

ERMCO NEWS

EUROPEAN READY MIXED CONCRETE ORGANIZATION
ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DU BETON PRET A L'EMPLOI
EUROPÄISCHER TRANSPORTBETONVERBAND

Boulevard du Souverain 68
1170 Brussels
BELGIUM

Tel: Int + 32 (0) 2 645 5212
Fax: Int + 32 (0) 2 35 1467
URL: <http://www.ermco.eu>

SUMMARY

Welcome

The good and bad in the American concrete industry – Obama speaks out

A look at operations and transport

Pag. 1

German students keep paddling their canoes

The power of lobbying?

Latest meeting of CEN Technical Committee 104

Remember this!

Pag. 2

Member of:



Welcome

Welcome to this 6th issue of the newsletter this year. We held our 17th Board meeting the 28th of October in the Bologna Fiere meeting center, at the kind invitation of SAIE. ERMCO's new Presidency proposed an action for plan 2010-2012, with three main elements:

- contributing to the revision of EN206;
- setting up a European overview of the concrete market;
- and improving the exchange of information among national associations.

For this last action ERMCO will host on its new website an archive of documents and initiatives from ERMCO members, theme by theme, to pass on and promote to all other members, in the hope that such ideas can be of help in developing the national markets.

ERMCO Secretariat team ■

The good and bad in the American concrete industry –

Obama speaks out

No less a person than superhero President Obama himself has been praising the contribution concrete can make to innovation.

He referred particularly to waterproof concrete 'from the inside out'. Read more [here](#).

This news comes, however, at a time when more test labs in New York are being identified as having systematically falsified records and test results on private and public construction projects. More [here](#)

A look at operations and transport

Is it correct to say that ERMCO concentrates its efforts on technical and marketing issues? Is this true also of national associations? Do we overlook, somewhat, operations matters? Ready-mixed concrete managers know that profitability is very dependent on best utilisation of trucks, but at national and European level, it does not get much discussion, though we are in the process of setting up a task group to deal with current issues.

Our North American counterparts certainly do not overlook it. For 10 years they have been conducting a national fleet survey, and we have recently seen the results of the 65 question survey. It seems to give a benchmark picture that would be invaluable to any transport manager. Click [here](#) to have a look at it – but it is not in metric units! (Tip: a cubic yard is 0.76 cubic metres.)

Another production matter: to minimise the risk of errors in batching, an American company has designed a system which sends an immediate e-mail or text message if a mistake is made. This could really help us. Read more [here](#). Have a look, too at a further American innovation – a system for tracking and controlling the movements of ready-mix trucks, [here](#).

Finally, on transport: Mack trucks are building what they say is 'the cleanest truckmixer in the world'. Click [here](#) for more.



German students keep paddling their canoes

Most countries from time to time have competitions for concrete canoes. German universities and institutions seem to hold them regularly. To brighten up ERMCO News, we show a couple of light-hearted pictures published recently.



The power of lobbying?

We have received from CEPMC news of a new decree published in France, aimed at statutorily increasing the use of wood in new buildings in that country.

Read more [here](#)

Latest meeting of CEN Technical Committee 104

The full Committee, and Sub-Committee 1 both met in Gent in September.

Tom Harrison, Francesco Biasioli and John Gibbs represented our industry, along with several other ERMCO members representing their countries.

Important decisions/conclusions included the following:

- work on revision of EN206 unlikely to be completed before 2011-12;
- it will include requirements for recycled aggregates;
- after the meeting it was clarified by the Secretary-General that there is no current proposal for harmonisation of the standard;
- the work in the various task groups will continue, though the work on equivalent durability (TG17) is likely to be limited to a CEN Technical Report. Particular problems remain with the question of *k*-values for ggbs (TG5). It is still hoped that TG10 will be able to include the use of control charts for conformity.
- on Health, Hygiene and the Environment, it must be accepted that the European Acceptance Scheme for construction products in contact with drinking water will not be implemented, but attempts will be made to save the Approved Constituents List.

A fuller report, with the main resolutions will be circulated in the near future.

The next meeting of the Committee will be 15 to 17 September 2010, in Delft, Netherlands.

Remember this!

Some older publications remain up-to-date, and relevant. The Irish timber-frame fire compendium, published in the June 2004 issue of the Magazine of the Irish Concrete Federation, it is one of them. Download [here](#).