

# ERMCO NEWS

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## Welcome

Welcome again to ERMCO News, the first of this new decade.

We hope that these first months of the new year have started more smoothly for you than those at the end of 2009. We hope also that levels of production and sales are going up as Spring approaches.

Sustainability is the key word for this issue: we refer to a number of aspects, from production to the use of web for cost savings.

Last but not least we strongly invite you to give a contribute to the next issues, feel free to send us any input or news you think worthwhile

ERMCO Secretariat team ■

## Improving mixing water

Most of us think that mixing water is just water. Usually we require it to be of drinking quality.

However, one of the ready-mix producers in Germany has introduced a two-stage mixing procedure which (amongst other things) breaks down the water molecules and improves the water's ability to react with cement.

[Click here](#) to read the discussion on this in the latest 'Concrete' magazine from the UK.



## A small battle won on sustainability

We have mentioned many times, and you will already be aware, that sustainability is, and will continue to be, an increasingly important consideration for ready-mixed concrete producers. Jean-Marc Potier of France is ERMCO's representative on the European CEN TC350 standardisation committee working group on 'sustainability of construction works'. After a lot of argument, an important point of principle for us was won at the committee's most recent meeting: the idea of using 'total mass requirement' as an indicator of sustainability was rejected. If it had been accepted, this would have been greatly to the disadvantage of our industry: our products have, of course, a very large total mass requirement.

## Environmental assessment of concrete plants

ERMCO has issued guidance documents on environmental auditing and gives awards at its Congress every three years for environmental performance of plants. Plants are selected by the national associations.

But we don't have a systematic way of assessing environmental performance, so a new initiative from the North American Ready-Mixed Concrete Association on a common rating system for sustainability may be interesting.

Read more, [here](#).



## More help from the web

May we mention to you now an EC website which will direct you in a simple way to European documents that you might be looking for?

It is called the Construction Information Platform:

<http://www.exploreconstruction.eu/WelcomePage.jsf>

It is a search engine, based on the input of 'keywords', which identifies relevant documents from EC websites.

It provides a summary of each of the documents found, but not the document itself.

So ... it tells you what documents exist, and where they are to be found.

It is at present in a simple stage, available in English, French and Italian but will eventually (end of this year) be available in 6 further languages (German, Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and Spanish)

## Making more use of the internet

ERMCO has recently held a first internet meeting for its new Production and Transport Committee.

It seems to us that this is a good way forward for minimising costs and time spent at meetings.

Any number of people can attend the 'meeting' while sitting in their own offices – all that is needed is a good internet link. Documents and presentations can be shown and edited.

We have organised our first meeting. For information, NRMCA has organised no less than 48 'webinars'

(web seminars) for the first quarter of 2010. These cover all aspects of concrete technology and training for everyone involved in the ready-mixed industry – drivers, sales staff, technical staff, transport staff etc.

[read more](#)

