



Press release
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BIBM calls for durable investments of EU recovery funds: the construction sector as an appropriate way-out of the crisis

MADRID, 27 November 2009 – The European Federation for the Precast Concrete Industry gathered for its bi-annual General Assembly. This meeting was held in Madrid to match the coming end of the Swedish European Presidency and anticipate the priorities of the Spanish Presidency. A brief discussion on the economic situation in the sector revealed that the precast concrete industry is suffering a much higher downturn than the construction industry in general. In view of the present political situation, the entrepreneurs of the sector, together with precast concrete national federations, expressed their frustration regarding the lack of transparency that characterized the whole designation process of the two most important European authorities and asked for more visibility for future European projects.

As European leaders push out recovery plans, the lack of substantive coordination between national stimulus packages is obvious; protectionism has been too strong a force. Measures promoting investment in the construction sector both bolster growth and employment for a sector that has real and urgent needs. Long-term investments in this sector can also address the need for new infrastructures and new efficient dwellings across Europe. This is the first way to enhance a sustainable economic growth in Europe. And to respond to our current society challenges in terms of management of natural resources, energy efficiency and more globally, regarding the climate change issue.

As the Climate Summit in Copenhagen gets closer, BIBM members would even favour a political minimum agreement to go further with the international commitment on climate change. It would help contractors and customers make up their minds regarding construction materials. In this perspective, precast concrete products offer harmlessness and economic solutions for both the infrastructure and housing sectors. They also have advantages in terms of ease of application and rapidity of execution which speeds up recovery times. The precast concrete industry must therefore be considered as a real partner to a faster recovery.

ABOUT BIBM:

BIBM is the European association 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.

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