

# Construction: Let's build changes!

Conference, 6 July 2017

## Topics:

Digitalisation - Innovation - Skills  
Connections for sustainable growth  
Modularity/Industrialisation  
Cities - Markets



## Conference "Construction: Let's build changes!"

Brussels, Crowne Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2017

### Background

The construction sector is a solution provider to environmental, social and economic challenges. Its importance is therefore high as well as the need for its transformation.

The built environment should be environmentally sustainable and serve people's needs in an inclusive and affordable way. Various actors from the construction sector can contribute to that, while valuable lessons can be learned from the examples of different cities and regions.

The building activity will need to embrace new materials and technologies but also new business and collaboration models. Digitalisation, expressed with robotics, 3D printing and virtual reality but also innovative systems of managing resources, could revolutionise the sector and attract new providers. To accomplish the objectives of the Construction 2020 agenda and embrace the new changes, investment in the training and competencies' management will be more crucial than ever.

### Aim of the conference

This conference is a call for cooperation. By hosting a high-level dialogue between industry leaders, SMEs and policy makers about the transformations needed along the construction value chain, it intends to develop a long-term vision for the sector and concrete actions to accomplish it. More particularly, the conference aims to:

- Inspire vision and raise awareness on the changes needed in the built environment;

- Inform about strategies and exchange practices that contribute to the modernisation of the sector and of the construction value chain;
- Define key orientations and ways for policy makers to provide the right incentives to the industry to address the above challenges, including short-term actions.

### **Participants**

- Industry leaders, SMEs, innovators, start-ups and policy makers active in the construction sector and value chain (at national and European level), industry associations and NGOs (audience of approximately 200 people).

### **Agenda**

#### **9:00 Registration and coffee**

**9:30 Opening by the Chair, Gwenole Cozigou**, Director of the Industrial Transformation and Advanced Value Chains Directorate, DG GROW, European Commission

**9:35 Welcome speech, Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice-President of the European Commission for Energy Union

**9:50 Keynote speech, Jan Mischke**, Senior Fellow, McKinsey Global Institute

**10:05 Presentation of Vayyar, Ofer Familier**, Director of Business Development

**10:20 Presentation of MVRDV, Nathalie de Vries**, Director and Co-founder

#### **10:35 Coffee break**

### **11:00 Parallel Sessions: Towards a sustainable built environment**

#### **A: Using construction to reshape our cities**

Cities are facing a large challenge in adjusting to the current building demands; renovating the building stock; adjusting to the demographic change; improving infrastructure; allowing for new ways of living and working; making cities smart while being inclusive and affordable. This requires new partnerships at local and regional levels, involving also the construction sector, as well as large investments, for which the private sector's participation is pivotal. Some cities are more successful in attracting such investments than others, as local frameworks and governance vary considerably.

*Moderator:*

**Carole Mancel-Blanchard**, Deputy Head of the Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development Unit, DG REGIO, European Commission

*Speakers:*

**Pedro Campos Ponte**, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Interior of the Netherlands

**Helmut von Glasenapp**, Secretary General, European Long Term Investors Association

**Dimitrios Papastergiou**, Mayor, City of Trikala

*Panel:*

**Sorcha Edwards**, Secretary General, Housing Europe

**Stéphane Sonnevile**, Vice-President, Professional Association of the Belgian Real Estate sector

**Pedro Campos Ponte**, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Interior of the Netherlands

**Helmut Von Glasenapp**, Secretary General, European Long Term Investors Association

**Dimitrios Papastergiou**, Mayor, City of Trikala

### **B: Sustainability - resource efficiency and beyond**

Buildings serve the purpose of sheltering people. Therefore, they should fit the needs of citizens and businesses in a sustainable way. They must offer comfort and well-being while adjusting to the changing demand. An integrated framework for sustainable building performance which takes these broader notions into account is about to be launched. It is developed by the European Commission in strong collaboration with stakeholders. It provides steer and support to the mainstream market as to what sustainable buildings will look like in the future: low greenhouse gas emissions and resource efficient material use throughout the life cycle; resource efficient use of water; healthy and comfortable spaces; adapted and resilient to climate change and with optimal lifecycle costs. By linking indicators to these objectives, the framework will deliver a common sustainability language for the built environment and steer the sector in its decision making.

*Moderator:*

**Hugo-Maria Schally**, Head of the Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption Unit, DG ENV, European Commission

*Speakers:*

**Kestutis Sadauskas**, Director of the Circular Economy & Green Growth Directorate, DG ENV, European Commission

**Roy Antink**, Senior Vice-President responsible for International Policy Coordination, Stora Enso

*Panel:*

**Vlaho Kojakovic**, Senior banker/Associate director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

**Andreas Rietz**, Head of Division - Sustainable Building, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development, Germany

**Jose Blanco**, Secretary General, European Demolition Association

**Cédric de Meeûs**, Group Head of Public Affairs, LafargeHolcim

**12:15 Lunch**

**13:45 Parallel Sessions: Towards a resilient construction sector**

**A: Innovation and Digitalisation and their impacts on business models**

Innovation and digitalisation offer a range of opportunities to increase business volume, productivity and efficiency in construction. For example, Building Information Modelling (BIM) allows for the sharing of information and better decisions along the value chain – from design to building, operation, maintenance, and demolition. Innovation and digitalisation have the potential to revolutionise the whole construction process and building lifecycle: 3D printing and robotics offer the prospect of less costly and timelier construction, saving materials and offering new business opportunities leading to new players in the construction sector. Furthermore, modern sensing using the Internet of Things will allow to better follow the construction process and control the performances of buildings during their lifecycle, making them smarter, saving valuable resources and preserving the environment. This session is going to explore how innovators and established actors see this evolving environment and what are their expectations from the EU and other public and private stakeholders.

*Moderator:*

**Jurgen Tiedje**, Head of the Advanced Manufacturing Systems and Biotechnologies Unit, DG RTD, European Commission

*Speakers:*

**Antoine Motte**, Director, Constructions 3D

**Peter Westin**, Business Developer, Skanska

*Panel:*

**Alain Zarli**, Secretary General, European Construction Technology Platform

**Luigi Perissich**, Secretary General, Federcostruzioni, Italy

**Adam Matthews**, Chair, EU BIM Task Group

**Tim Chapman**, Director, ARUP

**B: Skills - a capable workforce to deliver transformational change**

Building the capacity to effectively achieve current goals requires new ways of looking at skills and competencies. The construction sector has to foster new technological, sustainability related, managerial and communication skills in order to be competitive and sustainable, while facing the ageing of the workforce, migration and misalignment of skills. There is a strong need for wider sharing of good practices, e.g. innovative training approaches and adoption of successful Vocational Education and Training schemes to facilitate smooth school-to-work transitions, to increase the availability of skilled workforce. Such efforts are helping to convert construction into a cohesive and innovative sector with an efficient allocation of limited human resources.

*Moderator:*

**Detlef Eckert**, Director of the Skills Directorate, DG EMPL, European Commission

*Speakers:*

**Paul Cartuyvels**, Director of European affairs, Bouygues Europe

**Marcus Lehnhardt**, apprentice, Germany

**Dragomir Tzanev**, Deputy Executive Director, EnEffect, Bulgaria

*Panel:*

**Martin Höhler**, Höhler GmbH & Co. KG

**Frank van Dillen**, Vice-Chairman, BouwTalent, Netherlands

**Dragomir Tzanev**, Deputy Executive Director, EnEffect, Bulgaria

**Marcus Lehnhardt**, apprentice, Germany

**Paul Cartuyvels**, Director of European affairs, Bouygues Europe

**15:00 Coffee break**

**15:25 Feedback from the parallel sessions, Fulvia Raffaelli**, Acting Head of the Clean Technologies and Products Unit, DG GROW, European Commission

**15:45 Conclusions and vision for the future**, Speech by **Elzbieta Bienkowska**, the Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

**15:55 Closing remarks by the Chair, Gwenole Cozigou**, Director of the Industrial Transformation and Advanced Value Chains Directorate, DG GROW, European Commission

**16:00 End of the conference**