



## local

Sourced in Europe

Produced locally

Widely available

Gypsum is local.

Gypsum is a mineral used to produce construction materials, such as plaster, plasterboard, and gypsum blocks.

Plasterboard is widely used in walls, partitions and cavity systems as well as ceilings.

The products are made of gypsum extracted from Europe's 160 quarries. The EU is a net exporter of gypsum, with Spain being the 4th largest gypsum producer globally.

Gypsum construction products are "Made in Europe", to construct and renovate Europeans' buildings.

There are 101 factories close to the local markets and 16,000 people directly employed in the industry.



## enabling

Decarbonising

Renovating buildings

Creating healthy and comfortable spaces

Gypsum-based products are enabling solutions to Europe's climate and social policy objectives.

They have a relatively low carbon footprint: on average 0.1kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg for plaster, and 2kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup> for plasterboard.

The European gypsum industry is gradually decarbonising its production, speeding up the process to a fully decarbonised building stock in Europe.

Gypsum-based solutions are indispensable components for buildings renovations.

They help creating comfortable spaces with outstanding acoustic comfort.

Gypsum limits temperature and moisture changes in the room.



## economical

Easy-to-install

Energy efficient

Gypsum products offer economical solutions for safe, healthy and adaptable buildings.

They are lightweight and easy-to-install, can be prefabricated and used in modular construction, resulting in quicker construction times and an affordable price.

Energy and resource efficient systems with gypsum solutions help citizens consume less energy and resources as well as reduce their bills.

For centuries, gypsum has been used to protect buildings from fire, thanks to its water content.

Non-combustible gypsum solutions ensure optimal levels of fire resistance and limit fire and smoke dissemination in the building.

Readjustments and remodelling of space with gypsum solutions enable longer lifespans of buildings.

Lightweight solutions involving gypsum can create new housing units through extensions on top of existing buildings. Such solutions help supply housing in densely populated areas.



## responsible

Optimising resources

Requiring little energy

Sourcing sustainably

The European gypsum industry acts in a responsible way when handling essential resources.

Gypsum-based products are among the least CO<sub>2</sub>-, energy- and resource-intensive construction materials.

Gypsum is sourced in an environmentally friendly way in 160 quarries across Europe.

The industry is a co-signatory of the Extractive Sector Species Protection Code of Conduct.

Our sector manages biodiversity and restores nature in quarries during and after the temporary use of land.

Gypsum is an eternally recyclable material.

More than 1 million tonnes of gypsum are recycled every year in a closed-loop model.

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## Secure Europe's Supply of Essential Raw Materials

The safe supply of domestic essential raw materials which are widely used in construction - such as gypsum - should be secured in the long term, to contribute to the construction sector's competitiveness.

A consistent EU raw materials policy is needed, which enables quicker permitting procedures for essential raw materials.

## Support Investments in Decarbonised Buildings and Processes

In order for the gypsum industry to speed up buildings' upgrades and Europe's move to climate neutrality, a determined political support is required for building renovation, including a consistent and efficient use of financial tools available. This should benefit Europe's citizens over the long term.

Industry efforts to decarbonise should be facilitated, e.g. through access to affordable renewable energy and support for investment.

## Promote Resilient, Adaptable and Affordable Construction

To meet Europeans' demand for affordable housing while limiting the environmental impact on land use, resource and energy need, modern building renovation models, such as the vertical extension of buildings, based on lightweight construction systems, should be encouraged and enabled by local regulations.

In a context where climate adaptation is paramount, further attention should be paid to adaptable and fire-proof construction in Europe.

## Encourage Sustainable and Circular Practices

Gypsum supply operators contribute to nature restoration. They should be duly considered as active partners and interlocutors in drafting and implementing Nature Restoration Plans.

To accelerate gypsum recycling, EU initiatives on circularity are indispensable, including end-of-waste criteria or similar measures encouraging the recycling of construction and demolition waste.

To further deploy closed-loop gypsum recycling in a realistic way, more attention should be paid to volumes of available waste when designing recycling targets.

# CALL TO ACTION

## ■ Europeans must have better access to affordable, safe, healthy, comfortable and decarbonised buildings.

The European gypsum industry is committed to this endeavour, providing low-carbon and lightweight solutions for modern, energy efficient and fire safe buildings, which are affordable and enable acoustic and temperature comfort.

## ■ Gypsum is a European essential raw material, whose safe domestic supply should be secured in the long term.

A key enabler for building renovation and urban densification projects, including vertical extensions, gypsum is sourced responsibly in Europe, handled efficiently and recycled multiple times in a closed loop.

## ■ To accelerate this journey in the 2024-2029 policy mandate, we are calling upon the European Union institutions to:

1. Lead a determined effort for building renovation.
2. Facilitate the deployment of low-carbon, lightweight solutions for construction.
3. Enable sustainable urban densification projects.
4. Reinforce the EU raw materials supply policy.
5. Support industry efforts towards full decarbonisation.
6. Encourage closed-loop recycling systems and promote circular models in construction.

