



## PRESS-RELEASE

European  
Quality Association  
for Recycling e.V. (EQAR)

July 5, 2016



### **Circular Economy in Construction in Austria in Danger?**

The European Quality Association for Recycling e.V. (EQAR) pursues the aim to improve the framework conditions for construction material recycling in Europe. To establish a uniform European system for the recognition of recycled construction materials as products harmonized test procedures as to the ecologically relevant characteristics of recycled aggregates have to be included immediately in the European Construction Product Standards, requires Manfred Wierichs, President of EQAR. After all, the transport corridor allowing to economically market recycled construction materials comprises nearly 30 % of the whole area of the European Union.

Against his background EQAR notes with deep concern that the individual EU member states define, for the time being, extremely different end-of-waste criteria for recycled construction materials. Thus, Austria has so far envisaged a comparatively comprehensive test catalogue for ecologically relevant characteristics with extremely short test cycles in its Recycled Construction Materials Ordinance.

Yet, obviously the ambitious environmental policy objectives implemented by this Ordinance threatened to expect too much of investors, construction and recycling and also of the management authorities and that is why now a radical shift is approaching. According to surprise attack-like plans of the Austrian government it will be now possible to dispose of up to 750 tons of construction waste without being pretreated and examined as to its ecologically relevant characteristics at the during construction measures. Irrespective of the fact that the management authorities may scarcely check whether the construction waste buried at the site comes actually from the respective construction measure the uncontrolled backfilling is a major backward step for circular economy in construction, according to Manfred Wierichs.

The Austrian Association for Building Material Recycling (BRV) considers the utilization rate of mineral construction and demolition wastes to be also threatened by this negligent regulation because the uncontrolled backfilling at sites may be scarcely regarded as utilization as provided for in the EC Waste Framework Directive.

That is why EQAR appeals to the Austrian Federal Government to establish a balanced and sustainable regulation and to not go from one extreme to the other.

The EQAR Congress held this year in Bratislava on September 23, 2016 will make a subject of discussion a.o. the various framework conditions for construction materials recycling in Europe. On [www.eqar.info](http://www.eqar.info) more congress information can be found.