

Construction: Plaster product industry commits to climate neutrality

PRESS RELEASE

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Eurogypsum, the organisation representing the European manufacturers of gypsum and plaster products used in buildings, has presented its roadmap to move towards climate neutrality. The document was unveiled today in Chicago to a global audience of industry experts and published online simultaneously.

The roadmap highlights the urgent need to reduce the world's greenhouse gas emissions to zero at the latest by 2050, as global warming continues to accelerate, resulting in more frequent cases of extreme drought periods, forest fires or flooding. Buildings, accounting for more than a third of the European Union's emissions over their lifetime, play a significant role in this challenge.

Eurogypsum's roadmap presents the contribution gypsum products can make to help buildings become climate neutral. *"Building solutions using plasterboard help to renovate and decarbonise homes and offices, leading to significant energy savings. Thanks to their lightweight, they can also create additional space on top of existing buildings, which reduces the need and cost for new land"*, said Jörg Ertle, President of Eurogypsum.

Plaster and plasterboard are building materials which already require low amounts of energy in production¹. The European industry has been reducing these amounts further in the past decades.

Decreasing the total production footprint to zero is technically possible. *"We are committed to making this transition a reality. First examples show that we can move towards net-zero emission production if we have access to low-carbon energy at affordable costs and optimal raw material supply"*, said Ertle, *"but this will require significant investment from our sector"*.

Manufacturing represents the stage with the greatest potential for emission reduction throughout the products' life cycle. The European industry's roadmap identifies technologies and solutions to reduce this impact. *"We are determined to reduce our emissions and increase our energy saving potential in Europe's buildings. But the right policies must be in place to make it happen"*, said Tristan Suffys, the Secretary General of Eurogypsum. The roadmap refers in particular to a secured access to local raw materials, an access to innovation funds or policies supporting demand for low-energy building solutions.

The European industry is committed to cooperating with other regions. *"Presenting our roadmap today in Chicago is a clear signal that global warming requires global action. We want to engage with other regional actors along the way to climate neutrality"*, said Suffys, speaking at the Global Gypsum conference.

Eurogypsum's roadmap "Towards Climate Neutrality with Gypsum" is available on the organisation's website: <https://eurogypsum.org/towards-climate-neutrality-with-gypsum/>

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¹ Estimated average carbon footprint over the whole life cycle: 100 grammes of CO₂ per kilogramme (for plaster) and 2 kilogrammes of CO₂ per square metre (for plasterboard).

Press contacts:

Tristan Suffys, Secretary General, Eurogypsum (t.suffys@eurogypsum.org)

Annita Papa, Policy and Communication Officer, Eurogypsum (a.papa@eurogypsum.org),
+32 490 64 65 94

www.eurogypsum.org

Attachments

- PDF copy of the Eurogypsum roadmap
- Picture of Jörg Ertle and Tristan Suffys at Global Gypsum, Chicago