

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>



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Member of:



Welcome

Welcome to the last ERMCO News of 2011. We have included news from a number of countries... and thank you to those Association representatives who have contributed. We like getting contributions!

There have been a number of meetings to report in the last few months: both the Board and Ecotec met in November, and CEN TC104 SC1 met in Milan in the same month. High on the agendas of these meetings was the revision of EN206-1.

Nine representatives of ERMCO Associations took part in the meeting in Milan to try to influence the discussions for our industry. A version for public comment should be available in the middle of next year, and after further revision in the light of comments, it is hoped that prEN206 will be approved for voting at the TC104/SC1 meeting in February 2013. If the vote is positive, EN206 should be published in the second half of 2013. ERMCO members will continue to press our industry's case

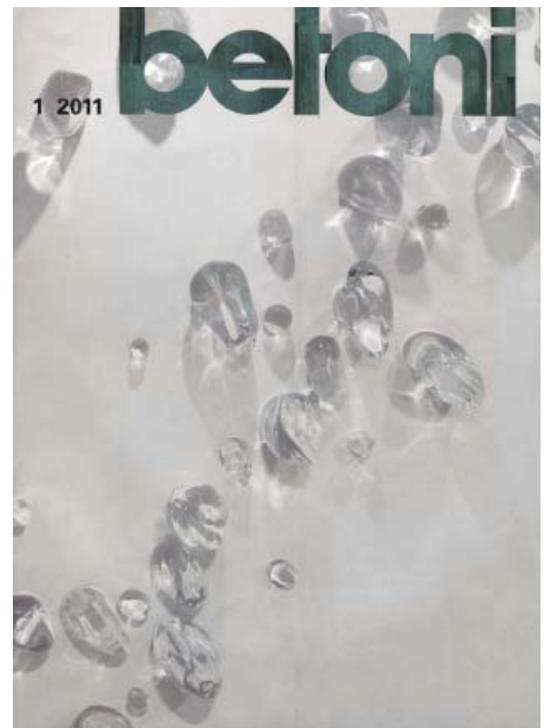
May we wish you all a good Christmas and New Year, and let us hope for a better business climate in 2012.

ERMCO Secretariat team ■

Contributions from Finland

Thank you to Vesa Anttila for pointing out an article in the Finnish concrete magazine, *Betoni*, by Lauri Kivekas, President of the Finnish Association of Construction Product Industries, and also Managing Director of Rudus Oy, one of the

biggest ready-mix producers there. The timber industry argues that wooden buildings are the most sustainable. This article presents the case against that argument. Click ([here](#)) to read Mr. Kivekas's article. Then you might want to look at a recent article in *Aggregate Research*, on 'the tallest wooden-framed residential building in the world', which exemplifies the arguments made by the timber industry. Click ([here](#)) for this one. Finally, from Finland, an article (with English summary) on in-situ slipform casting of concrete barriers of various types – some interesting applications, and good photographs. And of course in-situ casting pre-supposes the use of ready-mix. Click ([here](#))



The Helsinki World Sustainable Building Conference 2011

On behalf of the European Concrete Platform (ECP), on October 18-21 2011,

ERMCO participated to the Helsinki World Sustainable Building Conference, a top event every three years that brings together the world's leading technical experts and researchers on sustainable built environments. Leading universities, research group and commercial organizations from Europe and around the world presented new initiatives and state of art information.

A clear message came out from the overall debate: an active interaction between the research community, industry and government is necessary for the adoption of sustainable development concepts and technologies. A high level of engagement will guarantee that communities can benefit from sustainable, integrated design that takes into account not only environmental aspects but also economical, cultural and social needs.



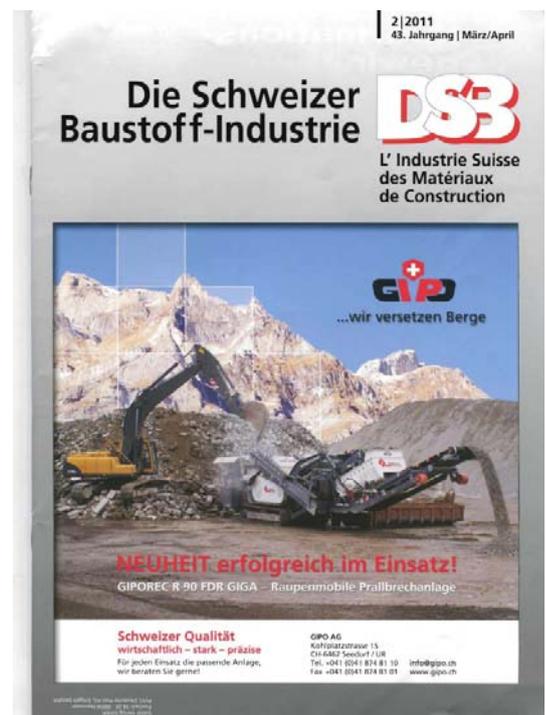
News from France

The French Association continues its admirable ongoing efforts to promote ready-mixed concrete with a brochure on the use of ready-mix in public transport. It is an eight page article with some very good photographs, and text on 'applications for concrete', 'construction', and 'aesthetics'. If you can read French, or if you just want to have a look at how SNBPE has approached this subject and to see the quality of the pictures, click ([here](#)). In our view, the section on 'aesthetics' focuses on something that we don't emphasise enough - how attractive concrete can be. The pictures there of surface finishes show exposed aggregate, pattern-imprinted concrete, brushed concrete, and coloured concrete.

SNBPE has also produced a single page pocket-sized statistical summary of the ready-mix industry in France, covering production trends, numbers of plants, international and (French) regional comparisons etc. A good way of presenting the industry to customers or audiences. You can look at the summary leaflet ([here](#)).

Contribution from Switzerland

Thank you to Ernst Honegger for drawing our attention to three articles in *DSB* the Swiss concrete magazine. These are on an interesting construction project in Zurich, a technical one on non-destructive testing, and one on 'urban mining'. Ernst has translated and summarised these articles – click ([here](#)). Or you can read them in German – click ([here](#)).



Full scale durability testing in UK – some surprising results

ERMCO EcoTec Committee member for the UK, Jim Troy, has written an article in issue 23 of *Britpave News* on some ongoing durability assessment of long-term freeze-thaw action. In collaboration with government bodies, the ready-mix industry cast some large elements which have been left exposed to the weather in upland Britain since 1994. The objective was to examine how mix design and the use of air entraining admixtures affected resistance to freezing and thawing. There were some interesting and surprising results. Read more ([here](#)).