

NEWS

EVENTS DIARY

2019

IAPA Awards & IPAF Summit
March 6, 2019
Dubai, UAE
www.iapa-summit.info

Bauma (Munich)
April 8-14, 2019
Munich, Germany
www.bauma.de

ESTA Awards of Excellence
April 11, 2019
Munich, Germany
www.khl-group.com/events/esta/

European Rental Association Convention
May 15-16, 2019
Madrid, Spain
www.erarental.org

European Rental Awards
May 15, 2019
Madrid, Spain
www.khl.com/rentalawards

MEPs back development of trans-European transport

The Connecting Europe Facility fund vote is passed, as FIEC says that its recommendations were listened to

A vote on the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) has been passed by MEPs for the 2021 to 2027 period to ensure continued development of trans-European transport, energy and telecom networks.

The CEF is a European Union fund for pan-European infrastructure investment in transport, energy and digital projects with the aim of greater connectivity between European Union member states.

FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation) said that its recommendations on the CEF had been heard.

These were that the global budget should be increased by €1 billion, from €42 to almost €44 billion; and that the dedicated envelope for transport should be increased by €3 billion, from €30.5 to €33.5 billion.

FIEC also called for clarification on the dual-use of infrastructure (civil and defence use); and asked that the co-financing rates be maintained at a high level, between 30 and 50% on average.

The proposal was still to be confirmed in the European Parliament during the plenary session in December.

It was decided that a total budget of €43.85 billion should be reserved for the CEF, with €33.51 billion for transport projects and €7.68 billion for energy network projects. Also, the digital network development should receive funding of €2.66 billion.

MEPs said they wanted the CEF fund to receive the €43.85 billion at constant (2018) prices, with €33.51 billion for transport – including an envisaged transfer of €10 billion (€11.26 in current prices) from the Cohesion Fund.

It was decided that €5.77 billion (€6.5 billion in current prices) of transport project funding should go towards projects that could adapt the TEN-T networks with a view to enabling civilian-defence dual use of infrastructure, contributing to the development of the Defence Union.

MEPs stressed they were ready to negotiate with EU Ministers before the European elections in May. **ce**

GCCA has set its priorities at first AGM

Priorities for the newly-formed Global Cement & Concrete Association (GCCA) will include positioning concrete as the sustainable building

material of choice, and promoting international best practice in the areas of safety, production, and the use of cement and concrete in the built environment.

It will also aim to foster innovation in the cement and concrete sectors, make a positive contribution to global sustainable development, and promote the principles of a circular economy across the value chain.

The inaugural annual general meeting and symposium of the GCCA was held in London, UK, and set-out its priorities and work programme with the specific aim of strengthening the sector's contribution to sustainable construction.

The GCCA was formed earlier this year with 10 member companies, although this had risen to 20 by October. CEOs of more than 30 companies attended the annual general meeting and symposium, where it was confirmed that there were now 32 member

companies and nine affiliate organisations from across the world.

The work programme was said to set the direction for the GCCA and its newly-appointed executive team for achieving its sustainability objectives and addressing the full lifecycle of cement and concrete.

Benjamin Sporton, chief executive, said,

"Today we have taken a decisive step-forward in setting our priorities and work programme. Sustainability, innovation, and recognising the vital role of concrete in our lives and in tackling climate change will be at the heart of everything we do."

The meeting confirmed the launch of a GCCA Sustainability Charter. **ce**

Italian machine sales on the rise

A 22% rise in construction equipment sales in Italy has been recorded in the first nine months of 2018, according to Unacea (the association of Italian construction machinery manufacturers).

Over the period, unit sales reached 9,615 in total, with earthmoving machines contributing 9,281 to that figure – 23% more than were sold in the same period in 2017 – and roadbuilding machines contributing 334 – a rise of 5% compared to last year.

Table showing a breakdown of Italian construction machinery sales in the first nine months of 2017 and 2018

While this continues a positive longer-term trend, Antonio Strati, the councillor in charge of Unacea's statistics activities, warned, "It should be remembered that in terms of units, 2018 stood at the same sales levels of the early 1990s. The recovery exists, but the persisting uncertainty in the national economic policies and the international financial situation can put a strain on it."

The Italian Institute for Statistics (ISTAT) reported a 0.6% increase in construction investments in August. According to the Construction Monitor of the Samoter Outlook, this trend is expected to continue until the end of the year.

