



PRESS RELEASE

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The role of BIBM in serving the precast concrete sector during the crisis

In its meeting of 12 January 2009 in Munich, the BIBM Board analysed the orientations given by the December 2008 extraordinary General Assembly on the priorities of the precast concrete industry in this period of crisis. Handling European regulations potentially affecting our business has been BIBM's priority for the last years. The economics, and particularly enhancing relationship with suppliers and customers, along with the improvement of the image of the industry and its credibility are being given more room for action.

The interpretation given by the Board to the messages received from the General Assembly can be summarised in one question: What can BIBM do for helping companies to overcome (and survive) the crisis and be stronger at the end?

The Board showed from the beginning its will to support the national rescue plans. It highlighted the benefits of massive state investment in infrastructures and other tangible assets, e.g. (public) buildings, in order to give fresh air to the economy. These plans are now being put in place in several European countries (the European Commission simply playing a coordination role) and the first outcomes are expected not before mid 2009. However it is important that the entire construction industry, thus including small and medium sized manufacturers, takes profit from these plans.

From a more pragmatic point of view, the Board identified the possible actions of the different stakeholders in BIBM (horizontal commissions, product groups, national member federations, the secretariat and the Board itself) in order to support this strategic view.

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BIBM is the European organisation representing the Precast Concrete industry, involved in the supply of sustainable solutions for the built environment. The sector employs more than 210.000 people in 8.000 production plants around Europe, generating more than 35 billion Euros of turnover.