

CEMENT CO-PROCESSING

A Sustainable Solution for End-Of-Life Composite Materials

Brussels, 05/07/2023 – Today, CEMBUREAU, in collaboration with WindEurope, EuCIA, EBI, Cefic UP/VE, Cefic Epoxy Europe, and Glass Fibre Europe, has released a [position paper](#) highlighting the important role cement co-processing can play in treating end-of-life composite materials.

Together we call on the policymakers to recognise these benefits and facilitate the upscaling of co-processing with a more supportive EU regulatory framework. The European Commission and the national authorities should recognise cement co-processing as a recycling process to allow the EU to foster industry growth and ensure a circular future for both the cement and composite material sectors.

Composite materials, a combination of reinforced fibres (usually glass or carbon fibres) and a polymer matrix, are known for their durability, exceptional chemical and heat resistance properties. They are therefore extensively used across various sectors including wind, marine, infrastructure, and industrial markets.

Whilst their durability is a great advantage during their operational lifetime, recycling end-of-life composite materials has been technically challenging due to the difficulty of separating the constituent fibres and polymers.

Cement co-processing offers a sustainable and circular solution to this challenge. Co-processing allows for the comprehensive recycling of end-of-life composite materials with glass fibres, while simultaneously mitigating climate change through the reduction of natural raw materials in cement manufacturing and the replacement of fossil energy sources.

CEMBUREAU is very pleased to join this crucial initiative that reinforces our ongoing efforts towards decarbonisation and sustainability, in line with our Carbon Neutrality Roadmap for 2050. By endorsing sustainable recycling solutions for end-of-life composite materials, we contribute to a broader commitment to a circular economy within the European cement and construction sector.

The seven associations are further collaborating to promote sustainable recycling approaches for the end-of-life composite materials with more actions planned in the coming months.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

The European Cement Association is based in Brussels and is the representative organisation of the cement industry in Europe. Currently, its Full Members are 23 national cement industry associations and cement companies of the European Union (except for Malta) plus Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Croatia, Serbia and Slovakia are Associate Members of CEMBUREAU. Cooperation agreements have been concluded with Vassiliko Cement in Cyprus and UKRCEMENT in Ukraine.

Please click [here](#) to view the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Roadmap online, and click [here](#) to access CEMBUREAU's map of ongoing innovation projects.

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