

Back to the Future of Buildings!

EAACA and the European Commission's Green Week take a closer look at challenges and solutions for sustainable buildings.



The 2008 edition of the European Commission's "Green Week", Europe's largest annual event focusing on the environment, raised awareness about the importance of a sustainable use of natural resources. The motto for the week was "Only one earth. Don't waste it!".

The European Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Association (EAACA), representing manufacturers of AAC, a very sustainable construction product with excellent thermal properties, used this opportunity to share its 20-year experience on resource and energy efficient building solutions with a larger audience. As a side activity of the Green Week, EAACA organised a conference entitled "Building a Sustainable Future" on Thursday 5 June 2008.

EAACA invited participants to a policy debate combined with a visit of the "Living Tomorrow" building near Brussels. This is a very innovative 'House of the Future' made of AAC, which integrates sustainability concerns in its architecture and equipment.

Jos Cox, the president of EAACA, briefed participants about the many advantages of using AAC in construction, from the limited use of resources in the production process to the high energy savings achieved during a building's use and the recycling and reuse of potential AAC waste.



Antonio Paparella, from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry, presented the integrated "Lead Market Initiative" on sustainable construction. He detailed the policy's contribution to creating favourable market conditions for the development of innovative building solutions. An ambitious roadmap incorporates policy tools as diverse as legislation, public procurement, standardisation or systemic policies to achieve progress until 2011.

Gemmeke De Jongh, content manager with Living Tomorrow, informed the attendees of the nature and history of the "Living Tomorrow" project, before giving them a guided tour of the building.



Participants from a variety of public authorities and private organisations had the opportunity to debate various issues such as construction waste recycling, the development of innovative construction products, the lack of financial incentives to promote sustainable buildings, the importance of combining sustainability and comfort in houses, or the assessment of public policy results.



Throughout the week, EAACA also presented sustainable building solutions at an exhibition stand in the Commission's Charlemagne building in Brussels.

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Photo left: Stavros Dimas, EU Commissioner for the Environment, giving information on low energy houses in front of eaaca's exhibition stand.

