised, consistent and accessible information on EU and national legislation related to construction products and services, covering both national and cross-border services <sup>17</sup> .	Building upon the actual initiative in the framework of the CPR National "Product contact points" <sup>18</sup> and the Services Directive "Points of single contact" <sup>19</sup> , ensure their actual functioning and develop tools for communication and share of good practices (a web-based <i>helpdesk</i> could complement this network).
4.2.2 Insurance for cross border services in construction	Facilitate the provision of insurance for cross border services based on the definition of common criteria for the assessment of equivalence of	Support DG MARKT action with insurers aimed at a pragmatic voluntary approach.  In relation with recommendation

<sup>17</sup> Communication on Services COM (2012) 261 final "A partnership for new growth in services"

<sup>18</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/legislation/>

<sup>19</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/eu-go/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/eu-go/index_en.htm)

	insurances and flexible conditions for temporary cross-border services.	1.2.2. concerning innovative products and services, develop an EU information platform to support risk appraisal by insurers (if possible, including information on construction defects) taking stock from the ELIOS experience (building pathology aspects) and DG MARK initiatives on insurance provision.
<b>4.3. Boost the implementation of Eurocodes</b>		
4.3.1 Eurocodes	Ensure that Eurocodes are more widely used in the EU, including in public procurement.	Study on the actual state of implementation and use of Eurocodes and on possible measures to enforce the use, including requirements for training & education and good practice exchange.
4.3.2 Analysis of Eurocodes	Explore possibilities of further clarification, simplification, harmonisation and evolution of Eurocodes, i.e. analyse differences regarding national safety factors (national determined parameters, NDP), and explore links with other basic work requirements than work stability and fire safety.	Standardisation mandate to CEN (ongoing) and research work from JRC
<b>4.4. Strengthen Market Surveillance in relation to construction products</b>		
4.4.1 Ensure effective market surveillance in construction products	Legislative simplification.  Encourage MS to assign the necessary resources and to guarantee proper market surveillance at national and regional level.	Support the proposals under discussion by the co-legislators to simplify the market surveillance legislation of construction products <sup>20 21</sup> .  Encourage MS to make a wider use of market surveillance alert systems such as RAPEX and ICSMS.  Encourage MS for active communication and cooperation amongst market surveillance authorities, which could contribute to a more rational use of resources at individual Member

<sup>20</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/safety/psmsp/docs/psmsp-surveillance\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/safety/psmsp/docs/psmsp-surveillance_en.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/internal-market-for-products/market-surveillance/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/internal-market-for-products/market-surveillance/index_en.htm)

		State level.
<b>4.5. Assessments of sustainability provisions in Member States</b>		
4.5.1 Assessments of legislative sustainability provisions in Member States	In relation with recommendation 3.1.2., gather preliminary views about the aspects to be considered in relation with the EU internal market.	Establish an Ad Hoc Group to gather views and information, on the basis of a pragmatic mapping of national sustainability legislation based on representative cases. If deemed necessary, launch a study.

## DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS THEMATIC GROUP 5

RECOMMENDATION	SCOPE	POSSIBLE ACTION
<b>5.1 <i>Establishing priority countries for the international promotion of construction and maximising the benefits of trade negotiations</i></b>		
5.1.1 Focusing future work and collaboration on the construction sector with international partners	Due to the particularities of trade in the construction sector, such as high dependence on local market conditions, geographical distance and high exposure to political risks, a well-targeted selection of potential partner countries for intensifying cooperation is necessary.	<p>A list with priority countries has been established<sup>22</sup>. Special emphasis will be put on maximising the benefits from on-going negotiations for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), notably the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the US and the FTA with Japan. Industry associations shall provide the EC with factual information and data about trade flows and investments in international markets.</p> <p>The full use of the Market Access Database shall be ensured for trade in construction products. In the mid-term, creating a market access panel for construction products chaired by DG Enterprise is seen as highly valuable.</p>

<sup>22</sup> The EU's neighbourhood, including candidate and accession countries (e.g. Turkey) and the Euro-med region (e.g. Algeria, Morocco and Egypt); Asia-Pacific (e.g. China, India, Indonesia, Australia), the Americas (e.g. the US, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Peru), Russia and Central Asia (e.g. Georgia, Kazakhstan), Africa (e.g. South Africa, Angola, Nigeria, Congo). The Gulf region will continue to figure among the priorities, through the Group considers that that there is no need for immediate action.

<b>5.2 New support measures and schemes</b>		
<p>5.2.1. Funding and guarantees for international construction projects</p>	<p>The Group recommends to the EU institutions, together with Member States, to address the issue of access to finance and guarantees, notably for trade and investment with high-risk regions and those where European companies suffer from unfair competition.</p> <p>Foster during the next programming period (2014-2020) the participation of the private sector in EU External Aid projects through blending mechanisms, in line with G20/8 conclusions and respecting OECD Rules.</p>	<p>The proposal on blending of external assistance (“EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund – blending 2.0”) shall be considered in the “EU Platform for External Cooperation and Development” and industry be involved.</p> <p>The important role of national Export Credit Agencies shall be recognised and Member States encouraged to reinforce national schemes, and/or including further possibilities for funding schemes at European level.</p> <p>The engagement of the EU and the Member States with major international partners, inside and outside the OECD, shall be reinforced to promote a level playing field for export credits and to reduce practices of unfair competition.</p>
<p>5.2.2. International cooperation on regulation and standards</p>	<p>Foster the international cooperation on regulation and standards beyond Eurocodes notably to include construction products and professional qualifications.</p>	<p>The following areas shall be explored for this purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction design: energy efficiency of buildings, structural design (Eurocodes), Eco-Management Audit Scheme (EMAS),</li> <li>• Construction products: promoting the international uptake of harmonised construction products, test methods and standards, including sustainability aspects (Construction Products Regulation and CEN/TC 350 standards), environmental requirements (green public procurement, eco-label),</li> <li>• Professional services: recognition of qualifications of engineers architects and works.</li> </ul>

## Annex B: Initiatives relevant to Construction 2020, proposed examples

What initiatives?

Construction forums tend to have a B to B focus, attracting construction professionals such as architects, contractors, installers, energy professionals, developers, engineers and consultants, as well as public sector representatives, land owners and trade associations, among others.

The EC welcomes relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives, regional or national, whose activities fall under the scope of Construction 2020 Action Plan. These initiatives may bring together a variety of key construction actors (e.g. contractors, professionals, workers, suppliers, clients, etc.) to discuss broad or specific issues related to sustainable construction. They may also directly involve or interface with public sector representatives in order to collaboratively drive growth and sustainability in the construction. Multi-stakeholder initiatives sometimes also involve NGOs whose activities focus on climate change, energy use or sustainable building, as well as scientific or technical experts who provide technical expertise and advice.

Relevant public, private and joint public-private initiatives exist in a number of MS. Their scope may be limited to very specific activities, such as developing building performance assessment systems, or may encompass a number of activities (policy development, awareness raising, training and capacity buildings, etc.) within an overall objective of promoting increasingly sustainable construction.

Select examples of MS-level initiatives and multi-stakeholder organisations share:

- Its holistic approach the overall spirit of the Construction 2020 Action Plan
- Those initiatives receive desirably a certain degree of institutional support/recognition

Proposed examples<sup>23</sup>:

LOGO	EU -28	Initiative	Description	Web
	BE	CLUSTER ECO BUILD  (Belgian Sustainable Building Council)	The Ecobuild Cluster, is one of the projects set up by Brussels-Capital Region to promote sustainable construction and renovation, especially as a response to the effects of climate change. It is part of a strategy of Sustainable Development which promotes the creation, growth and long life of companies.	<a href="http://www.cluster-ecobuild.com/en/about-us/ecobuild-cluster">http://www.cluster-ecobuild.com/en/about-us/ecobuild-cluster</a>
	DK	Future Industrialized Sustainable Construction and Urban	The FISH program aims to provide a new and innovative business model to boost Danish presence in the foreign market for sustainable buildings and urban development. The program is specifically focused on driving market presence in China, Germany and Norway for Danish suppliers of technology for buildings and districts,	<a href="http://www.fishclusters.dk/">http://www.fishclusters.dk/</a>

<sup>23</sup> Those examples do not represent any FINAL choice made by the EC Services.

		Development	architects and advisors, as well as research institutions.	
	FR	Institut Pour la Conception Ecoresponsable du Bâti	This organisation brings together a variety of sustainable construction experts in France, including professionals in the construction, architecture, urbanism, health and environmental sectors.	<a href="http://www.asso-iceb.org/">http://www.asso-iceb.org/</a>
	FR	Association HQE	The Association HQE is non-profit association and platform for promoting sustainability in the construction sector. It brings together public and private actors and is responsible for the HQE certification scheme.	<a href="http://www.assoqhe.org/">http://www.assoqhe.org/</a>
	DE	Roundtable Sustainable Building and Information Portal on Sustainable Building	The Roundtable Sustainable Building serves as an advisory body to the Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS), to support implementation of sustainable building activities. It consists of representatives from the building trade, industry, chambers of architects and engineers, the relevant building authorities and researchers. A related initiative is the Portal on Sustainable Buildings, which is a communication platform for public and private actors, which provides information and promotes communication on sustainable	<a href="https://www.bnb-nachhaltige-sbauen.de/netzwerk.html">https://www.bnb-nachhaltige-sbauen.de/netzwerk.html</a>
	ES	Fundacion la Casa que Ahorra	Forum created by different construction leaders, which aims to promote sustainability in the Spanish construction market. It further collaborates with a number of public institutions.	<a href="http://www.lacasaqueahorra.org/inicio">http://www.lacasaqueahorra.org/inicio</a>
None	ES	Foro del Ciclo Integral de la Construcción	The Confederación Nacional de la Construcción (CNC) is a business organization that involves the main construction organisations in Spain, from construction companies to promoters and industrial enterprises. The group has signed an agreement called <a href="#">Foro del ciclo integral de la construcción</a> , which brings together industry and trade unions.	<a href="http://www.portal-cnc.com/">http://www.portal-cnc.com/</a>
	UK	Strategic Forum for Construction	The Strategic Forum for Construction brings together the key actors of the UK construction sector. It further interfaces with the UK government on behalf of the sector. Sustainable construction is one of the key interests of the Forum, with a dedicated <b>SFC Sustainable Construction Task Group</b> driving work on this subject.	<a href="http://www.strategicforum.org.uk/">http://www.strategicforum.org.uk/</a>
	UK	Construction Industry Council	Representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist business associations in the UK construction industry.	<a href="#">c</a>
	UK	Green Construction Board	The Green Construction Board brings together government and industry representatives and was established to drive implementation of the “ <b>Low Carbon Construction Action Plan</b> ”. The Board also works more broadly on green construction issues and relevant policy development and implementation.	<a href="http://www.greenconstructionboard.org/">http://www.greenconstructionboard.org/</a>

## Annex C: Selection of EU and non-EU 2014 construction forums

### Selection of European national construction forums

Logo	Forum	Country	2014 date (some dates may be tentative)
	World Sustainable Buildings 2014	Barcelona	<b>October 28/30<sup>th</sup> 2014</b>
	Haus-Bau-Energie	Germany	Several dates in Jan / Feb 2014 (different cities)
	Bauen + Wohnen Salzburg	Austria	6 – 9 February 2014
	Bauen & Energie Wien	Austria	13 – 16 February 2014
	Energie Dresden	Germany	27 February – 1 March 2014
	Ecobuild	UK	4 - 6 March 2014
	CEB Stuttgart (Clean Energy Building)	Germany	6 – 8 March 2014
	Building Trade and Home Renovation 2014	Finland	14 – 16 March 2014
	Écobat	France	19 – 21 March 2014

	Bluebat	France	April 2014
	Nordbygg	Sweden	1 – 4 April 2014
	Innovative Building	France	8 – 10 April 2014
	Haus-Holz-Energie Stuttgart	Germany	11 – 13 April 2014
	Building Holland	Holland	6 – 8 May 2014
	Construtec	Spain	6 – 9 May 2014
	Clean Energy Building Budapest	Hungary	15 -16 October 2014
	Baumesse Bad Kreuznach	Germany	17 – 19 October 2014
	Construire Naturel	France	21 – 23 October 2014
	Artibat	France	22-24 October 2014
	Restructura	Italy	27 – 30 November 2014

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### Selection of international and non-EU construction forums

Logo	Forum	Country	2014 date (some dates may be tentative)
	World ECO Construct / INTERMAT	United Arab Emirates	14 -16 January 2014
	Green Building Expo	Qatar	28 – 30 January 2014
	ECO House & ECO Building EXPO	Japan	26 – 28 February 2014
	Building Lasting Change	Canada	2 – 4 June 2014
	Greenbuilding Brasil	Brazil	26 – 28 August 2014
	Construir Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	1 – 4 October 2014
	GBC - Green Building China	China	14 – 16 October 2014
	Greenbuild EXPO	USA	8 – 10 November 2014



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