

FIEC is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 31 National Member Federations in 27 countries (25 EU & 1 EFTA and 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

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FIEC IS READY FOR THE #EUGREENDEAL CHALLENGE!

“Our industry is ready for the EU Green Deal” says FIEC President Kjetil Tønning, following the federation’s conference on this subject last week, in Paris. *“We have already been building sustainably for years and we will take a step by step approach towards these ever-more ambitious environmental goals. We are an industry undergoing transformation anyway and we will set some key green priorities, to enable us to fulfil our environmental obligations.”*

The conference: *“The new EU Green Deal”, opportunities and challenges for the construction sector*”, was a response to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen’s commitment to make Europe *“the world’s first climate-neutral continent”*. The event focused on the Circular Economy, the Emissions Trading System (ETS) and sustainable infrastructure.

Keynote speaker Brice Lalonde, a man with illustrious credentials and currently President of the think tank “Equilibre des Energies” (EdEn), urged the construction industry to be proactive, make its voice heard and explain clearly its needs, whilst at the same time offering solutions to EU decision-makers.

Key conclusions that emerged during the discussion include:

- Innovation and digitalisation are key solutions to the EU climate objectives. Both should benefit from higher investments;
- There is a need to promote and develop low-carbon construction along the entire value chain;
- A holistic approach is needed involving SMEs, allowing them to raise their competences in this field;
- Public authorities must play their role, namely via public procurement which can facilitate sustainable investment;
- It is crucial to consider the construction life-cycle;
- The legislative framework needs to be adapted to the new business models that will be required to meet all the challenges that face the industry.

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