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Consortium of European and global trade bodies publishes peer-reviewed study on the Global Warming Potential assessment of biobased construction products

Policy makers should promote the use of right data and correct methods to all construction materials to decarbonise the built environment.

A consortium of European and global trade bodies in the field of construction products (*see below*) published a peer-reviewed study entitled “*Carbon Accounting for Building Materials – An assessment of Global Warming Potential of biobased construction products*” undertaken by LBP SIGHT, consultancy and engineering firm specialised in the field of construction and the environment.

Achieving a net-zero carbon economy by 2050 is one of the key objectives of the European Green Deal. In the construction ecosystem, evaluating the whole life environmental effects of construction materials and products, based on comprehensive and robust data, is of critical importance to ensure the right decisions are taken to mitigate the effects of climate change.

When addressing the whole life carbon (embodied and operational) of construction products, bio-based materials are often directly referred as the preferred solution, even before performing any life-cycle analysis.

The study provides an assessment of the science base behind the conditions of carbon neutrality of bio-based construction products, their substitution effects and a critical assessment of temporary carbon storage benefits.

As conclusion, the research provides several suggestions to establish a policy framework based on a scientific approach:

- Applying a full life cycle analysis based on correct methods and scientific data is of critical importance;
- To achieve net-zero by 2050, the policy framework should support other possible methods like the decarbonisation of mineral materials and should focus on forest conservation and restoration.

The trade bodies forming the consortium welcome the results of the study which show that the EU and Global Built Environment policies should not promote any type of material over another. It should instead, use the most recent and accurate data and methodology which should be applied to all construction materials at building level, in order to show how to contribute to the decarbonisation of buildings and infrastructures over the whole lifecycle.

The full report and executive summary can be found here: www.CA4BM.org

Notes to Editors

The consortium is formed by the [European Ceramic Industry Association](#) (Cerame-Unie), the [European Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Association](#) (EAACA), the [European Calcium Silicate Unit Producers Association](#) (ECSPA), the European Concrete Platform (ECP) - composed of the [Federation of the European Precast Concrete Industry](#) (BIBM), the [European Cement Association](#) (CEMBUREAU), the [European Federation of Concrete Admixtures Associations](#) (EFCA) and the [European Ready Mixed Concrete Organization](#) (ERMCO)-, the [European Mortar Industry Organisation](#) (EMO) and the [Global Cement and Concrete Association](#) (GCCA).

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