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Time to talk about embodied carbon!

“We have known for a long time about the importance of whole life carbon in the built environment, but historically, focus has been on the use phase and on energy-intensive industries, which produce essential products for construction” says Søren Adamsen, EFCA Vice President and Chair of the European Green Deal Committee, as the federation’s position paper on whole life carbon is published. The document tackles the inevitable trade-offs encountered in efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of the built environment, as well as the need for harmonised measurement and reliable data.

EFCA supports the EU's commitment to decarbonisation. However, the focus cannot only be on buildings, with infrastructure also having huge potential for improvement. *“A holistic approach that embraces purpose-driven and future-proof design will deliver the best overall results”* says Adamsen. *“We also need alignment of related policies and existing legislation, such as the Construction Products Regulation, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and Taxonomy. Furthermore, investment in both research and application of solutions will need to be increased.”*

Supporting an EU-wide approach to reduce the carbon footprint of the built environment, EFCA encourages strengthening existing regulatory measures, while avoiding over-zealous requirements, which risk counter-productive, rigid compliance, that does not take into account the best overall design.

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Read the position paper [here](#)

Press contact: Sue Arundale

EDITOR’S NOTE

EFCA has member associations in 27 countries and is the sole European federation representing the business interests of professional engineering consultancy and related services, a sector that employs more than one million staff in Europe.