

Covid crisis: FIEC discussing priorities with Commissioner Breton

Throughout the month of April FIEC President Elect Thomas Bauer and Vice-President Piero Petrucco, together with 4 other key representatives of the construction sector, have participated in regular video conferences with Commissioner Thierry Breton, responsible for the Internal Market.

The aim of these video conferences was to regularly follow-up the developments and impact of the COVID19 crisis on our industry and to identify the measures and possible areas of intervention, the discussions focusing both on short time measures, as well as on initiatives for ensuring a quick recovery.



Commissioner Breton asked to continue these direct contacts every 2 weeks. This is an extremely positive sign in terms of **recognition by the Commission, of the key role that the construction industry is playing in the EU economy**, as well as of FIEC as one of the main representative organisations.

During the discussions with Commissioner Breton and the main representatives of the construction industry FIEC presented its priorities focusing on:

1. **The recognition of "force majeure"**: although the topic is not among its competences, the Commission could envisage a political message to the Member States.
2. **The mobility of workers**: the Commission considers that the crisis is an issue of public health which puts the issue of mobility entirely in the hands of the Member States.
3. **The need for a large investment plan**, covering buildings and infrastructure, to accelerate the recovery. In this respect the problem of mobility of workers could delay such a recovery even if the required investment were made available.



European Recovery Fund:

The construction ecosystem as priority with at least €320B dedicated budget

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