

ERMCO NEWS

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SUMMARY

Welcome

Notes on ERMCO
meeting in Rome ...

Pag. 1

How the Slovakian
industry uses ERMCO
statistics

American standard
approaches to
testing SCC

Use of insulating
formwork

MPA/ERMCO
publication on the
use of control charts
in the production of
concrete

Draft French decree
on the use of wooden
materials in certain
types of construction-
CEPMC reaction

Pag. 2

Member of:



Welcome

Rome provided the fantastic setting for the annual ERMCO meeting of representatives held on the 3rd and 4th of June.

We met and shared information and experiences in an informal atmosphere, and enjoyed a dinner together in the most famous surviving example of Augustan sculpture, the Ara Pacis. A guided tour taught us about the potent political symbolism of its iconography.

We warmly thank ATECAP for its contribution and its great organization, and for giving us the chance to enjoy Rome in this unusual way. ERMCO News will report on the meeting and the convivial atmosphere ATECAP provided in this extraordinary place.

Guests of Michelangelo Table



In this issue we have also a contribution from Pavol Knaze (from our Slovakian member), which reminds us of the value of sharing good ideas.

ERMCO Secretariat team ■

Notes on ERMCO meetings in Rome...

The 17th ERMCO board was held in Rome on the 3rd of June, in the wonderful setting of the Hotel Cavalieri Hilton.

Andrea Bolondi, gave the annual president's message, saying that the difficult situation in a number of countries notwithstanding, it remains important to continue joint efforts with related sectors to promote the use of concretes.



Members of the Board confirmed that, at a national level, ready-mixed concrete associations already co-operate effectively. In particular, some ERMCO members already co-operate with other concrete organisations under a single umbrella, sharing offices, personnel, information, and marketing strategies.

At the European level, such joint efforts are well established – via the European Concrete Platform, and the European Concrete Paving Association (Eupave) and also with the bodies representing the aggregate producers (UEPG), the cement industry (Cembureau) and the admixture producers (EFCA). While maintaining its identity, ERMCO joins forces and shares information with these other actors particularly at the technical level, focusing on issues like sustainability and standardisation.

These and other technical issues were discussed by the ERMCO environmental and technical committee, Ecotec, at another

meeting in Rome. The last meeting there was the annual meeting of Representatives, when administrative, financial and organisational details and policies for the coming year were agreed. Members of these committees and national Associations will receive minutes of these meetings.

How the Slovakian industry uses ERMCO statistics

Pavol Knaze of the Slovakian Association has written an interesting article for the magazine 'Inzinierske stavby' ('Engineering Structures'). Normally this magazine is in Slovak only, but this special issue was produced for the recent FIB Congress in USA, and includes English translations. The article describes progress in the ready-mixed concrete industry over the last four years, and uses the ERMCO statistics to compare the Slovak industry with general trend in Europe. We wonder if this type of comparison might help our industry in other countries?

To read Pavol's article, click [here](#)

American standard approaches to testing SCC

In Europe the tests to be used for testing self-compacting concrete have been agreed and received a positive vote from CEN members. We are familiar with these. It is interesting to look now at what has been standardised by ASTM. Like us, they use the slumpflow and a (somewhat different) j-ring method, but they have two quite different methods for assessment of static segregation. One uses a method of comparison of results of washing out the concrete from different levels of a columnar apparatus. Read more about their j-ring and this segregation test [here](#).

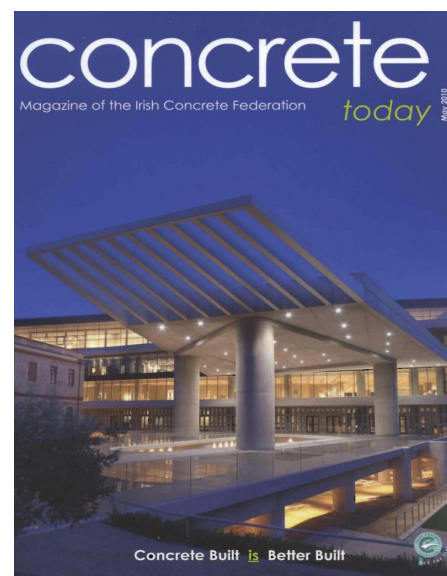
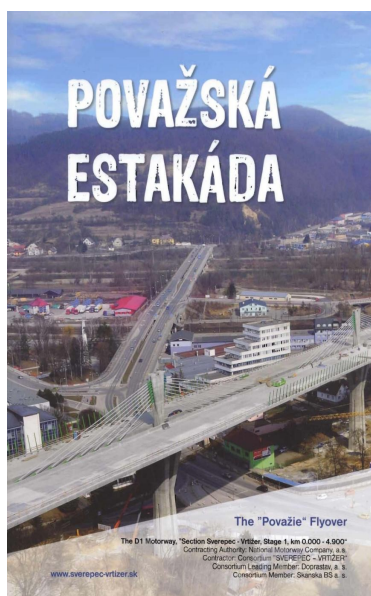
The other, more rapid test for segregation resistance uses a penetration technique. Click [here](#) to see a description.

Use of insulating formwork

Insulating formwork seems like such an obviously good idea – we are always surprised that it has not been more widely adopted. In Ireland an Insulating Concrete Formwork Association has been established.

A recent article in 'Concrete Today' (May 2010) describes the Association and the construction technique itself.

Read more by clicking [here](#)



MPA/ERMCO publication on the use of control charts in the production of concrete.

The document written by Ian Gibb and Tom Harrison, has reached its final draft and will soon be freely available on the website. These methods should be of great interest to ready-mixed concrete producers, particularly since the use of such charts is proposed as another method of assessing conformity of concrete strength, an alternative to the method currently used in EN206-1 *Concrete*. Keep your eye on the *ERMCO website*

Draft French decree on the use of wooden materials in certain types of construction-CEPMC reaction

In the opinion of the president of CEPMC Erwin Kern, the draft French decree, represents a serious threat for a free market in design and for the free circulation of construction products and is definitely not a solution for achieving more sustainable constructions.

[Click](#) here to read the letter written to Mr. Antonio Tajani Vice-president of European Commission.