

ERMCO NEWS

January 2019

ERMCO STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Technology innovation and digitalization are the focus of the so called “Industry 4.0” (r)evolution: companies must tackle this vital issue and those who move early to implement their own digitalization strategy can build a sustainable competitive advantage. As the construction is one of the less digitalized industries, the impact of such a change could be relevant. A digitalized approach can foster the specification of a product like concrete eliminating potential inefficiencies and/or errors in the different stages - product selection, order, delivery and QC. These are the reasons why the ERMCO Strategy and Development Committee has set up a Working Group to take stock of new technologies, like BIM and digital engineering, with the intention of evaluating the “state of the art” of the technologies used in the ready mixed concrete industry today, identifying specific solutions targeted to the sector and preparing a Report to be presented at the 2019 Meeting of Representatives in Spain. A Workshop with identified solution providers will be held late Autumn 2019. The WG next virtual meeting is planned on 8th February from 14.30 to 15.30.

ERMCO MEETINGS IN ROME – 25-26TH MARCH

Following a Board decision, the ERMCO Technical, Environmental and Strategy & Development Committees meetings will be kindly hosted by the Italian association ATECAP on 25th and 26th March, in Rome. The calling letter and the program of the events have been circulated to all members. The agendas of each meeting will be sent early March. ERMCO is looking forward to meeting you in Rome!

THE CONCRETE INITIATIVE WORKSHOP



The European construction sector is crucial to the European economy as it provides 18 million direct jobs and contributes to about 9% of the EU's GDP. Furthermore, it drives economic growth and offers solutions for social, climate and energy challenges, thus contributing to sustainability. To remain competitive while enabling the transition to a low carbon and resources efficient economy, the concrete sector is currently evolving its decision-making processes and moving towards digitalisation.



On the basis of this scenario, the Concrete Initiative wants to provide EU stakeholders with an overview of the new construction products market conditions in which cement and concrete producers and users will operate in the years to come. The CI Workshop “What can we learn from new trends in the construction sector?” will take place on **Wednesday 6th February 2019 from 10:00 to 13:00 hours at the L42 Business Center Rue de la Loi 42, Brussels.** For registration and the full program visit www.theconcreteinitiative.eu.

POISON CENTRES PROGRESS REPORT: WORKABILITY STUDY

On 28th January the EU Commission published the second interim “progress” report of the “workability study” prepared by the appointed consultant Wood. Except for cement, limited construction industry inputs and impact have been considered, even if whole construction materials sector has provided a lot of detailed information. As a positive point, the “comparable MIM” approach is mentioned and the “unique UFI” is also cited. ERMCO will continue to collaborate with the other Industries and will attend a specific workshop organized by the European Commission on February 13th.

REGULATION 561/2006 ON DRIVING TIME – WHAT NEXT?

During a very tense session of the European Parliament's ‘Transport’ Committee on Thursday 10 January devoted to the social and market aspects of the first mobility package (posting, driving and rest time, tachograph, market access, cabotage), MEPs voted positively the report on cabotage, but against the reports on posting, driving and rest time. Mr Van de Camp's text on driving and rest time was rejected, as well as all the alternative compromise amendments including those supported by the ready mixed concrete industry. Several MEPs reacted to this vote. Different reasons behind this result. First, the opposition of the Trade Unions to the liberalization of certain driving categories. Second, the opposition of Eastern European Countries for those they consider “unfavourable amendments” like the introduction of digital tachographs. There is now a possibility to have the mobility package still debated in a February session of the European Parliament, but the odds for a positive result are limited.

EUPAVE WEBINAR ON CONCRETE PAVEMENT RECYCLING

On February 7th from 16.00 till 17.00 the EUPAVE webinar on “Concrete Pavement Recycling and the Use of Recycled Concrete Aggregates in Concrete Paving Mixtures” will be held.

The webinar is free for all EUPAVE Members and Partners and external decision-makers and contacts can be invited to attend. Register by sending not later than 7 February 2019 an e mail to E.CARABEDIAN@eupave.eu.

