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association**

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Sustainable Building (SB)10 Euregion

11-13 October 2010

Four Universities and organisations, from three countries, jointly invite you to the International Sustainable Building Conference: SB10 Euregion. It will take place in Maastricht (The Netherlands) Liege and Zolder (Belgium) and Aachen (Germany) on 11-12 and 13 October 2010.

Organised as one of the regional conferences under the umbrella of CIB, iiSBE and UNEP, the three hosts have chosen a challenging theme for the conference: "Towards 0 Impact buildings and environments". How to establish this? How to design new buildings and districts with optimised energy and water systems, and with materials that do not deplete resources, nor created CO₂ emissions? And how to re-develop our neighbourhoods and districts in a transition for 0-impacts? How to

plan a route for cities to become energy neutral? With G8 just recently in July 2009 agreeing on 80 pct CO₂ reduction by 2050, it obvious there is no escape anymore then to explore the situation where buildings and Built environment have 0 or near 0-impacts.

The aim of this conference is to create a knowledge base. They are looking for examples, methods, strategies, tools, results and research that aims at the 0-options. If you are interested, you may submit an abstract of your findings, to create a knowledge base for the shift to make in the years to come. The deadline for abstracts is 1 December 2009.

Parallel to the scientific paper conference there will be a range of market oriented workshops

and panels, to discuss implementation of the approach, and adaptation to local cultures in dealing with specific circumstances.

Partners, sponsors, and organisations are invited to contact and join the organisation.

www.ribuilt.eu/SB10

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Barroso & partnership with European Parliament

On 3 September, President Barroso has sent his political guidelines for the mandate of the next European Commission (EC) to the President of the European Parliament (EP). Amongst the priorities set forward, we must note Mr Barroso's willingness to vigorously implement the European Economic Recovery Programme; to invest more in sustainability as we move towards a low carbon economy and enhance our energy security; to lead on the issue of climate change by exploiting the potential of EU environmentally-friendly industries energy efficiency is the key to sustainable growth in Europe. The EC President wants the EU to remain an attractive industrial location in 2020 but underlines the fact that the EU needs a fresh approach to industrial policy, supporting industry, putting the emphasis on sustainability, innovation and the human skills. More so, he declares himself committed to a policy that continues to remove unnecessary administrative burdens and provide the legal certainty companies need to make the long term investments.



Following the June elections of the European Parliament, the European Council (i.e. the Member States governments) nominated President Barroso for another five year mandate. There will now be a plenary debate and vote in the EP on the nomination of the EC President, presently foreseen for the Strasbourg meetings of 15 and 16 September 2009 respectively. This is the reason why Mr José Manuel Barroso presented his political guidelines last week.

French Carbon tax

On 28 July, the previous French socialist prime minister, Michel Rocard, made public the expert report on the climate-energy financial policy, better known as carbon tax. The objective of this potential new tax would be to increase the price of those products which produce greenhouse gases in order to impact consumer behaviour and reach the French government target to reduce their CO₂ emissions by 75% by 2050, based on the 1990 emission value. This was one of the main recommendations of the "Grenelle de l'environnement", the French environmental green paper published in 2007. The tax would target fossil fuels (gas, petrol – including diesel – and coal) used in transport and heating of buildings. For now the government does not want to include electricity, as 75 % of French electricity is produced by nuclear energy.



The current Premier minister, François Fillon, had initially announced a tax at € 14 per ton of CO₂ emitted, and had said that this could rise to € 100 per ton in 2030. Nicolas Hulot, a national green activist who had first suggested this tax, had suggested an initial price of € 20 with a steady price increase. A French Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Jean-Paul Besset, believes that a tax at € 15 per ton will have no impact on consumer behaviour. He wanted a € 32 as recommended by the Rocard report. Michel Rocard had also expressed the wish to see this tax applied in the last quarter of 2009. However, the president Foreign affairs Committee of the National Assembly, Axel Poniatowski, supports the environmental objective but believes that France cannot be the only industrialised state to implement such a tax.

On 10 September, Nicolas Sarkozy put an end to the heated debate by declaring that the main point was not the price but the launch of green taxation. He said that the tax will be phased in gradually and has set the starting price at € 17 per ton of emitted CO₂. Experts have estimated that with this carbon tax, the non-EU-ETS companies will have to face a bill of some € 4 billion.

The question now is whether this proposal will be adopted and implemented as it has already encountered stiff opposition across the political spectrum and, more importantly, will other EU Member States follow the French lead as they did for the new banking bonus rules.

EU Presidency High-level Conference on Eco-efficient Economy

**Towards Innovative and Sustainable Competitiveness
2–3 November 2009, Linköping, Sweden**

The conference, which is sponsored by Mrs Maud Olofsson, Swedish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Enterprise and Energy, aims to encourage mobilisation across the EU for the development of a sustainable industrial policy and to show, using good examples, how European industry can strengthen its competitiveness while meeting the climate challenge.

Amongst the items of interest to be discussed, we find national agreements, energy performance of buildings, Lead Market Initiatives (LMI) which include sustainable construction, solar energy, raw materials and resource scarcity.

This conference is part of the EU Presidency programme of Sweden.

www.se2009.eu/linkoping



CEN workshop - 27 & 28 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 27 and 28 October 2009, CEN is organizing its 7th *StandarDays* at CEN-CENELEC Meeting Centre, Avenue Marnix 17, 1000 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.



CEN StandarDays is a two day information session consisting 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/sd7.asp>