

THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR'S 10-POINT MANIFESTO FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2009

1. Develop an ambitious but achievable vision for sustainable construction.
2. Speed up decision making and implementation of projects already in the pipeline.
3. Invest in and maintain our infrastructure. Making up for the delay in investment and preparing future projects are essential for Europe's long-term development.
4. Facilitate the use of PPPs (public-private partnerships) where appropriate, for the speedier implementation of more efficient projects.
5. Invest in the renovation of Europe's building stock to boost energy efficiency, minimize climate change, reduce our dependency on imported energy while creating new skilled employment in construction.
6. Apply reduced rates of VAT on construction activity across the housing sector to spur energy efficient renovation, encourage growth and jobs as well as combat undeclared labour.
7. Avoid protectionism and focus resources on improving the single market which is the best way to encourage growth and job creation.
8. Promote more flexibility in the use of EU employment mechanisms to fight long-term unemployment and help workers back to the job market.
9. Streamline planning and procurement procedures and cut undue red tape to ensure projects are started as soon as possible, turning commitments into action.
10. Ensure timely payment by clients, in particular in the public sector, and encourage access to lending for viable companies, especially SMEs. Both are vital in the current downturn.