



**Impact of SDGs and COVID-19  
on the building sector**

**Fernando Sigchos Jiménez  
EBC Projects & Communication Manager**

*Brussels, 29/06/2020*



## ABOUT EBC



€  
**9%**  
OF THE GDP OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION

**3.4 MILLION**  
ENTERPRISES  
IN THE SECTOR



**18 MILLION**  
WORKERS IN  
THE SECTOR

## EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISES

**SMEs ARE VITAL  
FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION SECTOR**

**94.1% MICROENTERPRISES**  
LESS THAN  
10 EMPLOYEES



**5.3% SMALL ENTERPRISES**  
FROM 10-49 EMPLOYEES

**0.5% MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**  
FROM 50-249 EMPLOYEES

**0.1% LARGE ENTERPRISES**  
MORE THAN 250 EMPLOYEES



- Established in 1990
- Secretariat based in Brussels
- EBC defends and promotes the interests of construction SMEs and craftsmen in Europe

**19 NATIONAL  
EMPLOYERS'  
ORGANISATIONS IN  
16 COUNTRIES**





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION

**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

**5** GENDER EQUALITY

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**13** CLIMATE ACTION

**15** LIFE ON LAND

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- **“Greener” narrative: Sustainable buildings**
- **EU political re-orientation: EU Green Deal**
  - New financial/funding perspectives
  - Focus on sustainability and digitalization
- **New or revitalised partnerships**



- Declaration: Construction in the circular economy
- Appeal by the construction industry for a rapid and sustainable recovery
- COVID-19: Declaration of the European Construction sector
- Build4People: public-private partnership



## GREEN DEAL



## Initial analysis on the EU Green Deal

**A climate neutral Europe** = overarching objective / Climate law proposal

**Circular economy and buildings renovation** = flagship elements

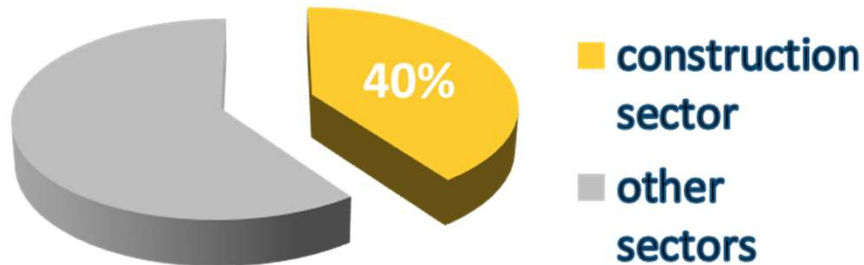
Concrete new/potential initiatives:

1. Sustainable Europe Investment Plan
2. “Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy”
3. “*At least double or even triple*” the renovation rate of buildings
4. Review process of the Construction Products Regulation

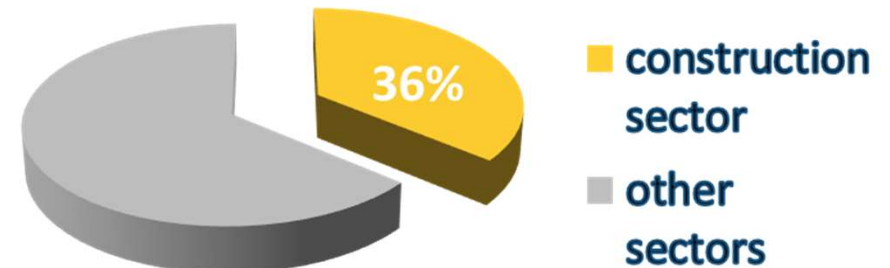


## DE-CARBONISATION

### EU Energy Consumption



### CO<sup>2</sup> emissions in the EU



### [Construction 2050 paper: Building tomorrow's Europe today](#)



#### Potential benefit

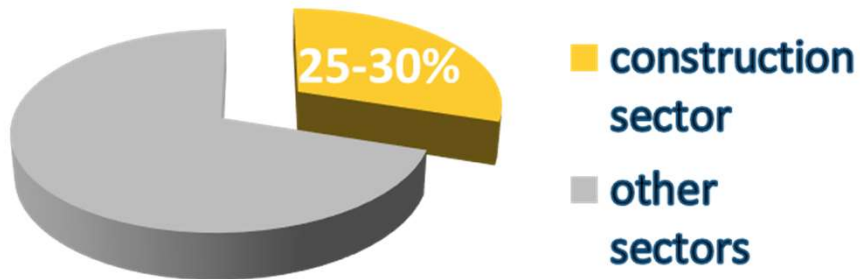
In the global fight against climate change the construction sector can play an instrumental role in achieving a fair transition towards the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. In fact, higher renovation rates will lead to a reduction of greenhouse gases as a result of lower energy consumption. Moreover, improvement in production processes for building materials and the use of the best available technologies will reduce embedded carbon emissions. Finally, a holistic approach to the renovation of existing buildings is expected to improve the resilience of the existing building stock and contribute to the sustainability of society and the environment.





## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### Total waste generated in the European Union



## DECLARATION “Construction in the circular economy”

- Promote sustainable construction
- Develop a market for recycled/reused products
- Tackle liability & performance challenges
- Building upon existing activities/best-practices
- Establish a multi-stakeholder experts platform
- Deepen policy objectives and mechanisms



## COVID-19 IMPACT

- **Activity drop: short-term and long-term**

- **Eurostat, May 2020:** Production in construction decreased by 14.1% in the € area and by 12.0% in the EU, compared with February
  - Major drops in production in Italy (-35%) and France (-41%) – Eurostat
- Internal impact surveys: 97 % in Slovenia (OZS), 70 % in Italy (CNA)

- **Additional Health and safety costs**

- e.g. CAPEB estimates the additional costs related to health measures at between 10% and 20% of the daily cost

- **Equity losses: between 113 and 188 billion euros (EC Staff Working Document)**

- After tourism, construction (17.4%) is the most affected ecosystem to suffer equity losses



## RECOVERY

- **EU budget proposals**

- Substantial amount (MFF €1100 billion + Next Generation €750 billion)
- Focus on the green and digital transition of the European economy
- No specific focus on any sector but leaves marge of manoeuvre to the Member States when it comes to priorities

- **The built environment can be prioritized? Yes!**

- Huge investments needs, both basic and for the green transition
- A clear target to “*at least double the annual renovation rate of existing building stock*”
- Clear references to energy efficiency of buildings, renovation, social and transport infrastructure in the different programmes



## RECOVERY

**We need to act immediately with a EU concerted action!**

### Joint initiatives

- Covid-19 Impact: Declaration Of The European Construction Sector
- Joint Declaration on the European Recovery Fund: The construction ecosystem as priority with at least €320B dedicated budget
- European Recovery Plan: The multiplier effect of investing in the EU

### European Commission

- Proper assessment of funding opportunities for the built environment in EU budget proposals
- Platform with MS to assess national initiatives and ensure the built environment is a priority in all plans on the Recovery Plan

### Construction 2050 Alliance

Cooperate with the EC to assess the different programmes & dialogue with MS (with the support of their national associations)





**CONSTRUCTION 2050**



## Work Programme 2020-2021

1. Construction: the solution to Europe's **recovery after the COVID-19** pandemic
2. The contribution of the built environment to the **EU Green Deal**
3. The human factor in construction: **safety, skills and sector's image**
4. Relaunching the Construction 2020 **Strategy**
5. EU **Data** Strategy: a construction approach
6. Developing a **communication** strategy for the Alliance



# Thank you for your attention!



## European Builders Confederation (EBC)

Rue Jacques de Lalaing, 4

1040 Brussels, Belgium

+32 (0)2 514 23 23

 [secretariat@ebc-construction.eu](mailto:secretariat@ebc-construction.eu)

 [ebc-construction.eu](http://ebc-construction.eu)

 Transparency Reg. : [09256701147-51](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexp1/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&id=14751)

