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Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Industrial Transformation and Advanced Value Chains
Clean Technologies and Products

"Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises" (COM (2012) 433 final)

High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum, 5th Meeting

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Mrs Fulvia Raffaelli (DG GROW, chair of the HLF) opened the meeting by mentioning the flagship initiative on clean energy in buildings that was released at the end of 2016.¹ This initiative will support a more competitive construction sector that is crucial for Europe's transition towards a low-carbon economy.

Mr. Cozigou underlined the importance of the construction sector and confirmed that it is currently high on European Commission (EC) agenda. The priority of the sector is demonstrated by the recent Winter Energy Package and Energy Union flagship initiative. Various important topics related to the construction were brought into the discussion in 2016. Reviewing progress in the Forum's working areas:

- Investment and infrastructure development are key. The Investment Plan for Europe – recently prolonged to 2020 – offers a stable environment for riskier investments. The bankability of projects as well as the additionality of EU intervention will be further pursued under the Winter Energy Package and help deliver the necessary investment.
- Concerning the construction sector's innovation capacity and digitalisation, in particular. Lean construction and lifecycle costing are important areas for modernisation of the sector. The idea of a digital logbook for buildings has been brought forward to improve the quality of building-related information over their lifetime, contributing to enhanced investments. The existing ad-hoc group will pursue its work in 2017, examining existing schemes and best practice, and a feasibility study on a voluntary EU scheme and guidelines is underway; the Finnish, German and French administrations have already made contributions in this area. The EC has been acting in this area by supporting Business Information Modelling (BIM) and encouraging its common use in public construction, with the aim of improving value for public money, the quality of the public estate, as well as promoting the sustainable competitiveness of the industry.
- Skills are important for competitiveness of the sector. In June 2016, the EC presented the new Skills Agenda for Europe with a sector-based approach. After a few pilot sectors, construction will probably be tackled as part of the "second wave" in 2017-2018.
- The circular economy is an important theme for construction, particularly as it relates to construction and demolition waste. Guidelines are being developed for pre-demolition and renovation works audits to improve the identification and quantification of Construction and demolition waste. Such guidelines should facilitate increased sorting, separated collections and, finally, recycling and re-use of construction and demolition waste. The Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol, developed during 2015-16 as a voluntary tool, should support treatment of waste in an environmentally sound way and increasing its potential for recycling; this year, a roadshow will present the results in 6 Member States. Moreover, in the second half of 2017, the Commission will present an EU framework to assess the overall environmental performance of buildings, which should promote the circular economy in the built

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/1_en_annexe_autre_acte_part1_v9.pdf

environment, particularly as a reference in large scale projects. It also has potential to be used more widely in European Structural and Investment Funds and in national policy and legislation schemes; e.g. in small communities, SMEs and micro-enterprises like architects

- Construction has a high potential in terms of internal market (IM) strengthening. The on-going Fitness Check of the regulatory framework for construction should improve evidence on whether EU legislation works and adds value. The report on implementation of the Construction Products Regulation, published in July 2016, showed progress in this area is visible but further effort is needed to achieve a true IM for construction products. In January 2017, the Commission put forward a proposal for a European Services Card, that aims to streamline formalities when business services and construction firms operate across borders.
- In the area of internationalisation the EC also promotes cluster activities, access to foreign markets (including for SMEs), and economic diplomacy.

Session 1: Realising the full potential of digitalisation for the construction sector

Mr Dainius Čergelis, Chief Desk Officer of the Design, Construction Products and Process Standardisation Division, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Mr Čergelis shared the Lithuanian experience with digitalisation of the construction sector. He explained that Lithuania is just at the beginning of the road towards digitalisation; the first impulse came from the national construction industry and public in 2014, which established a public body called “Digital Construction” to promote the idea; public administrations did not participate at this stage. Fragmentation of the industry was, nevertheless, a challenge preventing a common approach. In 2015, the Ministry of Environment and other public and academic bodies recognised the need for a common approach in this area and the "Digital Construction" body presented their proposals. Reasons for supporting digitalisation of the construction sector included the need for investment and productivity improvements. It was believed that digital information coming from BIM could optimise construction processes.

A working group of different stakeholders has been established; proposals by the group included steps towards unified rules for collaboration in BIMs during the next five years, and national level assured topography and engineering data. In order to achieve these goals, various measures were undertaken by both private and public sector. Lithuania also drew inspiration from activities abroad, especially the UK, which was used to define goals and identify benefits of BIM rather than address technical development. *Mr Čergelis* mentioned that his government appreciates the EC’s current BIM efforts, also. He concluded that the construction sector needs a step-by-step approach to fully take advantage of the potential of digitalisation.

Discussion

2 key questions were set from the Chair:

- What are the key challenges and opportunities from digitalization?
- What can the European Commission do to support digitalisation at a regional level.

FIEC mentioned the need for financing and training of public procurement (PP) officers in the digital area. Also, it was noted that the EU’s BIM structure is now open only for the public sector and it could benefit from participation of a wider range of stakeholders, including from the private sector. Another important cross cutting issue is broadband access, without which BIM simply doesn’t work. *Mr Čergelis* explained that in terms of BIM, his government is focusing on primary tools and that there are not enough financial resources to subsidise software but, for the moment, there seems to be no primary need for this. Broadband access is already available and training for PP officials is foreseen.

Mr. Köppen (DG GROW) added that the EU BIM Task Group supports knowledge development for PP officials. The first step is nevertheless defining what BIM means and to make sure everyone has the same understanding and has access to the same level of information. Training will follow this step. The EU BIM Task Group will bring benefits to industry eventually by making public procurement calls more similar across Europe in terms of requirements with regards to BIM. He also mentioned that 30-50% of construction turnover comes from public procurement.

Construction Products Europe stated that “BIM” should be talked about in plural, as there are different “BIM” systems in different countries. Indeed, there is a need for understanding of what BIMs can do and what they are. Moreover, data is needed by industry as a whole and a single BIM approach in Europe that is accessible to all levels of industry is required.

The **German Association of Consulting Engineers** added that BIM risks becoming a tool of market fragmentation. Different EU Member States (MS) have different systems, the level of information is also very different and a single European system is missing.

The **Finnish Association of Consulting Companies** mentioned that BIM have been widely used in Finland for a long time. Today, the broader term digitalisation is used, for which harmonised and accessible data and cooperation amongst different countries is needed. The Finnish government is already pursuing projects to support digitalisation of the construction sector, which are already showing a positive impact.

AGC Glass Europe, Construction Products Europe, and the UK Permanent Representation pointed out possible future issues with 'Big data' in construction; in particular, related to intellectual property rights and data confidentiality, as well as danger of potential cyber threats linked to using BIM.

Construction Products Europe pointed to the emergence of many different BIMs in the EU, which could result in closing down the Internal Market; especially as the common *Conformité Européenne* (CE) language may be lost. The EC's BIM handbook, now in preparation, is of common interest and the industry is keen to provide comments on a draft version. A lot of new innovative technologies such as 3D printing or drones are already here and may be significantly disruptive. Thus, it is important to discuss how the industry can take advantage of these technologies and benefit from their potential disruptive effects.

Mr. Köppen (DG GROW) clarified that the EU BIM Task Group was created to tackle divergence of BIM across Member States and to encourage stakeholders to collaborate and align their BIM activities. The purpose of the group is not to standardise or create an EU-wide system. DG GROW understands BIM rather as a concept and the EU BIM Task Group is trying to support the idea of a common concept. What is crucial is that the tools of different MS are compatible with each other and can communicate with each other. The EU BIM Task Group is also working on a handbook that will be published later this year, laying down common principles for implementing BIM in public works across the EU.

Mrs Raffaelli (DG GROW) brought the session to a close, stating that to avoid fragmentation, the EC together with industry need to find a way to build a common approach towards BIM and digitalisation of the construction sector. *Mr. Köppen (DG GROW)* added that the EU BIM Task Group will continue working on the handbook and will support its promotion around Europe. The topics of the session will be further discussed at the meeting of the Thematic Group 1 on 27th of March.

Session 2: Innovative approaches for resource efficient, sustainable construction

Ms Agnes Schuurmans, Manager Public Affairs – Sustainability, Group Public Affairs & Health, Rockwool International A/S Thematic session 2: Resource efficiency: Innovative building models for sustainable construction

Ms. Schuurmans' presentation addressed issues such as: how shall resource efficiency become mainstream? And, how to grasp its full potential? Noting that environmental and social challenges should be considered together; it is crucial to think about design but also deconstruction and sustainable use of materials. Buildings and construction are tied to societal challenges, as people want to live in clean and comfortable buildings. The discourse should move towards the value of sustainable buildings rather than costs. As is the case for BIM, a common language is needed and, in this respect, the EU Common Framework of Indicators is very welcome. Demand for services and values should be supported; for example, green public procurement is an important market driver. Support for digitalisation and innovation is also a part of resource efficiency.

Discussion:

FIEC: One of the major obstacles are the clients; economic viability of sustainable approaches needs to be seen by the demand side to increase the uptake of investment. It should also be recognised that it sometimes makes more sense environmentally to demolish and build a new building.

Eurogypsum: Design for deconstruction should be tied to deconstruction of systems. This needs a change in mentality of the sector and a more integral supply chain approach. There is a perception that

deconstruction is costly and there is a chain of processes after it, like the recycling of the products. If possible, the structure of existing buildings should be kept, which requires good quality retrofits. Vertical extension can offer a solution for dense urban areas. But there are horizontal options such as the conversion of the use of the buildings, also.

EDA: We need to look at the construction and demolition protocol. Sustainable business models are needed to support the circular economy. The demolition industry will not easily change mentality, but viable business models will make a difference. Sustainable construction is indeed about the supply chain – from design to demolition. Resource efficiency can sometimes actually prevent sustainable construction.

European Confederation of Woodworking Industries: Sometimes use of material can be sustainable even if the material itself is not sustainable.

Housing Europe: In the period 2010-2015, the social housing sector renovated some 2 million dwellings to offer sustainable housing, while spending € 32.8 billion. It is important to put users and residents at the centre of sustainable construction; for example, lower costs of housing motivate users to invest in retrofits.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors: Information sharing and communication are crucial. Indeed, owners and occupiers should be at the centre and should be aware of the benefits of resource efficient, sustainable construction. The industry should be prepared to share performance data.

European Council of Civil Engineers: although much of the focus has been on energy efficiency, renovation of buildings and infrastructure also involves a wide range of other features, including resistance to disasters; there is a large stock of technical infrastructure works that need to be renovated.

International Union of Property Owners: To stimulate demand, owners and occupiers need to be placed at the centre. Before creating more regulations, there should be greater awareness of the impact of buildings on well-being, as well as the economic gains; citizens will oppose regulations that increase their costs of living. Demographic pressures reinforce the need for affordable and cost-effective solutions. EU investments are not enough, and there is a need for the private sector to invest and open the road for more investments.

Construction Products Europe: Insurance is an important issue for the uptake of innovative products. Also, there is a lack of certificates of performance, which currently are largely non-existent.

Ms. Lindblom (DG Environment): The EU framework of indicators for building performance will be ready by summer 2017. The work has been progressing well, with useful inputs coming from the JRC. DG Environment is aware that demand needs to be supported and ways to achieve this are being discussed with different stakeholders.

Mrs Raffaelli (DG GROW) noted that the construction sector has to respond to many challenges and we need to address all of them: demographic, environmental etc. She concluded by saying that the EC agrees that energy efficiency is only one of the aims of building renovation. Other environmental, societal, and demographic challenges should be tackled, also. *Mr Basuyau (DG GROW)* added that business models are important; a new study is being undertaken to present business cases in construction and demolition, and to prepare the sector for support under the Investment Plan for Europe.

Thematic session 3: Skills for sustainable construction

Session 3: Skills for a “transformational” construction sector

Mr Enrique Corral Alvarez, CEO of Fundación Laboral de la Construcción (FLC)

In Spain, projects to address skills needs are being developed at both a national and European level. Projects address for example, demographic challenges through programmes to transfer of skills from “older” experienced employees towards young professionals, boosting ICT competencies, as well as managerial skills to address safety issues. Within the context of Build-Up Skills, 29 actions and 11 recommendations have been formulated under Pillar 1. Under Pillar 2, new training courses were developed; for example, on profitability or energy efficiency. Webinars complemented the training courses, as well as digital textbooks. The Spanish Qualification Framework has been updated and

enriched with new qualification standards. A roadshow around Spain has ensured publicity of the action.

FIEC: The question is how to make use of the good work done in Spain? There is much being done at regional and national levels but progress towards cooperation across Europe is complicated by differences in national and regional training systems. Multi-level coordination is needed to ensure that certificates have a universal meaning.

EDA: EDA raised the question of the feasibility and progress towards implementation of European Professional Cards (EPCs) for different professions in the EU. *Mr Corral Alvarez* noted that mutual recognition (MR) may be a better solution than the EPC for the recognition of qualifications from different countries. The EC can support transparency – rather than standardisation – and exchange of information.

European Confederation of Woodworking Industries: Education and skills are essential for construction works using wood, as very specific skill-sets are needed. Availability of suitably skilled workers is particularly challenging in rural areas. What has been done in the Build-Up Skills project in this respect? *Mr Corral Alvarez* responded that the project revealed a lack of qualified carpenters in Spain, and a need for re-qualification and up-skilling activities. For this reason, special training was provided to address these needs.

European Union of Developers and House Builders (UEPC): Cross-border mutual recognition is the way to go; fostering full harmonization has proven to be a too complex process. It has emerged from a FIEC study (ongoing) that there are persistent gaps in performance across the sector, mainly related to lack of skills. Together with FIEC, a lot of work has been done in this area and UEPC would be pleased to present its main findings and reflections, particularly in relation to specific groups such as young people and women.

Eurogypsum: Industry is ‘doing its bit’ when it comes to training; for example, companies running academies that provide training to 35.000 people per year. *Mr Corral Alvarez* responded that the goal is to work together with industry and to link vocational training and education in a “dual education” approach, so as to reach 60.000 people per year. Developing synergies between educational institutions and industry is both desirable and needed.

Mr Roman Horvath (DG GROW): Skills is not a “stand alone” issue but is related to other areas discussed (e.g. digitalisation, circular economy) and to employment potential. A skilled workforce can better educate consumers, by explaining the benefits of energy-efficient and sustainable constructions. Due to national and regional differences, there is emerging agreement on the difficulty of fostering “harmonisation” and the need to strive for more mutual recognition. Training is a key element to guide the transformation of the sector. Improving coordination and sharing of good practices is essential at different levels (local, regional, national, European). Many initiatives have already been put in place by social partners and, in 2017, the EU Commission will probably launch the “Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills²” for the Construction Sector. The “Blueprint” initiative will cover the identification of good practices and assess how these can be “up-scaled” at national and cross-border levels. This should support industry to promote its own exercises to foster skills, including exchange of good practices among countries and fostering of mutual recognition.

Mrs Raffaelli (DG GROW) noted that harmonisation in the area of skills is indeed difficult, and the best way forward is to foster exchanges of good practices and mutual recognition of qualifications and training systems across the EU. For example, positive experiences of “dual education” approaches – linking training and education – already exist in the EU. Similarly, synergies are emerging among institutions and across MS that could be further fostered throughout the sector. Although the EC is keen to support the process of mutual recognition, it is an issue of MS responsibility.

Session 4: Additional input from the HLF

The HLF agreed that the Winter Energy Package is broadly appreciated by its members. Smart financing and smart buildings are a good avenues to be pursued, along with informing the end-users of

² http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=8848

potential of “smart industry”. Concerning BIMs, SMEs would like to make more use of them but need a better understanding and financial support.

The **German Association for Consulting Engineering**: Energy efficiency does not only mean insulation. In addition, it must be cost effective and engage with smart financing and smart building initiatives. In the example of the e-vehicles we need to decide on the kind of voltage in the charging stations. On the Winter Energy Package, SMEs will need help to understand BIM, which could be supported through European funding programs.

The **French Ministry of Housing** presented some new incentives of the French government. A project “E+C minus” (energy and carbon) is supporting uptake of sustainable buildings. It aims to spread awareness of low energy buildings and, thereby, help to decrease the carbon footprint of buildings. A label has been created to reward and support pilot projects focused on low-carbon buildings. The “Batiment-energie-carbon” website provides information about the project; an English language version will be available soon. Once they become more tangible, results of the initiative will be shared with the EC and HLF members, as well as with the general public. *Mrs Raffaelli* agreed that working on energy efficiency should not be separated from resource efficiency. The low-carbon economy is an important and closely related topic.

The **European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA)** mentioned that promotion of the quality-ratio in public procurement in construction would be very welcome. A life-cycle assessment methodology needs to be developed to support this, and EFCA is ready to assist the EC in this task. Energy efficiency in buildings is important and needs a lot of R&D. However, there appears to be a lack of research support in the Winter Energy Package. **FIEC** mentioned possibilities of H2020 and FP7 funding programmes and confirmed that indeed financing is needed for R&D projects in energy efficiency. Investment in R&D and innovation is a way forward for the construction industry, for which the calculation of costs should be set against expected benefits.

Mr Antonio Paparella (DG GROW) explained that the EC is working on simplification of the framework of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The legislation needs to be modernised with respect to the smart cities agenda, and industry is invited to contribute to discussion on this. For financing, the EC would like to see a mix of lending and equity schemes, tax deductions and grants. Also, the EC is working towards enhancing the role of quality-related award criteria as part of a smart procurement initiative. In terms of R&D support for energy efficiency, there is support under the Horizon 2020 programme.

Mr Christian Hauke (DG GROW) pointed out that the Thematic Group1 (“Stimulating favourable investment conditions and innovation”) meeting on 27th March will focus, among other issues, on an update on the Smart Finance for Smart Buildings initiative; the EU Construction Sector Observatory has provided useful comparative information about key areas for industry, policy makers and stakeholders in all EU. *Mrs Raffaelli* added that the ‘smart approach’ for financing depends mostly on the ways that different actors can work together. It should be based on the needs of the construction industry and should take advantage of blending of different sources.

Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs pointed to the importance of upscaling – which can bring down costs through economies of scale and process improvements – as a key factor to improving energy efficiency of construction. In the Netherlands, the government is supporting the packaging of smaller projects to create fewer large-scale projects. This makes mobilising private funding easier, as well as encouraging collaboration of different actors. This projects report on the works together, providing large scale data. Results of this “packaging” activity on the uptake of energy and resource efficiency will be summarised in a report at the end of March.

Mrs Raffaelli (DG GROW): Bringing together many projects offers a critical mass and motivates public funding. Public procurement is playing a big role to promote and support the achievement of policy objectives.

FIEC responded that it is important that upscaling also benefits SMEs. FIEC was interested to know if and how the Dutch government assures that SMEs can participate in ‘bundled projects’. *Mr Paparella (DG GROW)* reminded the audience that MS are very different from each other and that what works in

the Netherlands may not work in other countries and that large scale development is not always well accepted by the public.

Reporting on the main discussion points

Mr Jan Maarten de Vet, Construction 2020 Secretariat, Ecorys

Acceleration of the renewal of the building stock is needed. The majority of the building stock is inefficient now and the renovation rate is low. Our buildings need to become more resource efficient, smarter, and long lasting with lower energy consumption – and at the same time remain affordable. Owners and users need to be conscious of the benefits of “good” buildings and their value. There is a need for a common understanding on what is a sustainable building and urban planning is required to place sustainable building in a smart cities context. Technical and administrative brakes to accelerated renewal should be tackled, also.

Acceleration of the renewal of building activity is needed, as well. Digitalisation is one way to help make building renovation more efficient and exploit the potential of the circular economy and energy efficiency. Also, it can help different actors to work together. New technologies can bring down costs and make collaboration more interesting but innovative products require acceptance and guarantees. BIM and other forms of digitalisation can bring benefits if applied and understood by actors across the value chain. This needs integrators with an overview of the building sector.

Acceleration of the renewal of building capacity calls for new skills that are crucial for exploiting the potential of the construction sector, as well as green buildings. Both soft and hard skills are needed, for which experience and good practices should be shared across Europe. Young people need to be involved, as their willingness to embrace innovation and greater efficiency is crucial for the future of the sector. The construction worker of the future will be quite different from today's one.

Acceleration of the renewal of the building support framework must look towards smart public procurement as a key enabler, which means shifting the balance from price towards more quality and innovativeness. Platforms are a good tool for future sharing and collaboration. BIM and other systems should be linked in a way that can strengthen the Internal Market and support free trade. Policy frameworks need to support knowledge development and sharing of intelligence, as well as research and innovation; for example, by taking advantage of opportunities arising from Horizon 2020. One key conclusions (and dilemma): a stable and consistent framework needs to be provided whilst, at the same time, renewing the building support framework.

Commission roadmap for Construction

Ms Lowri Evans, Director-General, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

The involvement of a broad variety of stakeholders to the Forum is much appreciated. Construction remains high on the political agenda – as illustrated by construction's role in the flagship initiative on “Accelerating clean energy in buildings” within the Energy Union Package – and collaboration of stakeholders is crucial. The Commission proposes to strengthen the competitiveness of the construction sector with measures on digitalisation, skills and qualifications, the internal market for construction products and new initiatives to improve the environmental performance of buildings in line with the circular economy

In the view of the Commission, the construction sector needs to undergo a transformation to reduce costs, make buildings more energy and resource efficient over their life cycle, and improve the overall quality of infrastructure. This will generate huge benefits for the society and the economy, in terms of functioning of the economy and quality of life of Europeans and future generations. Given the size of the construction sector, even small improvements would have multiplier effects on the society and the economy. The transformation should address the huge potential of the construction sector to improve productivity and market integration. The public sector, as both regulator and a major "client" of construction, should also drive the transformation process harder. Moreover, additional public and private funding is necessary to unlock investments for energy efficiency and renewables, especially in buildings renovation.

The Commission has made its contribution to develop a coherent framework for digital construction in public works that is applicable across the EU. But construction SMEs will face the challenge of the uptake of digital technologies such as mediated reality, drones, 3D scanning and printing and robots. These have the potential to raise efficiency of construction processes and digitalisation will also

facilitate keeping a better record of buildings throughout their full lifecycle from construction to deconstruction. The Commission's ambition is to make the exchange of information much easier and support decision-making before, during and after construction projects, and avoid a fragmentation of competing national strategies and cut costs for SMEs.

Regulation should be set at the right level to support digitalisation of the construction sector and prevent market fragmentation. Innovation needs a reasonably free environment and DG GROW wants to be informed of any regulatory initiatives being prepared by MS that may affect this; stakeholders are encouraged to share their knowledge in this respect. Equally, in terms of energy efficiency of buildings, a common approach is needed and any ideas from HLF members are welcome.

The construction sector needs to enhance co-ordination and co-operation across the value chain to agree common goals and protocols with respect to resource efficiency in buildings. Criteria for proper management of construction and demolition waste are needed and, in the long run, the sector needs to design and construct buildings in such a way that the resources used can be economically recovered and reused further to renovation works and deconstruction. There is also a need to better structure the assessment of the green premium of energy and resource efficient buildings so as the "green value" of buildings become a key factor in decision making.

Modernisation of the construction sector will be based on a competent workforce. Human capital and skills are needed, and experimental ways to support their development and supply (e.g. the Blue Card initiative) should be explored. But, equally, construction should be in a position to promote itself as an attractive employer that offer young people rewarding professional and vocational careers. Within the context of the New Skills Agenda for Europe, the Commission plans to launch a Blueprint for Co-operation on Skills between key stakeholders to encourage a more strategic use of EU and national funding opportunities to satisfy short and medium term skills needs.

There is a significant potential to further reap the benefit of the Single Market, especially for a wider choice of construction products responding to more energy and resource efficiency demands. However, completing the internal market in construction remains a challenge. Recognising the fragmentation of the internal market for construction products, a consultation process with stakeholders is ongoing that may possibly lead to a revision of the Construction Products Regulation. HLF members are invited to contribute ideas for improvements to the ongoing Commission consultation.

The public sector can enhance competition and productivity by reforming building codes, standards and authorisation procedures and reducing barriers to competition at international level. It should also support technological development in construction and be an early adopter of innovative solutions through strategic public procurement. As part of the future recommendation on the professionalization of public procurers, the Commission will provide guidance and instruments to support the implementation strategic procurement, such as IT standards, Green Public Procurement criteria templates and Building Information Modelling. For its part, the Commission wants to boost the financial support for energy efficiency platforms in Member States; in particular, to unlock an additional €10 billion of public and private funds available from the the European Investment Bank (EIB) until 2020.

Mrs Raffaelli brought the meeting to a close and invited HLF members to continue their participation in the different thematic groups (TGs) of the Construction 2020 Forum for Sustainable Construction.