

19/03/2014

Last night (18/03/14) the MEP Awards took place at the Concert Noble in Brussels and members from Construction Products Europe were there to see Jan Olbrycht MEP receive the award for Sustainable Built Environment, our sponsored award.

This year was first time the MEP Awards ceremony included such a category, and we are very happy to congratulate Mr Olbrycht for winning the award. This year also had the highest turnout of MEPs voting in the awards 10 year history, with the sustainable built environment award being one of the most popular awards voted on. In the absence of our President, Jean-Marie Vaissaire, Cedric de Meeûs, Vice-President Government Relations at Holcim, stepped in to represent our industry and to hand over the award. He said:

*“the MEP awards allow stakeholders to publicly recognised the important work carried out by Members of the European Parliament and I am pleased to support the action of Construction Products Europe in promoting a debate on our sustainable built environment.”*

The other nominees, Catherine Stihler and Heide Rühle, were still strong contenders for the award and we would like to thank and congratulate them on their work. Regarding the sustainable built environment award, our President Jean-Marie Vaissaire said:

*“Jan Olbrycht is a worthy winner of the sustainable built environment award. He is credited with putting urban development issues on the Parliament’s agenda through the Urban Intergroup and many of these issues are irrevocably linked to the world of construction. Overall, we believe construction industry is a key component of future sustainable policies in Europe and deserves a very consistent and strategic approach from all authorities in Europe.”*

After his win, Mr Olbrycht thanked all his colleagues in the Urban Intergroup. He is very keen to re-launch the Urban Intergroup in the next Parliament but requires support and backing as he must gather at least three political parties to continue the group.

Some MEPs, like the nominees for the Sustainable Built Environment award, have started to become aware of how beneficial it is for the EU to have a well-supported construction sector and Construction Products Europe would like to capitalise on this growing awareness. We hope to continue successful cooperation and collaboration with the MEPs nominated for this award as well as many others in the future European Parliament.