



"Towards climate-proof buildings. Concrete solutions."

23 January 2008 - European Parliament



The climate is changing. Alongside efforts undertaken to counter and mitigate this reality, Europe should adapt and anticipate the consequences of global warming.

This has been acknowledged by European policy-makers, who have put adaptation to climate change high on their agenda.

Ensuring comfortable living conditions in buildings in a changing climate, while at the same time reducing carbon emissions, is a major challenge for the construction industry. Hotter temperatures are just potential outcome. Extreme weather conditions such as storms or floods will become more frequent. Increasing the resilience of buildings is thus a priority for the years to come.

On 23 January 2008, when the European Commission presented a new milestone for Europe's energy and climate policy, the European Federation for Precast Concrete (BIBM) organised a debate in the European Parliament. The event focused on this industry's experience and innovative solutions for resilient, comfortable and energy efficient building structures to withstand future climate evolutions.

The event was hosted by Mr Anders Wijkman, a distinguished Member of the European Parliament leading on climate change issues. More than 30 high-level participants from the European Parliament, the

Commission and the industry participated in this highly interesting and topical event.

Dr. Bernd Wolschner, the president of BIBM, underlined the excellent record of precast



concrete solutions in achieving thermal protection, resilience and people's comfort.

Professor Gudni Jóhannesson, from the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology and the Director of the Icelandic National Energy Authority, focused on the thermal inertia properties of precast concrete and its suitability for low energy houses.

Dr. Jacqueline Glass, an architect from Loughborough University, demonstrated that heavyweight structures were the optimal response for comfortable, resilient, beautiful and zero carbon buildings.

A lively exchange of views with participants followed the presentations. Referring to his experience within the Swedish Climate Task Force, Mr Wijkman pointed out the importance of considering substantial changes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over a longer period of time. He stressed the need to promote the development of effective solutions for the climate-proof design of buildings.