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WORKING PAPER

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Circular Economy and CPR

3rd of July 2019
Kirsi Martinkauppi
Chair of the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation (CPR)
50% of the Earth’s raw materials are used for construction
40 % of primary energy is used in buildings
35% of greenhouse gasses are created in the construction sector.
30 %
of all waste is created in the construction sector
Construction sector consumes

Nearly all of cement

Half of steel

25% of aluminum

20% of plastics
Carbon budget 550 Gt CO$_2$

Production of cement, steel, aluminum and plastics 920 Gt CO$_2$
end of waste?
End-of-life of a building – a resource bank?

- Building is often demolished wholesale (designed technical lifetime 50 years)
- Structural elements could have a long remaining technical lifetime (85% GHG footprint)
- Steel and concrete components offer potential for re-use (only 5% of end-of-life steel is reused)
- No market for re-used construction products
Building information modelling (BIM)

- Buildings are designed by using BIM
- Provides a tool to:
  - Help to reduce surplus waste
  - Create shared platforms for exchanging end-of-life components for re-use
- Smart CE
- Maintenance and Renovations Book/Library
- An updated memory of materials available for re-use in the possession of the real-estate owner

Picture: Arkkitehtitoimisto Larkas & Laine
Possibilities the CPR may offer?

1) New re-used construction products
   • DoP and CE marking

2) Old re-used construction products
   • No DoP and CE marking
   • The manufacturer may not exist anymore
   • Has the performance changed?

3) Surplus building materials
   • DoP and CE marking

4) Recycled construction products
   • Waste or material – Waste Directive
Questions for discussion

1) What is the situation in Member States regarding to the circulation and re-use of construction products?
2) Are there best practices and examples to share?
3) What is the procedure for approving re-used construction products that are not CE marked?
4) How could EU legislation help to create business opportunities for re-use of construction products?
5) Is there a possibility of defining “secondary uses” for used construction materials that cannot for some reason be tested?
6) Which measures (e.g. labelling and other information requirements) should be introduced into the CPR to increase re-use and recycling rates?
7) Would Member States be ready to accept marginal losses in terms of safety when there are big gains in terms of the environment?
The Aim of the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation (CPR)

- Examine possibilities to include circular economy in CPR in a forthcoming revision
- Discuss problems relating to overlapping legislation
- Help the Commission to find out the views of Member States regarding to the revision

- If all Member States agree on something we may try to aim for Council Conclusions: probably something very general concerning circular economy.
Save the Date

3rd and 4th of September
Informal meeting in Helsinki

24th of September
WP

15th October
WP

5th of November
WP
SUSTAINABLE EUROPE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Thank you!