

## 7<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN GYPSUM RECYCLERS FORUM

### Summary note

19 November 2025

Eurogypsum, the European federation of national associations of gypsum product manufacturers, held its 7th European Gypsum Recyclers Forum in Brussels on 19 November 2025.

The Forum gathered representatives from the EU and national associations as well as several companies along the gypsum recycling chain (*see final list of participants*).

**Christoph Dorn**, Eurogypsum's President, welcomed participants and reminded that this year's edition of the Forum coincides with the tenth anniversary of the "Gypsum to Gypsum" project, a 3.5 million EUR project co-funded by the European Union under the Life+ programme to test the possibilities of recycling gypsum waste on a large scale.

2025 also marks the ten-year anniversary of the first Circular Economy Action Plan, hence a perfect time to take stock of progress not only of gypsum recycling but also of the uptake of circular practices in construction, demolition, waste management and recycling.

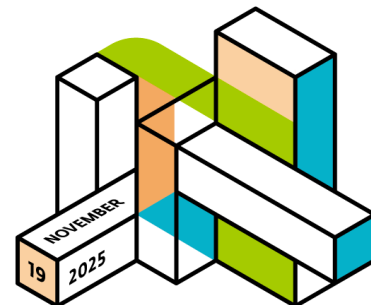


### **Recycling in the building sector – Setting the scene**

To paint the picture of the current situation of circularity in construction, we invited **Stephanos Pierides**, Chairman of the Environmental Commission at FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation), and **Loïc Brocard**, Policy Officer at Recycling Europe.



Construction and Demolition Waste (CDW) is the largest waste stream by mass in Europe with roughly 500 million tonnes produced annually, and a great part of it is mineral waste that is highly recyclable. Mr Pierides emphasised that policies should enable—not hinder—progress on recycling. Striving for perfection must not block **practical solutions**. Given the long lifecycle and material diversity in the sector, pragmatic approaches are essential. **Loïc Brocard** stressed the need to balance recycling benefits with transport emissions and highlighted public procurement as a powerful lever to make secondary



materials competitive. As the European Commission aims at doubling the quantity of recycled content used in buildings by 2030, **green public procurement** should favour the use of secondary materials. To further increase recycling rates, a fundamental role is played by **selective demolition**, to be performed based on **operational pre-demolition audits**. This can only be achieved with true collaboration among all actors along the value chain that would allow to make informed decisions. These solutions, together with alignment with the new Construction Products Regulation, are among the expectations FIEC and Recycling Europe have for the upcoming Circular Economy Act.

Focusing more specifically on the gypsum industry, **Xavier Meyer** (leader of Eurogypsum's Circular Gypsum Working Group) shared the latest figures on gypsum waste recycling and the results of our survey on waste legislation implementation. This survey – to which demolishers, waste managers and recyclers responded – revealed significant disparities across EU member states in terms of implemented solutions, e.g. mandatory sorting, landfill ban for gypsum waste, End-of-Waste status.

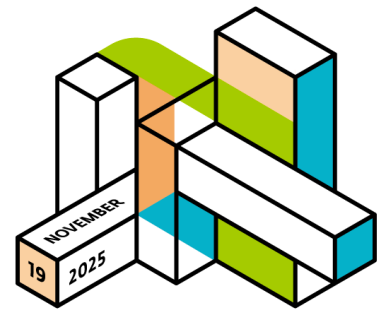


### **Bridging the gap: legislation meets practice**

Discussing the survey results and the policy outlook was a rich panel constituted by:

- **Liesbet van Cauwenberghe**, Managing Director at Tracimat (Flemish demolition management organisation);
- **Rafael Basciano**, Senior Environmental and Technical Officer at FEAD, the European Waste Management Association;
- **Loïc Brocard**, Policy Officer at Recycling Europe;
- **Maarten Hendriks**, Managing Director at New West Gypsum Recycling in Europe;
- **Iryna Yermakova**, member of Eurogypsum's Circular Gypsum Working Group and director of Sustainable Development & Health, Safety and Environment at the Etex Group;
- **Xavier Meyer**, leader of Eurogypsum's Circular Gypsum Working Group and Saint Gobain's Circular Economy leader.





When discussing circularity, it is important to think about all stages leading up to using more secondary raw materials.

Currently, selective demolition on site is costly. As such, products should be designed for disassembly by default so that demolishers can more easily deconstruct and reduce costs and time. To make selective demolition more attractive, a market for it should be built in such a way to create an economically viable business case for companies. An operational pre-demolition audit can help in this sense. By running a full inventory, the recycling potential of a site can be evaluated. As Liesbet van Cauwenberghe said, this exists in Belgium, where demolishers need to separate waste in 32 categories. However, the incentive to perform this time-consuming process decreases dramatically when demolishers know the waste will eventually be mixed and incinerated.



When it comes to gypsum recycling specifically, the barriers to accessing well-sorted, clean gypsum waste increase the price for gypsum

recycling, ultimately leading to costs being borne by the end user. As Maarten Hendriks argued, the key for a sustainable gypsum recycling business is establishing **loyalty** with the manufacturers one will be working with. This was echoed by Iryna Yermakova, who said that **recycling gypsum is always a technological collaboration**. Rafael Basciano, however, stressed that only an economically viable business case is replicable across industries and regardless of the different policy environments.

While discussions on the “how to get there” might continue, all actors agree that there is no silver bullet when it comes to the uptake of circular practices in construction and only a wide array of measures will be successful.



As such, the expectations for the Circular Economy Act are for an **operational framework** with a set of measures that shift the mindset towards **shared responsibility of waste**. Key conditions for the success of the Act would be **creating a stable demand of recycled material** (e.g. with continued renovation) as well as a **consistent set of rules on the supply side** (e.g. via End-of-Waste definition and standardisation measures), all while respecting that the timing of enforcing such rules may vary depending on the market’s maturity.