

The new EU Industrial Strategy – “High Level Construction Forum”

Brief description and main aims:

In March 2020, the European Commission (EC) presented its “Industrial strategy” with the aim of supporting the twin transition to a green and digital economy, make EU industry more competitive globally, and enhance Europe’s open strategic autonomy.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the priorities and the overall framework and the EC therefore decided to issue a revised/updated Industrial Strategy [COM(2021)350] which was launched in May 2021. In this “New Industrial Strategy” the EC identified 14 priority ecosystems, including “construction”.

The EC also introduced the concept of “transition pathways”, aiming at identifying the actions needed to achieve the twin transitions, giving a better understanding of the scale, benefits and conditions required. These “transition pathways”, specific to each of the 14 ecosystems, are to be co-created jointly with industry and stakeholders.

For this purpose and as regards the construction ecosystem, the EC decided to set up a new [High Level Construction Forum](#) (HLCF) and 3 Clusters :

- Cluster 1 : Environment
- Cluster 2 : Digitalisation
- Cluster 3 : Resilience

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

This is the only EU action exclusively focusing on the construction ecosystem and its stakeholders in a holistic manner. It also aims at better coordinating the various responsibilities spread across the different Commission services concerned. Consequently, FIEC and its national Member Federations will contribute actively to the work of the new High Level Construction Forum (HLCF) and to the work of the various clusters.

The main objective of this new HLCF and of the 3 clusters is to develop a roadmap for the construction ecosystem with milestones and actions for the implementation of our “transition pathway”. This will directly impact construction companies and the overall sectoral framework for the digital and “green” transitions. It is therefore of crucial importance that FIEC actively contributes to this new initiative.

Actions and key dates:

October 2021 – Kick-off meeting of the new High Level Construction Forum and of the 3 Clusters

14/12/2021 – Publication of European Commission Staff Working Document on Scenarios for a transition pathway

February 2022 – FIEC input provided for the elaboration of the draft Transition Pathway by the European Commission

Throughout 2022 – Various thematic workshops organised by the European Commission (Resilience, Innovation, Whole life cycle GHG emissions, Digital tools, Public procurement, Asbestos,...)

Q1 2023 – Draft Construction Transition Pathway (expected)