



# **EU Construction Sector:**

**Construction 2020**

**Thematic Group 5 "International competitiveness"**

Vincent Basuyau

Unit G.1 DG GROW

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# The construction sector in the EU: a global partner

## ***Some statistics – what's at stake:***

- *10% of GDP*
- *Est. 100 billion Euros external trade*
- *3 million businesses*
- *20 million jobs, more than 90% in SMEs*
- *40% of EU's total energy consumption*
- *36% of EU's carbon emissions*
- *3.2 billion ton per annum raw materials consumed*



# The construction sector within the EU's policies:

*At the crossroad of several prominent EU policies:*

- *Internal market*
- *Industrial competitiveness*
- *Energy*
- *Environment*
- *Climate*
- *Social dialogue*

***Policy + Regulation + Financial instruments***  
***Construction 2020 strategy***



# The construction sector within the EU's policies: *Internal market*

## ***A common technical language and rules***

- *CPR: harmonization of marketing of construction products*
- *Eurocodes: standards for structural design*
- *Public Procurement reform*
- *Services Directive*



## **The construction sector within the EU's policies: *Industrial competitiveness***

***A key sector with large growth potential :***

- *Support to entrepreneurship: COSME*
- *Better access to finance for SMEs*
- *Internationalization and access to markets*



# The construction sector within the EU's policies: *Energy*

## ***Towards energy efficient buildings:***

- *20% cut in energy consumption (2020 vs. 1990)*
- *20% share of renewable energy*
- *2010 EBPD: zero-energy new buildings by 2021*
- *2012 Directive on Energy Efficiency*



# The construction sector within the EU's policies: *Environment*

## *Green growth and resource efficiency:*

- *Ecodesign of building components*
- *Waste Framework Directive (2008):  
70% of Construction & Demolition Waste  
recycled by 2020 → est. 5,000 CDW  
recycling plants in EU 28*

# The construction sector within the EU's policies: *Climate*

## ***Targeting building and equipment energy consumption and CO2 emissions reduction:***

- *Energy Efficiency Directive under review*
- *Mandatory objectives -40% CO2, 27% renewable energy*
- *Voluntary objectives: 30% energy improvement by 2030*



# The construction sector within the EU's policies: *Social dialogue*

## ***Addressing the human challenge:***

- *Attract new talent to deal with skilled workforce shortage*
- *Match skills required and their availability*
- *Change and innovate with new skills for new jobs*
- *EU centres of excellence for vocational training*
- *Apprenticeship opportunities*

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# The EU Vision for competitiveness of the Construction Sector and its Enterprises

***High-tech knowledge, competence, entrepreneurship, industrial sector growing sustainably:***

- *Innovative products/process inclusive of ICT tools*
- *Attractive jobs at local, regional and national level*
- *Public procurement integrating sustainable and resource efficient solutions*
- *Market opportunities with mobility of construction products and services*
- *Internationalization via affordable solutions and new market schemes*

# Which future agenda for the EU's construction sector?

***Resource efficient, sustainable, smart & inclusive growth:***

- *Smart regulation*

→ *integrating technological progress in standards*

→ *100 days target for deep renovation/building permit*

→ *ecodesign, CPR, ecolabels*

- *Green Public Procurement*

- *Life Cycle Assessment and Costing*

- *BIM (Building Information Modelling)*

*A win-win strategy for the construction sector and beyond:*     **Growth – jobs – CO2 reduction – energy security**

# Thematic Group 5

## "International competitiveness"

***Mandated by the High-level Tripartite Strategic Forum for follow-up of Construction 2020:***

- ***Focusing*** cooperation with selected international partners
- ***Access to finance and guarantees*** for international construction projects
- ***International regulations and standards cooperation*** wrt. construction products and professional qualifications

*TG5 brings together commission services, MS representatives and industry stakeholders to deal with these items and elaborate recommendations.*

# Thematic Group 5

## "International competitiveness"

### *Action 1: collaboration with selected international partners*

- *Construction and services trade barriers analysis*
- *Trade flows and data on trade barriers to priority countries*
- *Contribution from Architects Council of Europe wrt. MRA*
- *Contribution from Ceramics industry wrt. trade and barriers to trade. Importance of FTAs*
- *Focus on Africa, Russia and USA markets*
- *Internationalization of SMEs via EU-wide export facilitation measures*

# Thematic Group 5

## "International competitiveness"

### *Action 2: funding and guarantees for international construction projects*

- *EIC's ETF2.0 for Africa with guarantees from ECAs*
- *Other blending facilities: address the tied aid issue*
- *Opportunities in PPP structures and DBO approach*
- *Competitive dialogue vs. intellectual property protection*
- *Sustainability criteria for aid & cooperation infrastructure projects*





# Thematic Group 5

## "International competitiveness"

### *Action 3: international cooperation on regulation and standards*

- *World Green Building Council: green building certificates around the world can improve business of EU construction professionals abroad*
- *Promotion of Eurocodes in extra-EU countries (Balkans, China, ME,...)*
- *MRA for Architects: barrier to market access for construction services experts to be addressed in FTAs negotiations.*





**Thank you for your attention.**

