

ERMCO NEWS

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Member of:



Welcome

Meetings and more important meetings. This is a busy time of year for ERMCO and, we hope, for the ready-mixed industry everywhere in Europe. The Board met in March in Brussels and discussed a number of relevant issues on strategic and technical matters.

It will meet again in June, the day before the Representatives' meeting. The EcoTec Committee will meet in May to try to agree ERMCO positions on the revision of EN206-1, and again before the Reprs' meeting.

Later in July, many of your technical experts will be in Helsinki to argue our case in the meeting of the European concrete committee, TC 104/SC1.

The most important ERMCO meeting of the year, the Representatives' meeting, is on 10 June in Copenhagen. Visit the ERMCO website, where you will find full details, and please use the website to register your delegates for the meeting so that we can help the Danish Association make sure that all the arrangements are in place.

We look forward to getting together again at these meetings.

ERMCO Secretariat team ■

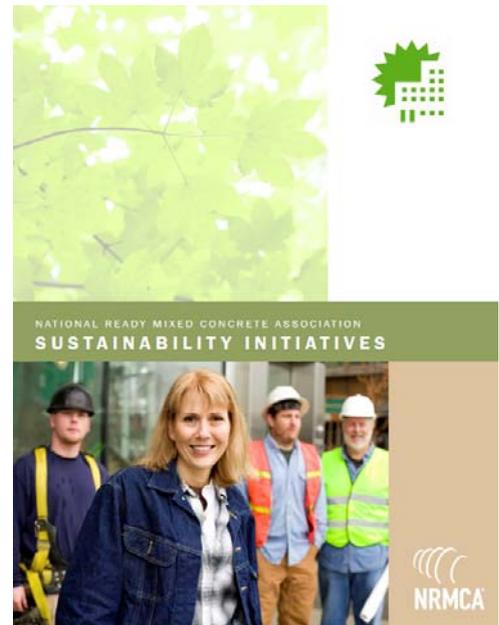
American initiatives on sustainability

Recognising the need to establish sustainability credentials, the Board discussed at its recent meeting a proposal to identify 'Key Performance Indicators'.

As well as MPA, the UK member in ERMCO, the North American Ready-mixed Concrete Association, NRMCA, has been thinking along these lines for longer than most of us here in Europe.

They have already agreed five such indicators, and set up voluntary certification schemes for both general Environmental Management and for Sustainable Concrete Plants. These, and other initiatives, are backed up by a series of web seminars to introduce and publicise the concepts.

Read the paper presented to ERMCO Board ([here](#)); and see the longer NRMCA document ([here](#))



Cement sales, some worldwide numbers

We all have a general understanding that countries in the east now dominate world cement consumption figures. However, here are some real eye-opening numbers published in the International Cement Review:

- consumption increased by 5.9 % in 2009 and 9.9% in 2010;
- China has (2010) 56% of world cement use, India 6% and USA 2%;
- consumption 2010-2012 is forecast to go up 17%.

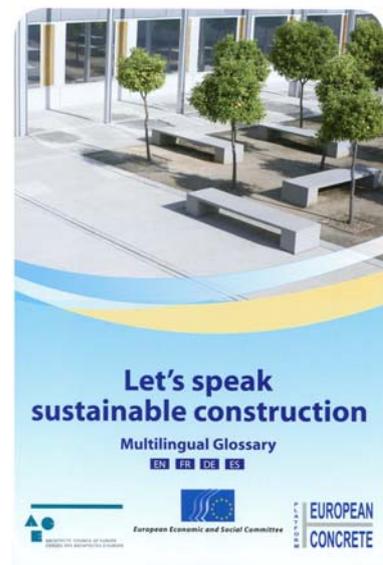
You can read more stats ([here](#)), where there is a longer summary. The only ERMCO relevant mention in this summary is the fact that Turkey is the world's biggest cement exporter.

Let's speak sustainability – launching the new multilingual Sustainable Construction Glossary

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) together with the European Concrete Platform (ECP) and the Architects Council of Europe (ACE) have launched a new, multilingual, dictionary publication: the Sustainable Construction Glossary. A special event has been organized for this purpose on Monday 11 of April 2011, right at the start of the European Union Sustainable Energy Week. The Conference, chaired by Mr. Staffan Nilsson President of the EESC, saw the participation of representatives from most of the European Institutions such as, among others, Mr. Paparella (EU Commission, DG Enterprise, Construction Unit) and Ms. Burja (EU Commission, DG Environment).

The purpose of this tool is to ensure a common understanding of the terminology used within the framework of sustainable construction and should be used by policy-makers at national and European levels and for communications, educational and training purposes within the sectors directly concerned.

Given the recent call of the EU Commission for more efforts on energy efficiency and the prominent place this issue had at the special Energy Summit in February 2011, the new publication comes at a particularly important moment. In response to the need for more sustainable construction, new concepts, phrases, terms and expressions are being used in the construction field across Europe. Together with its two partners organizations, ACE and ECP, the EESC took on the translation of this groundbreaking project with the objective of gathering together these terms and establishing a 'working', concise and easily accessible glossary of the concepts currently in use. Ms. Jessica Johnson, Head of Communication of Cembureau and responsible for the project, has been invited to give a presentation on this initiative at the next ERMCO representatives meeting in Copenhagen.



Concrete and waste

In the UK, the government has praised the environmental performance of our industry. The Concrete Sustainability Performance Report has been prepared by the Sustainable Concrete Forum, a consortium of sectoral Associations, including MPA, and individual companies. The Minister responsible highlighted the fact that the industry uses more waste than it produces. This is the sort of eye-catching fact that should be used when we are promoting the sustainability of concrete.

Read more ([here](#)), or look at the whole report ([here](#)).

