

# POSITION PAPER

12 April 2018

## EU rules for products used in the construction of buildings and infrastructure works

### BACKGROUND

---

UEPG, the European Aggregates Association represents the largest non-energy extractive industry in Europe, with members in 26 countries. Aggregates are sand, gravel, crushed rocks, marine aggregates, recycled and manufactured aggregates used to build Europe's essential infrastructure including homes, roads, railways, schools and hospitals.

The European Aggregates Industry covers a demand of 2.7 billion tonnes of aggregates, produced every year on 26,000 sites by 15,000 companies (mostly SMEs), employing 200,000 people across Europe.

UEPG is an active member of Construction Products Europe (CPE) and has contributed to the different stakeholders' consultations on the evaluation and assessment of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR), such as the CPR Inception impact assessment Consultation and participated in the European Commission Technical Platforms Meetings dedicated to CPR.

**UEPG demands NOT to repeal the Construction Products Regulation (CPR).**

### KEY MESSAGES

---

- ▶ The CPR is a valuable EU legal framework which due to its flexibility and uniform interpretation allows a common EU language with the possibility to add National and Local criteria. UEPG believes that the repeal of the [Regulation \(EU\) No 305/2011](#) (Construction Products Regulation – CPR) is not an option as CPR is the core regulatory framework for the construction sector in Europe.
- ▶ The repeal of the CPR would mean for the aggregates market:
  - Reverting to national marks and barriers to trade.
  - Lack of substantiation and signification of the performance declared for each aggregate.
  - Impacts on the competitiveness of the aggregate industry among others through unfair competition.

- ▶ A repeal of the CPR would result in dramatic additional costs while better implementation of the current regulatory text would reduce the cost and time (bureaucratic and technical issues). Through pragmatic solutions and within a reasonable timeframe, the CPR implementation issues can be resolved.
- ▶ Keeping the EU approach through harmonised technical specifications is a prerequisite for a free market and a level playing field for construction products. EU legislation also reduces the administrative burden with a common technical language, harmonized assessments and tests providing equality and consistency in tendering and competitiveness.
- ▶ The CPR, in comparison with CPD, delivers consistency, a level-playing field and provides equality in tendering and competitiveness. There is a cost saving from pre-CPD to now, as the majority of the changes made were already applicable to the CPD.
- ▶ The positive impact of the CPR would be increased if standards were cited. The process of standardisation has delayed the effective implementation of new and revised standards. It is not an issue with CPR but with the cost-intensive and lengthy process of standardisation.
- ▶ When talking about any contradictions or overlaps between CPR and other regulations at EU and National level we need to underline the specificity of climate and national circumstances relating to aggregates and other construction products linked to the availability of resources in each of the member states. The national circumstances demands carefully elaborated correlations with national requirements for certain measured properties and performance characteristics. These are necessarily adapted to account for the variation of geology and climate across Europe. Precise requirements cannot be defined due to these very different climatic, geological and other national conditions. This is why hENs have been written providing the opportunity to select appropriate properties/requirements.
- ▶ We believe that the benefits of EU legislation on construction products can be achieved at a lower cost through simplifying and reducing CE marking to avoid duplication of information already contained in the Declaration of Performance (DoP), and particularly, with any additional information to be included in the DoP, if required in the CE marking by the harmonised technical specification.

**The Aggregates Industry has two main concerns: the application of the Article 9.2 of the CPR and the strict legal approach of the EC regarding hENs which results in non-citation of the product standards.**



*Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats  
Europäischer Gesteinsverband  
European Aggregates Association*

- ▶ The significant advancement in computer technology and data submission which have applied since the drafting of the CPR need to be taken into account to ensure objectives for sustainability and the transmission of important data can be achieved electronically.
- ▶ UEPG is not looking for reform but for simplification. It will be more an update than a review. It is required to take into account technology and avoid redundancy, and to improve the efficiency of the administrative process. We are looking for flexible simplification of CE marking to eliminate the current duplication. Copying the DoP information into CE marking in the case of aggregates is of no practical benefit and is very costly. For construction products delivered from business to business, the application of Art 9.2 should be reviewed to permit some simplification whilst retaining the important integrity of CE marking.

**To conclude, UEPG is fully supportive of the CPR which will benefit from Flexible simplification of CE marking to eliminate the current duplication.**