

EU Industrial Strategy: the construction value chain stands ready to define a pathway for transition to achieve EU goals

On 5th May, the European Commission released the new EU Industrial Strategy, which puts a renewed focus on the key ecosystems, including construction. The European Council of Civil Engineers, as member of the Construction 2050 Alliance, welcomes the priority given to the construction ecosystem as one of the sectors that faces the most important challenges in meeting climate and sustainability goals and in embracing the digital transformation.

Specifically, the Construction 2050 Alliance welcomes the Strategy's plan of transition pathways for key ecosystems such as construction, co-created together by the industry, Member States and the European Commission. Such pathways will offer a better understanding of the scale, cost, long term benefits and conditions of the required action to accompany the twin transitions of the construction sector, which will be essential to achieve the goals of the European Green Deal and Renovation Wave.

The European Council of Civil Engineers would like to bring forward and highlight the importance of more *holistic approach* to our built environment and **structural resilience and sustainability** of the buildings which unfortunately has not been considered at least to the necessary extent.

The actors of the construction value chain, gathered in the Construction 2050 Alliance, have already started looking into this co-creation process and stand ready to work with the European Commission. Looking at the experience of the construction 2020 initiative and with the aim of improving the overall added value, the Construction 2050 Alliance is of the opinion that the Commission's High-Level Construction Forum must be the political sounding board to set the priorities that must be supported by the technical working groups. In the spirit of co-creation the Construction 2050 Alliance looks forward to defining with the Commission the actions and priorities for the twin transitions, thereby enabling resilience, competitiveness, good working conditions and sustainability in the construction ecosystem.

The opportunities construction is facing are significant and it plays a key role in the implementation of the main EU policy goals, but some bottlenecks must be addressed. Societal challenges such as the decarbonisation of the existing building stock, the adoption of new technologies to improve productivity, in particular data, emission reduction and the development of new high quality job profiles, just to name a few high-level priorities, can only be addressed in partnership between the European Commission and the construction industry through a bottom-up approach.