

NEWS

EVENTS DIARY

2016

GIC – Italian Concrete Days
November 10-12, 2016
Piacenza, Italy
www.gic-expo.it

2017

World of Concrete
January 17-20, 2017
Las Vegas, US
www.worldofconcrete.com

Samoter

February 22-25, 2017
Verona, Italy
www.samoter.it

Conexpo

March 7-11, 2017
Las Vegas, US
www.conexpoconagg.com

International Awards for Powered Access (IAPAs)
April 4, 2017
London, UK
www.iapa-summit.info

ESTA Awards of Excellence

April 6, 2017
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.khl.com/esta

Smopyc

April 25-29, 2017
Zaragoza, Spain
www.feriazaragoza.es/smopyc.aspx

Komatek

May 3-7, 2017
Ankara, Turkey
www.komatek.com

Brexit worries are hitting the UK construction industry

Surveys from ONS and RICS reveal slowdown in growth in period after decision to quit the European Union

While high levels of uncertainty surround the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, surveys from the UK government's Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) have shown that UK construction has been slowing in the period following the decision to leave the EU (Brexit).

The third quarter Construction Market Survey from RICS found that financial constraints and lack of investment were continuing to hamper growth.

However, it also predicted that the outlook would improve, with nearly 50% more respondents forecasting a rise in workloads over the coming year.

As with recent Great Britain figures from the ONS, the RICS survey showed that the majority of UK construction sectors were experiencing a slowdown in growth, as Brexit uncertainty continued to cause concern.

The ONS reported that GB construction output fell 1.5% in August, compared with the previous month. The ONS has now published two reports on construction output post-Brexit, which began with a revised increase of 0.5% in July, after initially reporting no movement.

While 19% more chartered surveyors reported that construction workloads in the UK had risen this quarter, RICS said this was a significant slowdown on the trend growth over the previous three years.

Looking further ahead, RICS said that while respondents highlighted generally subdued growth over the third quarter, they were more optimistic about the year to come, with 49% more respondents forecasting a rise in workloads rather than a fall.

On average, contributors expected activity to rise by 2.5% over the next 12 months, said RICS.

Brexit was one of the topics at the UK's annual CEA (Construction Equipment Association) conference in London, UK, on October 27, where issues also covered future-proofing and issues within the construction equipment supply chain.

Rob Oliver, chief executive of the CEA, described the need for business confidence in post-Brexit UK to be bolstered. He also urged the government to address the growing skills gap in construction and engineering, saying, "We can't just put up walls around the UK and hope we have the skills we need here".

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Construction is 'crucial' to EU economy

Construction plays a crucial role in the growth of the EU economy, and contractors in Europe need a long-term view on investments and a level playing field, a Tripartite Social Summit in Brussels, Belgium, has been told.

Jean-Louis Marchand, president of FIEC (the European Construction Industry Federation), told the summit, "The construction industry represents 8.5% of EU GDP (gross domestic product), more than 14 million workers and

3 million companies, mainly SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises).

"It therefore plays a crucial role in the growth of the EU economy and employment."

He added, "What our countries need to play such a role is a long-term view on investments and a level playing field."

As the officially recognised sectoral social partner representing employers in the construction industry, FIEC intervened in the employers' delegation

in the Tripartite Social Summit.

The summit was co-chaired by Donald Tusk, President of the European Council; Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission; and Robert Fico, Prime Minister of Slovakia, which currently holds the presidency of the Council.

Marchand underlined the federation's full support for the European Fund for Strategic

Investments – which is also known as the Juncker Plan – which FIEC said was helping to provide what companies needed, "namely a long-term view on investments, in particular in infrastructure and energy-efficiency projects, with particular attention given to SMEs' needs".

He also said that investment in vocational education and training was crucial.

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New concrete show for Italy

A new concrete-focused event in Italy has signed up more than 120 exhibitor companies, the organisers claim, and a programme of conferences and workshops is planned.

The first edition of GIC-Italian Concrete Days will be held in Piacenza, in the Emilia-Romagna region of northern Italy, from 10 to 12 November, 2016.

Dr Fabio Potestà, GIC organiser, said, "We are driven by the aim of providing a perfect organisation of the event, where several hundred visitors have already pre-registered on the website www.gic-expo.it."

A gala dinner is being held on 11 November, for the ICTA-Italian Concrete Technology Awards will be given out.

