



EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY FEDERATION

European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) is the "Social Partner" representing employers in the European Sectoral Social Dialogue "Construction". FIEC represents via its 30 National Member Federations in 27 countries (24 EU & 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.

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Construction Products Europe (CPE) is an international non-profit making association made up of national and European associations that represent small and medium-size enterprises and world-leading companies. CPE aims to promote the European construction industry, to share information on EU legislation and standardisation and to provide input in all European construction-related initiatives.

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Standardisation and market surveillance at risk of going off track

Manufacturers and contractors seek relevant measures from the CPR

Construction Products Europe and the European Construction Industry Federation, the latter representing contractors (micro, small, medium and large enterprises), defend the interests of complementary sectors in the construction value chain. Construction Products Europe members manufacture components that FIEC members install. These two interdependent sectors and the two European associations that represent them have joined forces to point out those aspects of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) that should be improved for the benefit of both sectors.

Both European industry associations support an open and transparent European standardisation system that involves all concerned parties. They welcome European measures that create a level playing field and ensure that the right product is used in the right circumstances in buildings and infrastructure. Contrary to this, the CPR is influencing the development of standards in a way that neither of these goals is achieved. *"Neither CE marking nor the Declaration of Performance tell a contractor whether he has the right product for the job in hand"* says Kjetil Tønning, Vice-President of FIEC and President of its Technical Commission. *"Merely knowing that the product can be sold in the EU does not guarantee its fitness for the contractually agreed purpose for every construction project. For this reason, the CPR and CE marking have proved to be totally irrelevant to contractors in practice"*

Harmonised European standards should allow users to obtain information they need to select the right product in terms of technical characteristics and performance. Construction Products Europe President Heimo Scheuch states *"Although the CPR has been an important catalyst for the development of European product standards, it has strongly influenced the standardisation process for construction products and we would like to see a more flexible system that allows manufacturers to provide additional voluntary information, such as that which is required by our customers the contractors and other users"*

Interpretation not consistent

In spite of the fact that the legal instrument governing the placing of construction products on the market is a regulation, with direct effect in the Member States, both EU associations are concerned that the actual implementation is not consistent and there appears to be wide interpretation of the CPR. Furthermore, although welcome in principle, the European Commission's guidance, in the form of Frequently Asked Questions, amongst other things, has an unclear legal status and is exacerbating the confusion. To make matters worse, the surveillance authorities in the Member States lack resources and are unable to meet the demands of their tasks.

Our joint positions on the CPR and Standardisation on the one hand and Market Surveillance on the other can be found on the organisations' websites (see above).