FIEC is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 32 National Member Federations in 28 countries (25 EU & Norway, Ukraine, Turkey) construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. small and medium-sized enterprises as well as "global players", carrying out all forms of building and civil engineering activities.

PRESS RELEASE 20/10/2020

DECARBONISATION, CIRCULARITY AND DIGITALISATION:

VERY POSITIVE LINKING OF KEY POLICIES IN RENOVATION WAVE

"The communication on the Renovation Wave published last week by the European Commission, appears to broadly meet FIEC's expectations" says José-Michaël Chenu, FIEC Vice President for the Technical Commission. "In particular we are pleased that the key policy areas of decarbonisation, circularity and digitalisation, which have often been treated separately by the EU in the past, are united under the umbrella of this important initiative."

The aim of the Renovation Wave is to rapidly accelerate the deep renovation rate of inefficient buildings, with a focus on public buildings, and to increase energy and resource efficiency, while creating more than a hundred thousand green jobs in the construction sector. "A really ambitious objective that will boost the construction industry after a hard few months with the Covid crisis, improve the lives of citizens" remarks Chenu.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STRATEGY, SUPPORTED BY FIEC:

- The revision of Energy Performance Certificates in 2021, which should standardise building assessments and make the ratings comparable across the EU, which they currently are not.
- Building Renovation Passports and the introduction of a single digital tool, bringing together these passports with Digital Building Logbooks. Digitalisation and monitoring of materials used in buildings, improving circularity, will be facilitated by this measure.
- The use of Horizon Europe, the new research framework programme, to support digitalisation in the construction sector.

WE SAY YES ... HOWEVER ...

- We welcome any efforts to support the internal market for secondary raw materials. However, stakeholders should be involved in the review of material recovery targets.
- We need to see more details on the proposal to assess the extension of the Emission Trading System to emissions from buildings. Any proposals will need to be proportionate, feasible and compatible with other relevant regulation.
- FIEC underlines that adequate funding for this initiative must be ensured.

in