

“Sustainable construction labelling – user needs”

2008-10-21

Brussels, Hotel Bloom, rue Royale 250

Subject and objectives

The main objective of the conference is to review and discuss current developments concerning environmental information in the construction sector. The scope of the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Directives will be broadened to cover “energy related products” such as windows. The feasibility of EU eco-label criteria for buildings is currently examined. Green Public Procurement technical specifications for building products are being developed. The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Construction Products Directive will be revised. The European “Lead Market Initiative” of the European Commission has identified sustainable construction as one of the main areas for which an action plan has been established including promotion of instruments to assess the sustainability performance of buildings using appropriate benchmarks. A mandate has been already given to CEN to develop standards in this area.

However, the development of prEN 15804 “Environmental product declarations – Product category rules” has met with strong criticism by consumer representatives. EPDs - also referred to as type III declarations – indicate just a limited number of life cycle indicator results (such as Global Warming Potential) omitting many relevant environmental aspects (such as toxic effects) and do not allow the identification of superior products lacking benchmarks and scales.

A further concern relates to the way how these declarations are marketed: it is suggested that the declaration stands for environmental excellence whilst there are just figures which can represent any performance level. Apparently this is very appealing to industry. However, the usefulness of this type of information can be doubted not only from a consumer perspective but also with respect to other users of construction products - such as public procurers or architects.

The purpose of the conference is to identify environmental labelling needs of potential users, to provide an overview of existing schemes and underlying methodologies for construction products and buildings. Finally, the aim is to draw some conclusions with respect to desirable future developments of environmental labels and declarations including but not limited to the construction field.

Organisation

Organised and funded by

Consumer Council / Austrian Standards Institute

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In co-operation with and supported by

ANEC (European Association for Consumer representation in Standardization)

ECOS (European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation)

EEB (European Environmental Bureau)



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Draft program

10:30 Introduction and background

10:45 Commission activities - State of the play

- DG Enterprise and Industry (CPD): Manfred Fuchs
- DG Energy and Transport (EPBD): Martin Elsberger (invited)
- DG Environment (Ecolabel): Rugile Balzekaite

11:30 User expectations on environmental product information in the construction area

- Architects: Bosco Büeler, GIBB, Switzerland
- Environmental NGOs: Uwe Welteke-Fabricius, BUND, Germany
- Public procurement: Dietmar Lenz, Municipal Association for Environment of Vorarlberg, Austria
- Consumers: Franz Fiala, ON Consumer Council, Austria

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Review of methods for environmental declarations and alternatives

- Limitations of LCA studies and EPDs: Dietlinde Quack, Oekoinstitut, Germany
- Alternative/complementary approaches to EPDs: Anders Schmidt, Force Technology, Denmark
- Indoor air pollution: Outi Ilvonen, UBA, Germany

14:45 Review of existing labelling systems for construction products and buildings

- Critical review and desirable future developments of European, national and other systems for environmental labelling of construction products: Peter Thoelen, VIBE, Belgium
- Critical review and desirable future developments of European, national and other systems for environmental labelling of buildings: Susanne Geissler, Austrian Energy Agency

15:30 Coffee Break

16: 00 General discussion and conclusions

17:00 End

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Venue

Hotel BLOOM !
rue Royale, 250
B – 1210 BRUSSELS
www.hotelbloom.com

Hotel BLOOM is located on rue Royale central Brussels is located beside the Brussels' inner ring road and adjacent to the Botanic Gardens.

Private parking for 110 cars

20 metres away from a Metro station, trams and busses at Botanique.

Nearest rail connection:
Gare du Nord/North Station at 500 metres

Thalys and Eurostar station:
Gare du Midi/South Station at 3 kms (reachable by metro)
direct train connections between the North and South stations
metro line 2 from the South Station to Botanique

Brussels Airport at 12 km or 25 minutes by taxi with normal traffic
direct train connections between Brussels Airport and North Station
express bus line from Schuman station to Brussels Airport



Registration

entrance free, but limited number of participants

please register by mail to office@dzeiner.at until Sept 20 !
Event & Office Management – Mrs. Dagmar Zeiner
www.dzeiner.at

Hotel reservations

there are no pre-booked rooms at Hotel BLOOM!
Please make your own reservation at www.hotelbloom.com
or try www.resotel.be for any hotel in Brussels