

## ERMCO NEWS

March 2019

### THE ERMCO RESPONSE TO GUARDIAN CONCRETE WEEK

Last week The Guardian has focused and continues to write on the impact of concrete on the modern world with an almost negative approach. To date, [14 articles](#) have been published targeting the sector. The most popular one having about 28 million impressions on social media.

Many of the arguments used are unfair and do not represent the reality of the sector today.

ERMCO, together with Cembureau, BIBM and GCCA, as well as many individuals are reacting with press release and twitters, putting into evidence the many reasons why concrete has become over years the preferred solution all over the world.

Some of these are:

- 1) Concrete is locally available almost everywhere
- 2) It is easy to produce and put in place
- 3) It is extremely cost effective
- 4) Being inorganic, it is safe for health
- 5) In several cases (foundations, dams, infrastructures) it is the only possible solution. A world without concrete simply would not exist.

Concrete exists from centuries, but it became the preferred material when reinforced concrete was discovered.

Reinforced concrete is so largely used today because such an efficient "coupling" of materials is hardly matched by other construction solutions. With a limited quantity of embedded steel, you can "tailor made" your concrete solution to any structural requests without wasting materials - and this is the basic of any sustainable approach - use the minimum of resources first. Even if concrete and steel prices vary largely in the world, the performance/price ratio of the coupled material is a very efficient one: this is why, when it appeared on the scene at the beginning of 1900, the diffusion of reinforced concrete was so immediate and why it became the preferred construction solution. Concrete is easy to produce, easy to place, easy to manage, and cheap.

If millions of designers all around the world today continue to use reinforced concrete is not because the cement and concrete industries are lobbying them day and night or advertise on TVs and newspapers. It is because they are people used to confront numbers to identify the better solution for a given function - and never just compare materials as such.

The Rockefeller foundation and The Guardian should ask some engineer before writing.



#### 'We're wholly disappointed': the industry responds to Guardian concrete week

This week Guardian Cities has focused on the huge impact of concrete on the modern world. Here is some of the industry's response



## CSC - SIX MORE CERTIFICATES IN GERMANY



Holcim Deutschland has been awarded six CSC certificates for ready-mix concrete and aggregate in Germany, increasing the number of CSC certificates in the country to 47.

Germany welcomes the next company achieving CSC certificates. After having certified three cement operations in 2018, Holcim Deutschland has obtained four CSC Gold for ready-mix concrete plants and two CSC Silver for aggregate operations, with further certifications in the pipeline.

With these ones Holcim Deutschland is the first company globally holding certificates over the entire concrete supply chain - concrete, cement and aggregate. The CSC Gold for the concrete plants in Düsseldorf and Langenfeld and the CSC Silver for the aggregate operations in

Malsch and Kaarst are the best scores ever awarded by CSC.

The six new certificates have been handed over in an official ceremony at the Ulmer Betontage by Olaf Aßbrock, Managing Director of the Bundesverband Transportbeton (BTB), the German System Operator for the Concrete Sustainability Council. The certificates have been issued by Kiwa Germany.

[Read the full article](#)

## POISON CENTRES - THE STUDY ON WORKABILITY ISSUES OF ANNEX VIII

The Workshop on “workability issues concerning the implementation of Annex VIII of CLP” has been organized by the European Commission together with Wood Consultants on February 13<sup>rd</sup> in Brussels. Wood consultancy, appointed last year by the EU commission to conduct the workability study on this legislative requirement, opened the session with an overview on the study. Overall, the interim report from the Wood consultancy is good, but the chapter on “Construction products” interpreted inaccurately and did not capture the problems of many industries, cement and concrete included. Representatives from the National Poison Centres explained the difficulties to manage a huge amount of data as soon as January 2020. Other difficulties have been underlined for the delays in the availability of the final full version of the IT tool. This makes the proposal for a postponement of the implementation of ANNEX VIII. Realistic. Discussed alternatives included the use of a Generic UFI and Comparable MIMs. The 29<sup>th</sup> CARACAL meeting – the competent Authorities for REACH and CLP - will take place on 19-20 March and we all expect a constructive result.

## POISON CENTRES – SUBMISSION PORTAL TO GO LIVE

The first version of the portal for submitting poison centres notifications will go live on 24 April. It will enable companies to prepare their notifications and make them available to the appointed bodies for download. The portal will feature an updated version of the Poison Centres notification format and a validation assistant for checking the content of the notification before submission.

