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## Energy efficiency of products: new legislation & targets

In July when some of us were away, the EC published a series of proposals on **sustainable consumption and production** as it sees a need to further improve the environmental performance of products and increase the demand for more sustainable goods.

The current Ecodesign Directive provides a framework for setting compulsory minimum ecodesign requirements and voluntary benchmarks for **energy-using products**. It is now proposed to enlarge the scope of the Directive and to include all energy-related products - i.e. products which do not consume energy during their use phase but have an indirect impact on energy consumption. The EC sees this Directive as a way to ensure the technical improvement of products and labelling as a source of transparency for the consumer. Therefore, the Commission also submitted a proposal for the mandatory **labelling of the energy or environmental performance of products** (currently required for household appliances under Energy Labelling Directive - 92/75/EC). The EC believes that the inclusion of energy-using and energy-related products in the scope of the Directive will improve consumers' awareness. Windows are the example given, where labels indicating the insulation capacity of this construction element would help consumers to choose better windows and so save money and energy.

The EC also focuses on the production phase and the pro-

posals foresee the development of **targets** and tools to benchmark and promote **resource efficiency** and eco-innovation. The idea of setting up an "Environmental Technology Verification Scheme" is put forward. The concept is to support eco-innovation through increased confidence in new technologies.

The EC believes that in certain sectors, such as construction, public authorities could give strong signals to the market by asking for greener goods. So the EC provides guidance and tools for **greener procurement practices** through a separate Communication on Green Public Procurement.

The EC has left it to the Council and EP to define the list of products that will be included in the scope of the new legislation. However, we already know that according to the EC some of these products will require 'priority action' because these are seen as having unacceptable energy requirements. It is then foreseen that Industry or a special commit-

tees of experts will set minimum requirements for the products selected. Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen, responsible for enterprise and industry policy, said that industry would set the first benchmarks for priority products in no more than two years. If the proposals is adopted through the "co-decision" procedure, in which the European Parliament adopts legislation jointly with the Council, some (construction) products may fall under the scope of the Directive and could be **banned from the market** if they do not meet the yet to be defined energy consumption standards.

Last but not least, in the context of future international negotiations on climate change, the EC makes it clear that it will support Industry sectors that are working on CO2 emission reduction agreements or energy efficiency targets.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/escp\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/escp_en.htm)



## CEN workshop - 23 & 24 October, Brussels

CEN, the European Committee for Standardization, is continuing its efforts to provide information on its procedures in order to improve understanding and use.



On 23 and 24 October 2008, CEN is organizing its 5<sup>th</sup> *StandarDays* at the International Association Centre in Brussels. The objective is to give a clear and structured overview of the European Standardization System, of the CEN products and processes, as well as the benefits of involvement to potential stakeholders.

This two day information session consists of an introductory plenary meeting, which explains the different aspects and tasks of CEN (day 1) and interactive, in-depth workshops (day 2). This structure gives participants the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the overall European Standardization System (day 1) and then take advantage of the CEN expertise to obtain further clarification and explanations (day 2).

Participation is free. Since there is a limited number of places, registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and will close when the maximum number is reached.

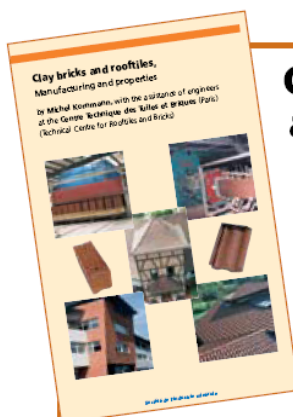
<http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/aboutus/standarddays/sd5.asp>

## Eurostat August 2008 construction statistics

The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) recently released its estimates for June. Compared with May these show that construction output is down by 0.6% in the euro zone and down by 1.5% in the EU27. In the construction sector, seasonally adjusted production decreased by 0.6% in the euro area (EA15) and by 1.5% in the EU27 in June 2008, compared with the previous month. In May, production increased by 0.1% and 0.7% respectively. Compared with June 2007, output in June 2008 dropped by 2.4% in the euro area and by 1.8% in the EU27.

More statistics, tables & graphs can be found at:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP\\_PRD\\_CAT\\_PREREL/PGE\\_CAT\\_PREREL\\_YEAR\\_2008/PGE\\_CAT\\_PREREL\\_YEAR\\_2008\\_MONTH\\_08/4-20082008-EN-AP.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_PRD_CAT_PREREL/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008_MONTH_08/4-20082008-EN-AP.PDF)



## Clay bricks and rooftiles

### Manufacturing and properties

The objective of this book is to outline the present state of the science in this industry and techniques in the field as clearly as possible. The book deals with raw materials (clay in the quarry and additives in the clay mixture), process fundamentals (mixture preparation, product shaping, drying, firing, etc.), machines and

plants, and it also reviews the impact on the environment and the industry's search for quality.

The mechanical, thermal, hydric and durability properties of heavy clay products are also examined. The perspectives that new technological developments offer to users, and the recent product evolutions are also reviewed. Finally, the new European standardisation and the CE marking are briefly described.

This book is, above all, for those with a basic scientific knowledge and who are not familiar with this material, but use it or have an interest in it: ceramic engineers, building engineers and technicians, architects, real estate experts, students, and anyone concerned by tiles and bricks.

This book is a collective work: it was written by Dr Michel Kornmann, former Technical Director of the CTMNC (Technical Centre for Construction Materials), with the help of a number of engineers from the Technical Centre for Construction Materials specialised in ceramics.

### English version just released

Size: 160 x 250 mm - Number of pages: 292 - 72 figures and 71 tables + numerous appendices  
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