

PRESS RELEASE

Europe's construction industry commits to sustainable business model vision

- **EIC, FIEC and ENCORDER publish a joint Manifesto calling for the European construction industry to adopt a circular business model to achieve carbon and resource neutrality in line with wider net-zero commitment**
- **The Manifesto calls for a review and modernisation of the regulatory landscape for construction to support the transformation and facilitate relevant success**
- **The manifesto outlines six 'pillars' for businesses to bring stakeholders in line with this vision**

Berlin/ Brussels, 12 December 2023: The three leading construction industry bodies in Europe have jointly published the 'Manifesto on Achieving Carbon and Resource Neutrality in the European Construction Sector' outlining a long-term vision and plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resource efficiency.

The Manifesto follows this year's COP28 and aims to bring the European construction industry in line with global net-zero commitments.

European International Contractors (EIC), the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC), and the European Network of Construction Companies for Research & Development (ENCORDER), have made a series of commitments advocating a circular business model decoupling growth from resource use in the construction industry.

The Manifesto advocates a shift from the linear to a circular business model to drastically reduce waste production and raw material consumption. 90% of primary resources will need to be reused to achieve carbon and resource neutrality by 2050.¹ This will require radical changes across the entire industry and unprecedented collaboration will be needed.

The European construction industry considers overhauling and modernising the construction regulatory landscape vital to achieve carbon and resource neutrality across the European ecosystem.

To help all stakeholders and business prepare for the needed changes, the Manifesto highlights 'six strategic pillars', discussed in detail by leading figures within the construction industry, to serve as a blueprint for change. These are:

- **Resources** – materials should be reviewed for re-use potential and processes with regard to efficient use of space, prefabrication and assembly should be redesigned.

¹ <https://sciencebasedtargets.org/net-zero>

- **Procurement** – catalysing change by introducing innovative contracting models and collaborative working.
- **Financing** – ensure financing works together with other stakeholders in managing risk and ensuring that it supports the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) objectives.
- **Energy** – reducing energy use in construction and deploying Carbon Capture, Storage and Utilisation (CCSU) can radically change the embodied carbon in new infrastructure.
- **People** – people need to be supported by a collaborative culture to foster high performance and innovation.
- **Data** – digital data is key to developing connected information models, i.e. digital twins of real assets and is essential to enable all stakeholders to plan, design, build, operate and decommission collaboratively.

For more details on what the industry is advocating and why, please read the full Manifesto on Achieving Carbon and Resource Neutrality in the European Ecosystem. ([visit here](#))

Commenting on the manifesto, **Christina Claeson-Jonsson, Chair of ENCORD / NCC Head of Research & Innovation** said: “The construction industry must transition towards becoming less wasteful and decouple the growth of a robust construction sector from the increasing use of raw materials. It is imperative that we unite and take the necessary steps towards a more sustainable business model. Government regulation across Europe is required to ensure that all parties involved in every link of the construction chain are moving in the right direction.”

Benoît Chauvin, President of EIC / Colas Group Vice President, Business Development said: “We believe that contractors across the European construction industry should increase and speed up investments and take much wider responsibility and leadership in harnessing the skills and resources of the whole construction value chain and all stakeholders to restore our environment and transform our economy.”

Philip Crampton, President of FIEC said: “We, as an industry need to decouple economic growth from the resource use with the aim of restoring natural capital that has been destroyed over time, while maintaining the competitiveness of our companies. Our six-point action plan is based on integrated stakeholder collaboration and a circular business model that minimises the use of new resources and production of waste. To achieve this, investment in training to up-skill and re-skill our workforce is essential.”



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ABOUT THE FEDERATIONS



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European International Contractors (EIC) has as its members construction industry trade associations from fifteen European countries and represents the interests of the European construction industry in all questions related to its international construction activities particularly with respect to the political, legal, economic and financial framework conditions for the international business. EIC advocates fair international competition and balanced contract conditions, quality- based procurement and value-for-money, innovative project delivery schemes and sustainable construction methods. European international contractors are operating for more than a century in all corners of the world. The total volume of international turnover carried out in the year 2020 by the internationally active construction companies associated with EIC Member Federations amounted to more than US\$ 215 billion according to the ENR magazine.



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FIEC represents – via its 32 National member federations in 27 countries (24 EU, Norway, Switzerland & Ukraine) – 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. FIEC is also the officially recognised Social Partner, representing employers, in the EU sectoral Social Dialogue for Construction.



ENCORD (European Network of Construction Companies for Research & Development) is a driving force for the advancements of construction technologies and processes. Our member organisations strive to provide sustainable buildings, resilient infrastructure and reliable operational services in Europe's built environment. ENCORD's Digital Built Environment, Foresighting, Health & Safety, Lean and Sustainability working groups facilitate the exchange of practitioners across Europe and are setting R&D priorities in the sector.



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