



Brussels, 8 July 2020

FEICA's input to the European Commission plan to initiate a Renovation Wave

FEICA, the Association of the European Adhesive & Sealant Industry, is a multinational association representing the European adhesive and sealant industry. Today's membership stands at 15 National Association Members, 24 Direct Company Members and 19 Affiliate Company Members. The European market for adhesives and sealants is currently worth more than 17 billion euros. With the support of its national associations and several direct and affiliated members, FEICA coordinates, represents and advocates the common interests of our industry throughout Europe. In this regard, FEICA works with all relevant stakeholders to create a mutually beneficial economic and legislative environment.

The Role of Adhesives and Sealants within the Renovation Wave

The "European Green Deal", which aims to shape the EU economy for a sustainable future, was launched in December 2019 and gives due consideration to climate, green energy and industry-supported circularity. One particular focus of the European Green Deal is on the building sector and the planned Renovation Wave.

In the construction sector value chain, our industry is playing a key role in delivering materials, products and technologies which ensure important aspects of circularity and sustainable development. Aspects covered include:

- **Energy savings and CO₂ reduction:** Innovations in adhesives and sealants are boosting the energy performance of buildings, from basement to rooftop, in areas such as thermal insulation, energy consumption, and air circulation, which result in less energy usage. Sealants connect windows to the masonry, preventing heat exchange from the interior to the exterior and vice versa. They seal wall structures, protecting insulation against moisture penetration. Adhesives bind insulating glass units to their frames. By strengthening window structures they allow larger glass surfaces, which in turn increase solar heating and lighting and reduce energy consumption.
- **Material efficiency:** Adhesives and sealants allow the optimised use of modern and sustainable materials in buildings, such as wood in construction or composite materials for lightweight building components and furniture.
- **Durability:** Adhesives and sealants are instrumental in the preservation of buildings and the extension of the life span of products and components, e.g. construction insulating joints to improve thermal efficiency of buildings.
- **Recycling:** Thanks to their high versatility, adhesives and sealants enable the use of a wide range of innovative materials, including recycled as well as renewable materials while still saving energy and reducing CO₂ emissions.

Furthermore, ensuring the availability of skilled craftsmen is one of the most important success factors to build more capacity in the buildings sector. To achieve this there is a clear need for adequate training, technical support and project development assistance. From the realisation of long-term goals this aspect is as important as sustainable product development, "green legislation" or other tools such as individual "Buildings Renovation Passports".

The adhesives and sealants industry is committed to continuous investments in science, research and innovation. This creates solutions that boost the energy performance of buildings, assist the efforts of the Renovation Wave across Europe and improve comfort, sanitary and living conditions to address the twin challenge of energy efficiency and affordability as mentioned by the European Commission. FEICA's sustainability vision states: "The adhesive and sealant industry is committed to enabling a growing population to live a better life and to use the planet's resources responsibly and efficiently".

Please consult FEICA website for more examples: <https://www.feica.eu/information-center/good-practices>

The Renovation Wave and the Construction Products Regulation

The European Renovation Wave initiative is a key element to achieve the Green Deal goals and will be essential in overcoming the economic crisis resulting from COVID-19. However, this can only be achieved through a strong and well-functioning single market for construction products.

Whilst discussions of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) acquis and review of the CPR are underway, it will be important to ensure the continued functioning of the single market to avoid unnecessary interruptions and to improve the current situation: A key element is for European Standards to be cited in the Official Journal (OJ) of the EU and to actively reduce the current backlog of harmonised standards.

Going forward, a future Construction Products Regulation should preserve and strengthen the benefits of the single market and avoid barriers to trade.

Contact

FEICA Regulatory Affairs:

Jana Cohrs (j.cohrs@feica.eu)

Dimitrios Soutzoukis (d.soutzoukis@feica.eu)

FEICA is registered in the **EU Transparency Register** with ID no. **51642763262-89**

FEICA - Association of the European Adhesive & Sealant Industry
Avenue Edmond van Nieuwenhuysse 2, B-1160 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 896 96 00
info@feica.eu | www.feica.eu

Publication ref.: POP-EX-J07-018

This document has been designed using the best knowledge currently available, and is to be relied upon at the user's own risk. The information is provided in good faith and no representations or warranties are made with regards to the accuracy or completeness, and no liability will be accepted for damages of any nature whatsoever resulting from the use or reliance on this paper. This document does not necessarily represent the views of all member companies of FEICA.