



January – February 2023

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1. Concrete news

Concrete Europe launched



Concrete Europe Team



2023 will be a crucial year for the built environment in Europe with the publication by the European Commission of the Construction Ecosystem Transition Pathway and the Whole life Carbon Roadmap. This is why on 8 February 2023 the four European associations representing the concrete sector and its value chain - **BIBM** (the Federation of the European Precast Concrete Industry), **CEMBUREAU** (the European Cement Association), **EFCA** (the European Federation of Concrete Admixtures Associations) and **ERMCO** (the European Ready Mixed Concrete Organization) - have joined forces in a new umbrella organisation: **Concrete Europe**. It conjoins the former European Concrete Platform and The Concrete Initiative project.

Concrete Europe aims to convey to the EU stakeholders and construction value chain stakeholders the concrete sector's contribution in achieving the goals of the EU Green Deal.

More information can be found on the Concrete Europe website: <https://www.concrete-europe.eu/>.

Read the press release [here](#); Twitter account: [@ConcreteDialog](#) ([launch video](#)).

NATURSEA-PV Public kick-off workshop, 15 March



Join **NATURSEA-PV** Public kick-off hybrid workshop on novel eco-cementitious materials and components for durable, competitive, and bio-inspired offshore floating PV substructures. The event will take place on 15 March in Amsterdam, and there is a possibility for an online participation.



The main objectives of NATURSEA-PV:

- Develop a new conceptual concrete substructure;
- Development of new circular materials and treatments;
- Develop improved predictive computational tools for durability aspects;
- Testing and validation in realistic conditions of developed material, components and computational tools;
- Compatibility with socio-economic activities and maximization of sustainable impact in line with the Mission Healthy Oceans.

Project website: <https://www.natursea-pv.eu/> (register [here](#)).

67. BetonTage 2023



© BetonTage

From June 20th to 22nd, 2023, the concrete and precast industry will show ways to reduce the ecological footprint at the **67th BetonTage** in the Congress Center Ulm. Join the conference and discuss the topics such as decarbonisation,

carbon capture and storage, resource conservation and emission reduction with other industry experts.

Take advantage of our trade exhibition and make valuable contacts. Experience the presentation of the supplier industry in the machine, software, accessories and service area with around 130 innovative companies. The "Forum Innovation" on all three days of the congress is a platform for selected exhibitors as well as research and application to present new developments and product innovations for building with concrete components and concrete goods.

Decarbonisation will be the focus of the lectures given by this year's guest country on 21 June. Norway is playing a leading role in this field. The country has already gained experience, for example, with carbon capture and storage (CCS).

Learn more about the programme and register here: <https://www.betontage.de/concrete-solutions/>.



2. BIBM news

BIBM Congress 2023 in Amsterdam – 7 months to go!



BIBM Communication Commission & the congress organising committee

The **24th BIBM Congress** will take place in Amsterdam! From the 27th to the 29th of September 2023 the congress will be held in the Dutch capital – the “Venice of the North”. The congress will be under the slogan: **‘Green | Digital | Resilient | Precast Concrete Solutions’**. Be part of the next BIBM Congress **2023** as exhibitor, congress participant or sponsor and meet potential partners and speakers from Europe and beyond!

DATE: 27 to 29 September 2023

Amsterdam (the Netherlands)

VENUE: 5-Star Okura Hotel,

WEBSITE: <https://bibmcongress.eu>

REGISTRATION: <https://bibmcongress.eu/conference-delegate/>

HOST: BIBM – Federation of the European Precast Concrete Industry

ORGANISER: [BCF – Building Congress Forum](#)

Official hashtag: **#BIBMCongress2023**

Download the programme [here](#).

For any information related to the programme, please contact: Ms. Magdalena Herbik mh@bim.eu.



Public consultations and feedbacks

Targeted survey | Study on measuring the application of circular approaches in the construction industry ecosystem

Did you know that 36% of the total waste generation in the EU comes from construction waste? And that waste generation is predicted to increase by 70% by 2050 compared to current levels? Yet, it's difficult to measure what the construction ecosystem is doing to address this problem. In order to fully reap the benefits of circular economy, we need a good view of the application of different circular economy approaches and indicators by different stakeholders across the value chain.

To address this challenge, the Commission working on a [Study](#) on measuring the application of circular approaches in the construction industry ecosystem.

[Survey](#) deadline: 31 March 2023.

Certification of carbon removals – EU rules

This initiative will propose EU rules on certifying carbon removals. It will develop the necessary rules to monitor, report and verify the authenticity of these removals.

The aim is to expand sustainable carbon removals and encourage the use of innovative solutions to capture, recycle and store CO₂ by farmers, foresters and industries. This represents a necessary and significant step towards integrating carbon removals into EU climate policies.

Commission adoption – [feedback](#) (open till 23 March 2023)

BIBM answer can be found [here](#).

Water pollution – EU rules on urban wastewater treatment (update)

Making sure that urban wastewater is clean and safe is vital for protecting public health and the environment. This key part of EU water policy is covered by the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

This initiative will revise the Directive after a recent evaluation of it identified certain shortcomings and new societal needs that must be addressed.

Commission adoption – [feedback](#) (open till 14 March 2023)



Testing of market needs in relation to the EU ETS Innovation Fund and the revision of its legal basis

DG Climate action launched a market-testing survey, to consult a wide range of stakeholders on key features of the future EU ETS Innovation Fund and to establish an appropriate portfolio of support instruments that will best meet the market needs. The survey comes in a moment when the EU is defining its ambitions towards a Net Zero Industrial Plan, where the Innovation Fund will also contribute, as well as delivering under the RePower EU Plan and the Hydrogen Bank.

[Survey](#) deadline – 7 March 2023.

3. BIBM Agenda

MARCH 2023

02/03: BIBM

Communication Commission
Stuttgart, DE

06/03: CA4BM

Comms. Group
Confcall

08/03: BIBM

Directors' meeting
Confcall

13/03: BIBM

TEC-COM AhG Eurocode 2
Confcall

16/03: CPE

CPR revision webinar (internal)
Confcall

17/03: BIBM

ENV-COM Decarbonisation WG
Confcall

20/03: CA4BM

Comms. Group
Confcall

22/03: NEPSI

Reporting system training
Brussels, BE

23/03: CEN/TC 350

WG3 – Product level
Confcall

24/03: Concrete Europe

Advocacy Committee
Confcall

28/03: BIBM

Environment Commission
Confcall

31/03: Construction 2050

Meeting
Brussels, BE



APRIL 2023

03/04: CPE

WG Sustainability
Confcall

19/04: BIBM

Board and Extraordinary GA
Brussels, BE

20/04: CEN/TC 229

AhG Performance durability
Confcall

25/04: BIBM

Wastewater Engineering group
Helsinki, FI

28/04: CA4BM

Communication webinar
Confcall

MAY 2023

15/05: CEN/TC 229

WG1 – Structural elements
Confcall

16/05: BIBM

Communication Commission
Confcall

24/05: Concrete Europe

Board
Confcall

4. Webinars and other events

Date	Organiser	Information
7 March	<u>The Concrete Centre</u>	Futurebuild 2023: Specifying Low Carbon Concrete Registration
7 March	<u>The Concrete Centre</u>	Futurebuild 2023: Innovations in Precast Concrete Registration
8 March	<u>The Concrete Centre</u>	Concrete Futures: Decarbonising UK cement and concrete and delivering the UK Roadmap Registration
8 March	<u>European Commission</u>	Multiplying the Rs in industrial innovation: rethinking, redesigning, reusing, repairing, recycling - A new ERA roadmap for circular technologies and business models in



		textile, construction, and energy-intensive industries' Registration
14 March	Global Cement and Concrete Association	Innovandi Open Challenge 2023 Launch Event Registration
15 March	High Level Construction Forum	3rd HLCF meeting: Launch of the Transition pathway for construction Registration
15 March	RREUSE	All hands on deck: Putting people & skills at the core of the circular economy (Stanhope Hotel, Brussels) Registration
16 March	New European Bauhaus	Launch of the Capacity-building programme for the reconstruction of Ukraine Registration
21 March	Euractiv	EU Green Deal Industrial Plan: accelerating decarbonisation to reach net zero Registration
22 March	New European Bauhaus	NEB Compass workshop Registration
23 March	European Commission	Uptake of circular approaches in the construction industry ecosystem (virtual workshop) Registration
28 March	European Commission	Level(s) webinar: Learn how certification schemes are aligning with the EU framework for sustainable buildings Registration
20 April	High Level Construction Forum	Whole life carbon roadmap support study update Registration
20 April	NEPSI in ACTION	Seminar (Budapest, Hungary) (std)
25 April	High Level Construction Forum	Digital transition in construction (std)
3- 11 June	European Commission	EU Green Week 2023 Registration



5. BIBM Partners news

Launch of the new Horizon Europe project RISKADAPT



17 partners from 9 countries (BIBM Secretariat included) participated in the physical kick-off meeting of the new horizon project **RISKADAPT**, held on the 26th of January 2023 in Athens.

Project information:

RISKADAPT will provide, in close cooperation with the end-users/other stakeholders, a novel, integrated, modular, interoperable, public and free, customizable user-friendly platform (PRISKADAPT), to support systemic, risk-informed decisions regarding adaptation to CC induced compound events at the asset level, focusing on the structural system.

Project details: Starting date 01.01.2023 | 36 months | 18 partners | Coordinator → RISA Sicherheitsanalysen GmbH (RISA), Germany.

BIBM role: dissemination and identification of low carbon solutions with precast concrete.

Visit the project website to learn more: <http://riskadapt.eu/>.

Exploit4innomat kick-off meeting in Athens



BIBM is happy to have joined another EU-funded Horizon project promoting sustainability: **Exploit4InnoMat** (supporting the construction of more efficient buildings). The kick-off meeting was taken place in Athens on 31 January with the representation of BIBM Secretariat and other partners of the projects.

Exploit4InnoMat OITB will make available a high-end Open Innovation Testbed network for building envelopes including roofs and facades, enabling the replication of prototypes in different buildings taking into consideration the trade-offs between the three sustainability pillars, the life cycle stages as well as their impacts.





Project details: Start/ending dates: 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2026; coordinated by UNI SYSTEMS SYSTMATA PLIROFORIKIS MONOPROSOPI ANONYMI EMPORIKI ETAIRIA, Greece.

BIBM role: dissemination and training.

Brussels: New Ladies in Construction network



Construction Products Europe organised the first meeting of the Ladies in the EU Construction Sector, which took place at Stanhope Hotel on 14th December. Starting with 25 members and a growing interest from others, the group discussed the purpose of this new network and the frequency at which they should get together. Inclusiveness and women empowerment are crucial topics for the construction industry and there will be many opportunities to exchange and discuss in 2023.

[Source: Construction Products Europe]



6. Live from the European Union

Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union



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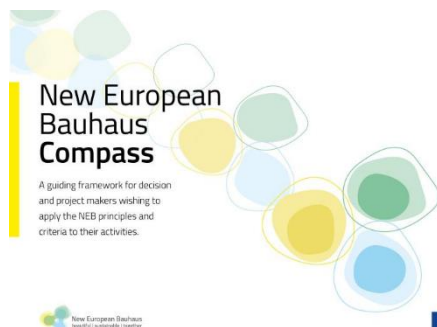
During the first six months of 2023, Sweden holds the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and will lead its work.

Environment and climate issues are high on the agenda. For this reason, the Swedish Presidency will:

- prioritise moving the negotiations on any remaining parts of the Fit for 55 package forward with a high level of ambition in the Environment Council;
- take the results of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) forward;
- take forward the proposal for a certification scheme for carbon removal to promote the emergence of a commercial carbon capture market;
- prioritise the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive;
- revise the Ambient Air Quality Directives;
- work to ensure that the EU is at the forefront of circular economy;
- work on the EU regulatory frameworks that promote non-toxic material cycles, increased use of high-quality recycled materials in products, and other business models that promote a circular economy;
- work on the Regulation on nature restoration;
- follow up on the outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) and ensuring the prompt implementation of the global biodiversity framework.

Read the Swedish Presidency priorities [here](#).

NEB Compass and Progress Report



The Commission has recently presented the first New European Bauhaus (NEB) [Progress Report](#) taking stock of the achievements in the initiative's first two years as well as the first assessment tool for NEB project: the [NEB Compass](#) - a guiding framework for decision and project makers wishing to apply the NEB principles and criteria to their activities.

The New European Bauhaus has created a broad community of organisations and citizens all around Europe working around a common vision combining sustainability, inclusion, and aesthetics. Key NEB activities – including the NEB Prizes,



the first Festival, the NEB Lab – are delivering on their aims and have built a bottom-up transnational network. Thanks to over €100 million in European funding already allocated, small and large-scale NEB projects are now underway all-around Europe. The Commission will also scale up funding with a further €106 million in dedicated Horizon Europe funds alone for 2023-24.

EU launches Green Deal Industrial Plan

On 1 February, the Commission presented a **Green Deal Industrial Plan** to enhance the competitiveness of Europe's net-zero industry and support the fast transition to climate neutrality. The Plan aims to provide a more supportive environment for the scaling up of the EU's manufacturing capacity for the net-zero technologies and products required to meet Europe's ambitious climate targets. To meet these targets, the Commission proposes:

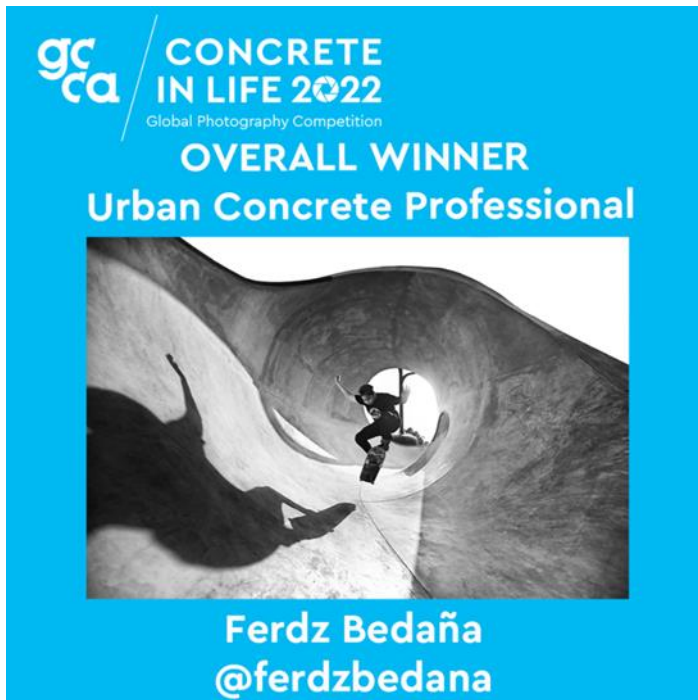
- Net-Zero Industry Act
- Critical Raw Materials Act
- European Sovereignty Fund
- Net-Zero Industry Academies

To find out more, read the press release [here](#).



7. Outstanding precast concrete projects

Concrete in Life 2022 - winners



GCCA is delighted to announce the [winners](#) for their **Concrete In Life 2022** photography competition.

The competition helps us visually describe how concrete plays an essential role in lives and communities across the world.

A stunning image of a skateboard park in the United Arab Emirates has been named **Concrete in Life Photo of the Year**. It wins a top prize of \$10,000 (ten thousand US dollars) in a global competition, which highlights the essential role that concrete plays around the world.

The [photo](#), taken by professional photographer, **Ferdz Bedaña**, in Sharjah, was announced as the overall winner in a live [Instagram](#) broadcast, on 15th February.

Thomas Guillot, GCCA Chief Executive said: “Concrete is the second most used substance on earth after water and plays a vital part in modern infrastructure and society. Through the work of the GCCA and our members, to implement our 2050 Net Zero Roadmap, we are working hard and making progress in reducing its environmental impact.”

See the full list of winners [here](#).