

INVITATION

EUROFER Construction Seminar

8th December 2011, 9h15-13h45

Centre Diamant, meeting room Archimède
Bd. A. Reyers 80 – 1030 Brussels – Tel: +32 2 7068800

Speakers from:

EIB, FIEC, ArcelorMittal, Tata Steel, EUROFER

The construction industry is by far the largest steel consuming sector in the EU: including the production of structural steel products for construction applications, the sector accounts for almost 40% of total steel consumption.

Also from an economic perspective the construction industry is a heavyweight, with a 10% share of EU GDP and providing jobs to almost 14 million workers.

At the same time, the construction market is also very complex and fragmented, with marked differentials in demand drivers and cyclicity at the country level.

However, since early 2008, the construction market is characterised by a widespread downturn. Initially the slump was concentrated in Spain, the UK and Ireland due to the construction boom in those countries coming to end. Later in 2008, the financial crisis and global recession that followed in its trail started to affect also construction activity in other EU countries.

Particularly privately funded projects in the residential and non-residential market segments were impacted.

The recession revealed structural imbalances in the EU, resulting in the sovereign debt crisis. This has left governments facing a delicate balancing act between reducing budgets & debt and keeping the economy alive. Austerity programmes have come into force in most EU countries; they are particularly severe in the peripheral Eurozone countries. This means that also publicly funded construction activity has come under pressure.

The outlook for the construction industry in the EU is clouded with uncertainties. In some countries a modest rebound in residential building activity is taking place since early 2011: will it spread to other construction segments and to other countries?

Construction prospects are also influenced by changing industry structures, construction practices and material usage, with in particular challenges and opportunities coming from low-carbon construction. Is the engagement of the steel industry in sustainable construction strong enough to secure its position in its largest market?

These and other issues will be addressed by speakers from EIB/Euroconstruct, the European Construction Industry Federation FIEC, ArcelorMittal, TATA Steel and EUROFER. This seminar offers a unique view on the short and medium term prospects and challenges for the EU construction sector.

You are kindly invited to attend this seminar. Since there are a limited number of seats, you are advised to confirm your participation as soon as possible since registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

For your confirmation please contact Ms. Angélique Katsiboubas (0032-27387937 or A.Katsiboubas@eurofer.be)

Programme

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| 8h45-9h15 | Registration and welcome coffee |
| 9h15-9h20 | Welcome and introduction Gordon MOFFAT, general director EUROFER |
| 9h20-10h00 | EU construction outlook to 2014 Oebele VRIES, EIB - Economic Institute for Construction and Housing, Netherlands |
| 10h00-10h40 | The sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector - opportunities and challenges Christine LE FORESTIER / Responsible for Economic and Legal Affairs, European Construction Industry Federation FIEC |
| 10h40-11h00 | Coffee break |
| 11h00-11h40 | Construction Market from the perspective of a Global Steel Producer Emile REUTER, Vice President ArcelorMittal Construction Business Unit |
| 11h40-12h20 | Steel and sustainable construction Bauke HOEKSTRA BONNEMA, General Manager Tata Steel Construction Centre |
| 12h20-12h45 | EUROFER's commitment to the European future: a Sustainability Mark for steel construction products manufacturing Eduardo LIMBERT, Project Manager EUROFER |
| 12h45-13h45 | Lunch |

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