

CEMBUREAU FEEDBACK TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S INCEPTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Brussels, 30/06/2020

CEMBUREAU welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Commission Inception Impact Assessment of the Communication “*European Green Deal Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change*” to be adopted at the end of the year. The cement and concrete sector can offer great contribution to Climate Change adaptation.

CEMBUREAU’s commitment to Climate Change Mitigation is strong and our 2050 Climate Neutrality Roadmap (<https://cembureau.eu/news-views/publications/2050-carbon-neutrality-roadmap>), which was published in May 2020, sets out the cement industry’s ambition to reach net zero emissions along the cement and concrete value chain by 2050. The roadmap looks at how CO₂ emissions can be reduced by acting at each stage of the value chain: clinker, cement, concrete, construction and (re)carbonation.

According to CEMBUREAU, the new EU Climate Adaptation Strategy should promote and develop:

- Investment in resilient infrastructure and building structures, with increased durability and extended useful life
- Investment in structural defences to combat climate change (i.e. flood defences)
- Innovative adaptation solutions.

Indeed, our sector, thanks to qualities of concrete (durability, resilience, thermal mass, fire resistance and low maintenance costs) and additional features such as those of pervious concrete and high reflectance (SRI) concrete, already provides solutions to Climate Change adaptation, making it a strategic material for the EU economy. That is why we support the uptake and development of climate change adaptation policies and practices at all levels (EU, Member States, Local) in order to protect:

- Communities (development and renovation of sea defences, dykes, riverbank protection and flood barriers, stormwater run-off management systems, strengthening and repurposing of structures, expanding structure service life);
- Health and safety (development and renovation of water storage and/ or treatment systems, improved sanitation, new hospitals);
- Public and private assets (climate adaptation proofing of buildings and infrastructures).

In addition, the resilience of urban areas should be promoted by:

- Densifying cities and avoiding urban sprawl;
- Developing shared and mass transport infrastructures
- Managing urban heat island effects through SRI requirements for both vertical and horizontal hardscape areas;
- Promote urban drainage and infiltration, and
- Decreasing heating and cooling demand notably through the use of thermal mass in construction and building renovation.

Ensuring the resilience of the built environment and infrastructure to more frequent extreme events should be a key pillar of adaptation to climate change as it has the potential of protecting people's health and access to basic resources in some regions, as well as minimizing the overall economic and financial impact in the EU.