

SUMMARY

- Welcome
- Measuring setting time on site
- The Construction Products Regulation comes in
- New Technical Report on cementitious materials

Pag. 1

- The *fib* Guidelines for green concrete
- SNBPE magazine - SCC
- Use of steel fibre-reinforced concrete in floors slabs
- Measurement of moisture content in mixers
- Quiet concrete roads
-

Pag. 2

Member of:



Welcome

Welcome again after the winter, to ERMCO News!

Already this year the Board and the ESD and EcoTec Committees have met, and ERMCO members have been working on standardisation and environmental issues and EU Commission related initiatives. In particular, the revision of EN206 is more or less complete, though it still has to go through the formal procedures of voting, and publication, while the initiatives on the revision of the Tachograph Regulation is still underway.

Now we turn our attention to the meeting of Representatives which will be held in Cascais, Portugal, on Friday 7 June, less than a month away. We will contact you soon to ask for confirmation of numbers of participants, but you should make your own arrangements for hotels etc (details in the calling letter). The meeting will be held in the afternoon and the morning session will include a number of presentations - by Peter Neuhofer on a model for the optimization of use of truck mixers; by Chris Clear on responsible sourcing; by Jean-Marc Potier on EPDs; by Steve Crompton on roller-compacted concrete; by Bob Garbini on pervious and roller-compacted concrete in USA; and a presentation by the European Association of precast producers, BIBM, who will be our guests at the meeting.

May we also remind you, if you did not yet do so, to send your annual return of statistics for 2012 as soon as possible, as already requested. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Portugal!

ERMCO Secretariat team ■

Measuring setting time on site

Is our industry low-tech? We don't really know when concrete will set, we don't really know, for example, exactly when we can go on floor slabs to finish and surface-harden them. We don't really know how to predict realistic setting times to design



formwork.

Now, from Germany, but reported in the UK *Concrete* magazine, comes a method of using ultrasonic wave measurement on site to measure and predict this critical phase in the construction process. Read more ([here](#))

The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) comes in

The CPR becomes mandatory in July this year. Even if it does not apply directly to ready-mixed concrete, because our standard is not yet harmonised, it applies now to all countries in the EU, and to nearly all concrete constituents. Click ([here](#)) to read a *Concrete* magazine summary of the implications and how it affects other related products.

New Technical Report on cementitious materials

CSTR74 is the new Concrete Society Technical Report on cementitious materials, including additions and limestone fines. It describes their effect on fresh and hardened properties of concrete. Click ([here](#)) to get more

information on the contents from a recent issue of *Concrete* magazine. Later in the same issue of the magazine is an article by Ecotec member Chris Clear. Click ([here](#)) to read about ‘Cementitious materials and early-age concrete strength’.

The *fib* Guidelines for green concrete structures

You surely know that more and more initiatives and documents are coming out on sustainability. Different Directorates in the EC are developing different initiatives; ERMCO is considering how to write a template for Environmental Products Declarations; CEN/TC104 *Concrete* has set up a task group to write rules for EPDs for concrete. Now *fib* has produced Bulletin 67, describing how to reduce the environmental impact of concrete

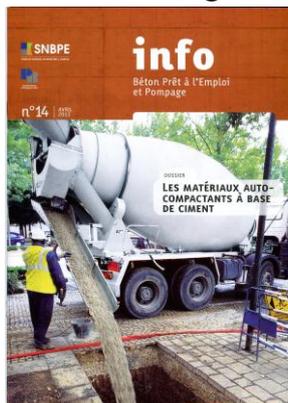


structures over their life cycle. Click ([here](#)) to see contents and introduction. A useful overview.

Some data referred to in the bulletin have been used by the ERMCO Secretary General for the paper “Sustainability and construction materials: myths,

facts and fallacies” presented at the ECP Promoton & Marketing Conference on November, 2012, at the “DBI BETniobu” day in Warsaw in April and at two conferences in Brno and Prague in May. If you are interested in the paper, click ([here](#)).

SNBPE magazine - SCC



On a number of occasions we have commended the continuous ongoing marketing/information efforts of SNBPE. Their latest ‘info’ magazine contains a very good article by Ecotec member J-M Potier on the use of self-compacting

concrete, particularly in road works. If you can read French, ([click here](#)), or even if you can’t, there are still some good photographs, including one of red SCC being poured into a trench.

Use of steel fibres in floors slabs

ERMCO has recently produced guidance on fibre concrete - available on the website. Now, for more information on the use of steel fibres in floors without joints (apart from construction joints) click ([here](#)). Benefits claimed include improvements to flexural toughness, impact resistance and shrinkage.

Measurement of moisture

Click ([here](#)) to read an article about measurement of moisture content in



static mixers. Readymix plants normally try to measure the moisture content of aggregates before or during delivery to the mixer.

This interesting paper in *Concrete Plant International* describes a system in the mixer itself, not in the aggregates, for measurement of the

moisture content of the fresh concrete. It is a commercial paper, and does not describe how well the system controls the consistence, which is what is specified to us, and used as a tool for conformity.

Quiet concrete roads

Why do we continue to surface roads with asphalt when it is clear that concrete roads are far more

durable? This should be a big market for ready-mixed concrete. One of the reasons is that traffic on concrete roads generates more noise. Now comes news (in *Concrete Engineering International*) of a new grinding technique to reduce noise. Click ([here](#)) to read more.

