



**R&I Days 24 September**

**Sustainable Built Environment for People**

### **3 minute statement – Sue Arundale**

1. The European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation (ECCREDI) issued a communication earlier this year, calling for a co-programmed European partnership for the built environment and construction. So ECCREDI supports the proposal for a Build4People partnership.
2. FIEC represents the contractors and also shares the goal of a sustainable built environment for people. The federation supports the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, sustainability presents challenges as well as trade-offs.

For example let's take the case of "efficient" buildings that can be self-regulated. This relates to Smart Readiness, which is currently the subject of extensive work being led by DG ENERGY. The performance of these buildings depends on data, regarding the consumption of energy by residents and other personal information, such as when they are at home or on holiday.

Are building users and home owners ready to share this kind of information? Many people are still wary of the loss of privacy and control that they believe this entails.

In France, for example, only 5% of users of smart meters have agreed to share their data. This means that the network of smart meters in France cannot serve the purpose for which it was intended.

3. Achieving a sustainable built environment means embracing a brave new world, one in which the protection of privacy and commercial interests are balanced with increased collaboration and sharing of data, both of which are necessary to create the ecosystem that will facilitate a transformation of the built environment.
4. Finally, this behaviour change and change in thinking is also important for the circular economy...
  - we need to accept secondary materials
  - we need to re-use water where feasible
  - we need to stop replacing appliances and repair them instead.

Without these changes, we will not create the conditions necessary for the most ambitious sustainable environment for people.