

In this number:

Energy taxation I
Directive & links to
other
construction dossi-
ers

Conference: 2
Trends in High
Performance Build-
ings & the role of
Ventilation

Conference: Structures & Architec-
ture 2

2009 TBE & CU 2
meeting calendar

Year 3 n°22

16 March 2009

Energy taxation Directive & links to other construction dossiers

The publication of a European Commission (EC) proposal to revise the 2003 EU Energy Tax Directive is expected in the next few weeks as part of a package of measures on environmental taxation. Back in 2003, the EU adopted Directive 2003/96/EC which restructured the framework for the taxation of energy products and electricity and which then came into force in 2004. The interesting part is that the Directive allows Member States (MS) to offer companies tax incentives in return for specific undertakings to reduce emissions. Now the proposal drawn up by the EC Taxation and Customs Union Directory General is expected to include "explicit" environmental elements.

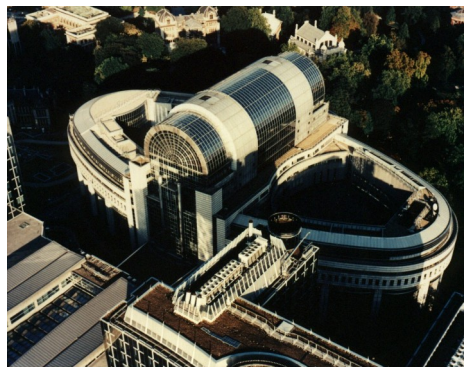
This awaited EC document is linked to the EU economic recovery plan - COM(2008) 800 - published last December and in which the EC clearly states that lower tax rates for "green products" and services would be proposed to help improve the energy efficiency of buildings and boost sustainable consumption. The recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) - COM(2008)780 - is currently debated in the European Parliament (EP) and this foreseen EC financial plan for the construction industry may impact on the revision

of the EPBD and the objectives that will be set in the legislative document. The EP Socialist rapporteur, Mrs Silvia-Adriana Țicău (Romania) is currently calling for changes in the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investments in construction.

As explained in previous editions of our Newsletter, one of the aims of the recast

mandatory EU-wide formula to calculate cost-optimal minimum energy efficiency standards from 2017. The European Parliament (EP) and Council are aiming to reach an agreement by the end of the year under Swedish Presidency of the EU and a 1st Reading in the EP is scheduled for April.

As the June European elections draw near, our Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are already on the campaign trail and so visibility is key especially on environmental issues. Another file being rushed through the EP, is the EC Eco-design Directive. In the Council, the other EU decision-making body, the views are diverging with the UK, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, The Netherlands and Sweden saying that the EC proposal to update the existing label would confuse consumers, whilst Germany, Spain, Italy, Poland and other eastern European MS supporting the EC proposal. A new energy label and efficiency standards for "energy related products" are expected to be adopted by the end of April, a busy month in perspective!



would be that all new public buildings should be low or zero emissions by 2015 and Member States (MS) want their public sectors to lead in this field. The sustainable construction sector is presented by some political actors as the way-out of the deepening financial crisis. However, a number of MS do not share the rapporteurs' enthusiasm and, amongst other things, they are concerned with the drive towards minimum national energy efficiency standards for all buildings undergoing major renovation and a



TBE A.I.S.B.L.
Member of Cerame-Unie
Rue de la Montagne, 17
B-1000 Brussels
+ 32 2 511 30 12

Editor: Christophe Sykes
sykes@cerameunie.eu

www.tiles-bricks.eu

Conferences

“Trends in High Performance Buildings & the role of Ventilation“ Berlin, 1-2 October 2009



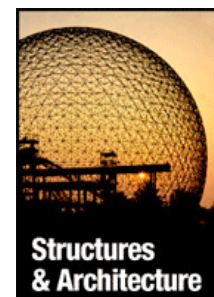
The combined conferences on “Trends in high performance buildings and the role of Ventilation” and “International Symposium on Building and Ductwork Air Tightness” aim to focus on 2 key aspects of the present ventilation challenges, i.e. building and ductwork air tightness from theory to large scale application and energy efficient ventilation and other innovations for high performance buildings. Contributions are invited regarding interesting work in the areas of research, development, application and market implementation of high performance buildings and the deadline for abstracts and papers receipt is 31 March 2009.

http://www.buildair.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=42

“Structures & Architecture - ICOSA2010“ Un. of Minho, Guimarães, Portugal 21-23 July 2010

The conference is intended for an audience of researchers and practitioners world-wide with a background in architecture and in structural engineering. It includes architects, structural and construction engineers, builders and building consultants, construction industry persons, academics, researchers, students, product manufacturers, material suppliers, project managers and contract administrators, asset managers, government authorities of infrastructure development and others.

All major aspects of structures and architecture will be addressed. They include the following topics: the relationship between architects and structural engineers, the comprehension of complex forms, computer and experimental methods, concrete and masonry structures, emerging technologies, glass structures, innovative architectural and structural design, lightweight and membrane structures, special structures, steel and composite structures, the tectonic of new solutions, the use of new materials, timber structures.



<http://www.icsa2010.arquitectura.uminho.pt/Default.aspx?tabid=1&pageid=29&lang=en-US>

2009 TBE & Cerame-Unie (CU) meeting calendar

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
17 March	CU Environment Committee	CU, Brussels
24 March	TBE Regulated Dangerous Substances ad-hoc group	CU, Brussels
15 April	CU Emission Trading Scheme Task Force	CU, Brussels
16 April	TBE Emission Trading Scheme ad-hoc group	CU, Brussels
22 October	TBE Product Groups	Munich
22 October	TBE Executive Committee	Munich
23 October	TBE General Assembly	Munich
19 November	CU General Assembly	Brussels