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Welcome !

The end of the year is approaching, this is the last ERMCO News for 2013.

In November the ERMCO Vice-President together with the Secretary General were invited to Istanbul to attend a big event celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Turkish Association, THBB. A great opportunity to mark together an important milestone and the ever-increasing success of our Turkish colleagues!

For next year, we look forward to better trends for our industry. You will find an article in this issue with some encouraging data.

2014 will also bring the Reps to Paris in June on the occasion of another anniversary, 50 years of the French Association SNPBE.

2013 has almost gone. so we take this opportunity to wish you merry Christmas and happy new year!

ERMCO Secretariat team

EU activities

Last April the EU Commission launched a proposal for reviewing the directive on heavyweight vehicles. ERMCO and its Members are playing an active role to improve the current legislation on weight limits. The target is to raise from 32 to 35 tons the current limit with obvious benefits not only for the competitiveness of the industry but also for the environment. Our activity is now addressed to the EU Parliament, which will vote on this issue in April 2014.



Safe concrete pumping

A *Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Concrete Pumps* has been prepared by the British Concrete Pumping Interest Group (BCPIG) in collaboration with the UK Health & Safety Executive to give advice on the safe use of concrete pumps. The Code represents good practice well beyond the minimum requirements to comply with the law. It is available as a free download - click ([here](#))

New use for recycled concrete

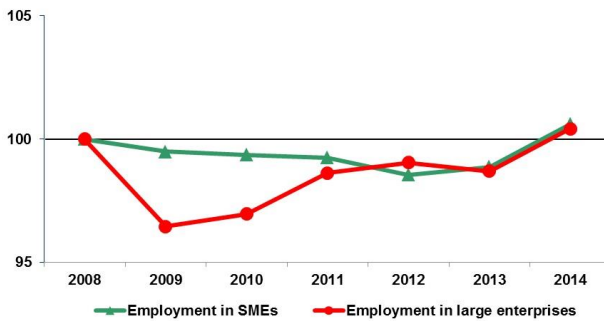
Concerns for sustainability are increasing the pressure to re-use demolished concrete. In many countries most of it is used for road base; but in a number of cases it is used for new concrete. Specifiers and architects may ask for a certain proportion of recycled aggregate, but readymix producers may find that they cannot find a reliable source, or that costs price it out of the market, or that this option has no effectiveness in terms of sustainability. From Denmark we have news of a new potential use for environmental purposes – recycled concrete used as a filter to trap excess phosphorus in lakes and rivers. Read more ([here](#)).

EU Commission sees growth prospects for SMEs

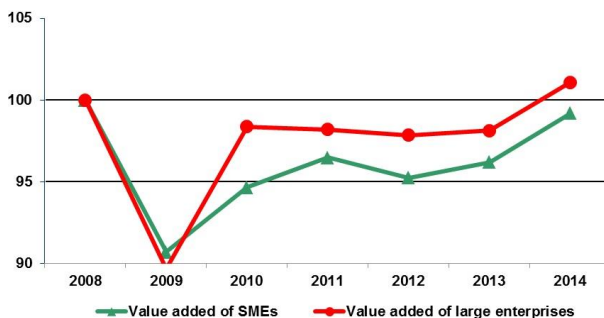
The European readymix sector (ERMCO Members), with 6.972 plants employing 50.762 people (average of 7,3 workers/plant) and 1358 companies and an average of 37,3 workers/company, is dominated by SMEs. The European Commission 2012/2013 Annual Report on European SMEs states that 2013 is expected to be the first year since 2008 with an increase both in total employment and added

value in the businesses of EU's SMEs. These promising projections are backed up by other positive signals. Over the last three years, an increasing number of Member States have seen their small business sectors returning to an expansion of employment and value-added, or at least a reduction in the decline. This may not be true for all our sector, but at least for some countries it is. Read the full article ([here](#))

Employment trends by size-class, EU27 (2008=100)



Value added trends by size-class, EU27 (2008=100)



A new front-discharge mixers

From *Aggregate Research* news of a new front-discharge mixer: equipped with six axles, it has a capacity of 7.5 m³, and a gross weight of 34 tonnes:

The truck is claimed to be highly manoeuvrable and best suited to small, low-volume jobs. Read more ([here](#))



Truckmixer driving hours

ERMCO has been trying to get a relaxation of the rules for driving hours in Europe for our industry. We see these rules as unreasonable in some circumstances, and we are not alone! NRMCA, the North American Readymix Association has been trying to do exactly the same on the other side of the Atlantic. As we clearly demonstrated, they also justify their request by saying that truckmixer drivers spend less than half their working hours actually driving, so that the normal rules for rest breaks are not appropriate. Read more ([here](#)).

BRMCA Magazine

The latest BRMCA magazine has a range of subjects of interest. We draw your attention to articles by Chris Clear, UK representative on ERMCO EcoTec Committee, on 'Quality assured ready-mixed concrete', 'New standards for pavement concrete', 'Early concrete strength to cut capital congestion', and by Steve Crompton, UK ERMCO Board member, on 'Customer service excellence'. Read more ([here](#)).

Concrete compaction detector with filling check device

A Japanese company, Akebono Brake Industry, has presented a high precision concrete filling detection system using vibration analysis technology. Find information on these devices by clicking ([here](#)).

Mixer art or artistic mixer?

With Christmas approaching, this is a picture of a sculpture by Belgian artist Wim Delvoye – a state-of-the-art 'truckmixer' that looks more like..... a cathedral!

