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PRESS RELEASE

The Construction Products Regulation

CEPMC¹ welcomes the new **Construction Products Regulation** adopted 9th March 2011 and published in the Official Journal on 4th April and thanks the European Parliament, Council and the European Commission on all the hard work to get to this result. The new regulation meets many of the expectations of construction product manufacturers.

As it is a regulation rather than a directive, the new text guarantees **an identical application in all the Members States**, reducing the risk of any diverging National interpretations.

All the manufacturers in Europe and all importers will be under the same obligation to provide **clear, complete and reliable information on the products**, including information on possible dangerous substances contained and possibly released during their entire life cycle, as soon as a harmonised standard or a European Technical Assessment (ETA) applies. In that way, it addresses the **social demand of transparency**, which has strongly increased during the last years.

The new regulation **preserves the “acquis”** of the previous Construction Products Directive (CPD)

- The harmonised standards (more than 400) and European Technical Assessments (more than 2400) issued during the last decade remain usable, even if they need to be adjusted to the new regulation;
- The CE marking, already affixed by manufacturers on more than 400 families of products representing thousands of products, remains in place;
- The simplified procedures are maintained and reinforced, so as to avoid excessive burden and cost, especially for SMEs and very small enterprises.

¹ CEP MC is an umbrella association of construction products manufacturers at the European level. It represents 18 National Members (grouping a large range of national associations of construction products manufacturers at national level) and 37 Associate Members (European sectoral associations). CEP MC expresses therefore the opinion of a large part of the construction products manufacturers, covering almost all the various families of products. The experts contributing to its activities represent large companies as well as a predominant proportion of SMEs including very small enterprises, corresponding to the proportion that exists in the various sectors of the market. This representation allows CEP MC to present a balanced opinion in the positions expressed taking into consideration the various interests that exist in the market.



This new regulation will help reinforce a **Level Playing Field**:

- It obliges Members States to let the products complying with this regulation be made available on the market without any restriction or additional requirement, reinforcing the efforts to remove barriers to trade and facilitate the free circulation of goods;
- The assessment of the products based on a "Common European Technical language" formulated in the harmonised standards and European Technical Assessments, allows a single assessment of the product and this assessment has to be accepted by National and local authorities;
- The place and the role of voluntary marks or certifications that may supplement CE marking are clarified.

Much still has to be done to allow the regulation to **fully enter into force on 1st July 2013**. CEP MC intends to fully contribute to this work, under the responsibility of the European Commission and Members States.

CEPMC will be looking to further clarify and simplify several areas of the regulation, in particular the procedures to provide information on dangerous substances according to the regulation REACH and the conditions to use modern communication tools (web-sites) to provide the required information on products. Also the information accompanying the CE marking on products needs to be adjusted to the real needs of the users, so as to protect the users whilst avoiding excessive requests, costly procedures or duplication.

Construction products manufacturers will certainly be making all the necessary efforts to be ready to fully apply the new regulation from the 1st July 2013.
